The Press.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1865.

☞ 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.

Rationale of Taxation.

While we are compelled to declare, after deliberate consideration of the subject, that the Internal Taxation necessary to raise the large sums requisite for the vigorous prosecution of the war is levied in an unsatisfactory manner, it is only to fair to add that, under all the circumstances, great allowance ought to be made for the precipitate and inchoate manner in which it was imposed. When the war broke out it was requisite to raise funds for the expenditure upon it. We had the smallest regular army, compared with the population, of any country in the world. We had no navy worthy of being designated as such. We had neither artillery, small arms, nor gunpowder. We had been taken by surprise, for Treason had stolen a march upon us, and, besides robbing us of artillery, small arms, and ammunition, had put itself, out of that robbery, in a very imposing and threatening position. We had to create a navy, and to improvise an army. This, it was evident, would cost money.

Mr. CHASE, then our Minister of Finance, determined to appeal to the patriotism and to the property of the country. It seems to us, however, that he did not sufficiently estimate them—that he did not sufficiently give credit to the loyalty and the wealth of the people. Therefore, he considered it necessary to hold out great pecuniary inducements to all who would lend money to the Government. Not only did he promise an interest on the loan more than double which is paid to the fund-holders to whom the $4,000,000,000 of the National Debt of England is due, but *he promised to pay it in gold*. Of course, the price of gold was certain to advance after that. It would be required to pay for our importations from foreign countries; it would be largely absorbed, hidden away by frightened hoarders; and it would become the subject of speculation on the part of the stockbrokers (and their clients), who, of course, gamble with it to make money. The result was, that, for the loan paid *in paper*, were issued bonds with the interest payable *in gold*, with a special stipulation that such interest should be exempt from State and Municipal taxation, which Mr. JAY COOKE says, "adds from one to three per cent. more, according to the rate levied on other property." Even now, with gold lower than it has been for many months, these United States bonds pay about 10 per cent., besides what may accrue from the tax exemption, and, when gold was highest, the profits mounted up to from thirteen to fifteen per cent. To pay this interest or profit to the lenders, at stated intervals, it became necessary for the Government to obtain specie. There were only two modes of getting it—by the import duties, payable in gold at the custom-houses (a source which was then inadequate), and by the purchase of gold in the market, at whatever price the cupidity of the gambling speculators in specie would dictate. There was an undeniable necessity for the Government to have gold, to keep faith with the public creditors, and this necessity, involving its purchase, naturally helped to send up the price of the precious metal. We believe that the loans called for by the country's necessity could all have been raised at rates very slightly over the current rate of interest, and we know that a result, which seems to have been wholly unlooked for, though political economists saw it plainly, was that the Finance Minister's tempting offer to pay the interest in gold, for money borrowed in paper—and in paper, too, of his own issue—had an injurious and depreciating effect upon the value of that paper currency. When he practically thus declared that greenbacks were of less worth than gold, the result might have been very different if he had borrowed in paper and paid the interest in the same currency. However, the thing is done, and cannot be undone. The interest has to be paid in gold.

To provide for the payment of this interest it became necessary to have recourse to national taxation. According to a practice which has long prevailed in the British legislature—that money-bills should exclusively originate in the House of Commons, nominally representing the people—the House of Representatives applied itself to devise a system of taxation which would raise this interest, and custom again provided that the Committee of Ways and Means should suggest the mode of taxation, name the articles on which imposts were to be levied, and lay down a rational system upon which these imposts were to be assessed and collected. Being a peace-loving people, without ambition of aggrandisement, without a desire to increase our territory, without any hankering after our neighbors' property, without any relish for intermeddling with other folks' affairs, and with a decided predilection for living in charity with all men, it happened that internal taxation was quite a novelty here. Accordingly, we had to form a new system, and, apparently with a very limited knowledge of the true principles of taxation, the "Ways and Means" saved themselves a great deal of trouble, and laid the foundation of much future annoyance, vexation, and even injustice, by adopting, pretty nearly as a whole, that system of taxation which, after a hundred and fifty years' experience, had been finally abrogated in England, in 1843–'46, by the late Sir ROBERT PEEL, greatly to the advantage of the British nation. In one fell swoop, at his command, were stricken off the British tariff the duties previously payable upon 1,250 imported articles, the revenue being then augmented by somewhat increased duties upon a few articles of general consumption, and these chiefly articles of luxury, such as wines, spirits, tobacco. *Here*, adopting the cast-off garments of repudiated and antiquated British taxation, our "Ways and Means" put them on, and the result was that, on the emergency and "in hot haste," Congress adopted, almost in a lump—certainly with slight discussion and insignificant alterations—an Internal Revenue Law, which does not work well, which is continually being amended, which seems based upon no fixed or ascertained principle, and which can never have practical value until it is recast and remodelled. We ventured to hint, when previously discussing this question, that the framers of the law probably had ascertained what articles should be taxed by running through Worcester's or Webster's Dictionary, and culling out, in alphabetical order, various articles on which to levy imposts, and we now take leave, with equal diffidence, to suggest that they may have also fallen in with a list of the articles which are declared duty-free upon Sir R. PEEL's exemption list, and set them down as worthy of being taxed in this country. But the utmost ingenuity of British lawmakers had never laid hands upon so many trifling articles as *our* Tax Bill has attached. It first lays taxes upon pins and needles, lucifer matches and wooden screws, bill-heads and mittens, hitting our native productions and manufactures many hard blows. It may be reasonably questioned whether the cost of collection will not absorb at least one-half the amount of tax receivable on these petty articles.

With respect to the Income-tax, which is a fair source of direct revenue, our system is identical with that of England in the injustice of making no distinction between *property* and *income*. Here, as in England, the uncertain and fluctuating income of the man who works with hand or brain is taxed in a ratio precisely similar to that of the income permanent, and obtained without mental or bodily labor, of the capitalist who draws his revenue from interest or profit on invested money. But, in one respect, we strongly affirm, our Income Tax outruns any impost previously exacted in any country. The one thing needful, in the "Ways and Means" estimation, being to raise money, in some way, Congress, not knowing much about finances, was induced to enact, that after the payment of Income Tax for 1863, the amount should be paid over again! This was such an *ex post facto* law as, we boldly say, no other legislature but our own *ever* passed, and we question whether any other country would have submitted to it, as we have done.

The attempt to extort an illegal levy, called Ship Money, from the British nation, by CHARLES the First, which cost him his life and sceptre, and changed England from a monarchy into a republic, was not more unjustifiable than this completed fact of making us pay the tax on income twice over.

Had Congress possessed the requisite information as to the practice and principle of taxation, it would have adopted one part of the English system, which has tended greatly to augment the amount yielded by the Income Tax. In England, when a man returns his income at a certain amount, and the Assessors (there called Commissioners) think that he has rated his income too low, they make what is called *a surcharge* upon him, claiming the tax upon what they believe or suspect his income really to be. He has to appear and satisfy them, upon oath, as to the amount of his income, and should he fail to screw it down to the sum stated in his original return, is then charged for whatever sum the assessors may then feel entitled to set him down at, and has also to pay double the tax to which he is thus made liable. We submit that this might be advantageously put into operation here, where, judging from their visible expenditure and generally accredited means, the *confessed* incomes of not a few persons are apparently far below the *real*.

Taxes which are disproportionate, excessive, annoying, or unjust ought to be modified and reduced, if not actually surrendered. The reason, "We cannot remedy the wrong, because, above all, we must get public revenue," is feeble and unstatesmanlike. It is the *duty* of a Legislature to refuse the perpetuation of a wrong. Some provision ought to be made, late as it is in the session, to ascertain the *cost of collecting our taxes*, whether internal or from imported articles. There ought not to be any sinecures in the departments which have to regulate, assess, or receive these taxes—no do-nothing hangers-on paid salaries, not because they suit the office, but because the office suits them. Our taxation system has to be reformed, and the cost of collecting the national revenue, as we could easily show, ought not to exceed 3 per cent., if, indeed, so much. There is one obvious mode by which the whole of the taxes could be collected for about *two* per cent. instead of *eight* or *ten*, as at present. Surely this ought to be seen to. Let us have a just system of taxation, with economic collection of its amount. To have not attended to these points before was *negligent;* to continue to evade them now will be *criminal*.

Public Opinion Abroad.

The triumphant march of SHERMAN, immediately ending in the occupation of Savannah, such an effort and result as the elder NAPOLEON would have been proud to include among his own greatest achievements, first impressed the pro-slavery journalists in England with a serious doubt as to the final success of "the so-called Southern Confederation." Ever since the return of Dr. W. H. RUSSELL to England, *The Times*, which is ever keen and prescient, has modified and qualified its expectations of Confederate independence. RUSSELL himself, undoubtedly an able writer and shrewd man, has devoted himself in his own journal (*The Army and Navy Gazette*), to prepare the English mind for the proximate success of the Union arms. Less wise in their generation have been the conductors of those uncompromising enemies of freedom ... pro-gress, the *Morning Herald* and *Standard*, —familiarly known as the "Mrs. Gamp" and "Mrs. Harris" of the London press—and the *Daily Telegraph*, by far the ablest as well as the most unscrupulous anti-Union partisan in England. The two first newspapers were long notorious for the vile trash which they published as reliable news from this country, over the signature of "Manhattan," and have not yet found a successor equal to that infamous hireling in abuse of honorable men, misrepresentation of wise and patriotic efforts, and prurient suggestions against the reputation of virtuous women. The *Telegraph*, combining enterprise and capital, sent one of its staff to this country to report what he saw (or might imagine) during our war—Mr. SALA, a smart magazine writer, who is almost a novelist, but is incapable of winding up his plot in a probable manner. Mr. SALA, whose nomadic habits are singular, is worthy of being elected King of the Bohemians, if that semi-civilized race ever can submit to have any recognized head. His letters from this side of the Atlantic followed each other in quick succession, during the whole of last year, in the London *Daily Telegraph*. Written entirely for effect (probably upon such instructions as once constituted a lawyer's brief in the old country: "We have no case, but pitch into plaintiff's attorney"), and with spirit and smartness, wholly unchecked by truth, his American correspondence must have amused his readers; but, as even a large family of children will soon get tired of sugar-plums and candy, so did these readers arrive at the conclusion that he had given them enough of it, and his proprietors, when this growing distaste was revealed to them, hastily recalled their man. His "fine Italian hand" is still visible, however, in the *leaders*, where he amuses himself by prophesying all sorts of ill to the Union cause, and by holding out favorable prospects to the Rebels. Still, there are facts which no ingenuity can ignore, and, chief among these, are the late successes of our arms.

Already, SHERMAN's march and the fall of Savannah plainly told our friends and foes in Europe that what TALLEYRAND called "the beginning of the end" was in progress. It is known, too, that Fort Fisher had fallen before our arms. To this has now to be added the occupation of Charleston and Wilmington, and the fall of Mobile and Richmond is inevitable, and must be speedy. The *Daily Telegraph*, the latest to acknowledge bad news to Secessia, has changed its note. It admits "there are causes enough to arouse serious reflection in the South." It confesses that "the capture of Fort Fisher, and the subsequent operations of light-draught gunboats—'Uncle Sam's web feet, that can go wherever the ground is a little damp'—will most probably shut up Wilmington, the last Southern port open to the runners of the blockade." It says, with a long-drawn sigh, "The cities of Charleston and Mobile are not in Federal possession, but *their ports are closed as effectually as if they were.* Wilmington was practically the sole remaining outlet by which the South could carry on European trade; for though the Confederacy has a very long coast line, it is remarkably destitute of good harbors, and now all are rendered useless by the operations of the enemy's fleets. While even one was left the loss of the others might be borne; but the sealing-up of Wilmington is much more than the loss of a single port—it is the *coup de grace* to the foreign supplies of the Confederacy. Henceforth medicines for the wounded, munitions of war, and every article not of first necessity, will be of fifty-fold value throughout the beleaguered South. *It is a terrible blow to the Confederates—greater, we think, than any that has befallen them throughout the war.* SHERMAN's march proved the exhausted condition of the Central States; now they must absolutely depend on their own resources. Add to this, that in all military likelihood there is nothing to prevent the capture of Augusta, Charleston, and Wilmington in the progress of the inland Federal march, and what remains to Secessia? The great lines of defence around Richmond, and the unconquered LEE. But hesitating to stake its very last shilling, like a gambler, the nation which so recently scouted the idea of any result but separation now listens to overtures for peace."

This is not all. The London journalist affirms that, however well the rebels may have maintained the struggle, "there is a limit to endurance and resisting power," and that "the question for the South to consider would be, Is it not better to return with all the old State rights fully guaranteed than to prolong the war for a year or two more, and lose the opportunity of extorting favorable conditions?"

Coupled with this confession of defeat and suggestion of submission, is a recommendation to the South not to stand upon any such unstable footing as Slavery. The question is put—Is it better to lose the negroes "by quiet emancipation as the price of peace, or to lose them by the chances of war in the trenches around Richmond? Already half the negroes of the South have been lost to their masters—some enlisted in Northern regiments, many rotting to death in Northern camps, some left to starve on desolate plantations; is it worth while to risk losing all, that the planters may retain for another year or two a nominal right to the moiety that now remains? Besides, the slave owners may consider that, though technically free, the negro will always be in fact the serf of the white man, dependent on him for guidance, protection, help; and that the South will retain him even without force, because the climate and prejudices of the North will drive him back."

Such are the last words of by far the ablest, most pertinacious, as well as most consistent journal in London, still avowedly upon the side of the rebellious South. *The Times* itself has become lukewarm in its opposition to the United States, as well it might be when RUSSELL, in the Lords, and PALMERSTON in the Commons, have declared, as the responsible advisers of Queen VICTORIA, that this country has strong cause for complaint against England for the raids from Canada, the blockade-running from Bermuda and the Bahamas, and the pirate-building at Liverpool and Glasgow.

"The Press" Relief Fund.

The following voluntary contributions for the sufferers by the recent conflagration were received at this office up to 6 o'clock last evening:

Cash	$10 00
Chas. Baush	3 00
J. H. Williams & Co.	25 00
	$38 00
Before reported	5,229 24
Total amount received	$5,267 24

THE SOUTH.

NEWS THROUGH LATE REBEL PAPERS.

ALL QUIET ON THE JAMES.

Lee's Account of the Capture of Generals Crook and Kelley.

THE RICHMOND PRESS URGING DAVIS TO ENLIST THE SLAVES.

Sherman's Advance Applauded by the North Carolinians.

THE REBELLION DESPONDENT.

REBEL PAPERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of Feb. 25th (Saturday) says: "Unbroken quiet reigns all along the lines on the north side of the James river. The enemy concentrated in the new position at Hatcher's Run during Tuesday and Wednesday, but nothing of consequence has grown out of the movement. They captured a portion of our picket-line in this vicinity on Tuesday night, but the line was re-established by our forces the next morning.

"A very handsome little affair occurred one day last week in the vicinity of Burwell's Bay, in which 250 Yankees belonging to the celebrated Naval brigade were defeated and routed by a comparatively small force of Confederate scouts under command of Sergeant Shadburne, assisted by a party of the Independent Signal Corps, under command of Lieut. Woodly. This force of the enemy had been sent out to intercept and capture a secret expedition known to have been despatched in that direction recently by our Government.

"While resting at Burwell's Bay this force was vigorously attacked by the scouts and signal-corps men, who eventually succeeded in killing and wounding a number, and putting the balance to to flight. Sixteen dead bodies were subsequently found, six lying on the roadside leading to Smithfield, and ten in Smithfield, who died of their wounds. We did not learn whether any prisoners were taken, but a number of wounded Yankees were carried off by their comrades. So the party that came out to whip got whipped.

"The following interesting official despatch was received at the War Department last night:

"HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 24, 1865.

"*Hon. J. C. Breckinridge, Secretary of War:*

"General Early reports that Lieutenant McNeill, with thirty men, on the morning of the 21st, entered Cumberland, and captured and brought out Generals Crook and Kelly from the Adjutant General's Department, two privates, and the headquarters flag, without firing a gun, though a considerable force is stationed in the vicinity. Lieutenant McNeill and party deserve much credit for this bold exploit. Their prisoners will reach Staunton to-day.

"R. E. LEE."

The following despatch was received yesterday:

"HARRISONBURG, Feb. 24.—Major Generals B. F. Kelly and George Crook, and Major Thayer Melvin, of General Crook's staff, are here, on their way for Richmond."

VAUGHAN AT WORK IN EAST TENNESSEE—A RAID BEYOND KNOXVILLE.

The following was received yesterday:

HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 24, 1865.

Hon. J. C. Breckinridge, Secretary of War;

General Echols reports that a detachment of Vaughan's cavalry struck the railroad beyond Knoxville, at Sweet Water and Athens, capturing the garrison at both places. Sixty men of the 20th Ohio Regiment, with their equipments, were taken.

R. E. LEE.

The last of the Confederate forces left Charleston during Friday night, and the next day the Federals entered. Three of the gunboats belonging to the Confederate navy went up Cooper river. Nearly all the Government stores in the city were safely brought off, and the cotton in the place burned. All the citizens could not get out of the city.

There seems to have been some terribly heavy skirmishing, but no general fighting, before our forces evacuated Columbia.

The South Carolina Railroad depot took fire from a Yankee shell thrown into it, and soon after the ammunition there exploded, killing two or three persons and wounding six others.

The *Enquirer* of Saturday, the 25th, in a long editorial, says: "*There is but one thing for the President to do, and to this end, without law, he should call upon the people to send their slaves to the front, even to take them and use them; for the public safety is above all laws and constitutions.*"

Again, in the course of the same article, it says: "These States stand to-day in need of a dictator—a man who will take the power of the people and use it for their preservation."

The *Examiner* of the 25th, in an editorial, looks upon the situation in South and North Carolina with some fear. It mentions a rumor that Sherman had captured twelve thousand bales of cotton at Columbia.

The Charlotte (North Carolina) *Bulletin* of the 21st says Sherman's forces had not appeared there yet.

The bill for arming the slaves had not been reconsidered in the Senate. The *Sentinel* is very severe on those Senators who defeated it.

Nearly all of the exchanges found in the Wilmington (North Carolina) *Journal* office on the day of its capture have been received. ... the Fayetteville *Telegraph*, the Raleigh *Progress*, and others, show a most determined spirit of resistance to Jeff Davis. The *Progress* is outspoken in its hostility, and ridicules most bitterly Governor Vance's proclamation to the people to defend the State. It charges that a number of wealthy Secessionists across the Chowan river are making preparations to receive our troops and get within our lines to save themselves from Richmond taxation.

The *Progress* speaks in the most complimentary terms of Sherman's grand advance, applauds his rule at Savannah, and states that honorable terms of peace were offered by President Lincoln to the rebel Commissioners. On the whole, all of these exchanges show a strong peace sentiment in that State.

We learn that the raiding party of Yankee cavalry, who were reported to be advancing by the way of Tarborough, North Carolina, on the Weldon Railroad, have returned to Washington, North Carolina. We have been unable to obtain any information as to the amount of damage done by them.

Richmond papers of Saturday are mostly devoted to bitter attacks upon the rebel Congress. Their news contents are unimportant.

FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 26.—The ships Edith and American Congress, from New York, with commissary stores, arrived here to-day.

The schooners Birchard and Fanny have arrived here, in a damaged condition, with Government forage. They have been fifty-seven days at sea, and have passed through several severe gales, during which they lost their spars and sails.

The steamer Weybosset, Captain Parrish, sailed hence this morning for Wilmington, N. C., with the mails for Major General Terry's army.

There have been no more arrivals from the South.

An Offer of One Hundred-Days Men from New York Declined.

ALBANY, Feb. 27.—On the receipt of the news of the capture of Wilmington, Governor Fenton sent a despatch to the Secretary of War, offering ten regiments of the State National Guard for one hundred days' service in garrisoning the forts at Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, and other ports. The offer was referred to General Grant, who declined to accept the regiments. The Secretary of War sent a despatch to Governor Fenton this morning concurring in the decision of General Grant.

Gen. Washburne in Command at Cairo.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 23, via CAIRO, Feb. 27.—Major General Washburne has been assigned to the command of this department. He is expected to arrive soon. His appointment gives general satisfaction.

Conflagration at Bridgeport, Tenn.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 26.—The Chattanooga *Gazette* of the 23d says: Bridgeport was almost totally destroyed by fire on last Wednesday night.

The Cincinnati Fire.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 27.—The cause of the fire in the *Enquirer* building yesterday has not been ascertained. The loss will probably reach $40,000, and is covered by insurance.

Robbery at Troy, N. Y.

TROY, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Three thousand dollars worth of black silks were stolen from Ford & Clark's store on Sunday evening.

NEW YORK CITY.

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL JUBILEE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Arrangements for the grand celebration of Saturday are progressing finely. The committee has been in session all day, and also waited on the city authorities and Gen. Sandford.

The procession will be the principal feature of the day, and will comprise nearly all the military, firemen, and civic societies, and the different trades will be represented by emblems of their industry, among which will be a complete model of the original monitor and a reproduction of Fort Sumpter as it now appears. The chimes of Trinity Church will peal out patriotic airs. A full battery of captured rebel cannon will form a portion of the procession, and, manned by veterans, will fire salutes at various points. Places of business will be closed, and all classes are fully alive to the occasion. General Dix will preside over the meeting in Union Square.

FROM HAVANA.

The steamship Havana brings Havana advices of Feb. 22. There is no news from Mexico. Arguellas has been sentenced to eight years in the prison chain-gang.

BANK STATEMENT.

Statement of the condition of the New York banks for the week ending February 27, 1865:

Loans	Decrease	$2,830,000
Circulation	Decrease	100,000
Specie	Decrease	590,000
Deposits	Decrease	700,000

THE EVENING STOCK BOARD.

10 P. M.—Stocks very strong; gold, 201¾. After call, 200. New York Central, 115¾; Erie, 74½; Hudson River, 116¾; Reading, 116½; Michigan Central, 114; Michigan Southern, 68½; Illinois Central, 119½; Pittsburg and Cleveland, 83; Toledo and Wabash, 113; Rock Island and Chicago, 97¾; Northwestern, 34¾; Northwestern preferred, 64¾; Fort Wayne, 97; Ohio and Mississippi certificates, 30; Canton Company, 38¾; Cumberland, 75¾; Quicksilver, 86; Mariposa, 17¾.

WE were glad to observe, among the officers confirmed by the Senate on the 23d inst., the name of Brigadier General Edward Hatch, United States Volunteers, promoted to be major general for gallant and meritorious services in the battles before Nashville, Tennessee, to date from December 15, 1864. Our attention has often been attracted to the proud record Gen. Hatch has made for himself and his country, and we congratulate him and his command upon his promotion.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

THE VICTORY AT WILMINGTON.

A SHOTTED SALUTE FIRED.

PETERSBURG SOON TO BE EVACUATED.

FIRING AT FORT HILL.

—C. E. School.—

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

CITY POINT, Va., Feb. 25, 1865.

In honor of the evacuation of Wilmington, intelligence of which reached General Grant's headquarters yesterday morning, a shotted salute was fired along the whole line at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. The rebel works responded pretty vigorously, but the casualties were very light.

Deserters report that the evacuation of Petersburg is a subject freely discussed in the rebel army, and its necessity is as freely admitted. The fall of Wilmington will expedite the matter materially. It is the opinion of competent authorities that *in less than a week's time Petersburg will be ours.* This is not a mere speculation, but an inevitable and logical deduction from the present military situation. Unless Sherman can be driven back, the rebellion will be girdled with our armies, and Virginia will be the only fighting ground remaining to Lee.

The rebel fort opposite Fort Hell kept up a brisk and heavy fire on our works yesterday afternoon, but with little or no effect, so well protected were our men by the bombproofs.

The sutlers, who were thrown into an ecstasy of delight by the arrival of a dozen paymasters day before yesterday, are considerably exercised in spirit because they have been temporarily deprived of transportation for their goods over the City Point Railroad. The Government was in full monopoly ... supplies were forwarded ...

CHARLESTON.

THE MORNING OF THE EVACUATION.

LETTER FROM THE FLEET.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

U. S. SHIP JOHN ADAMS,
OFF CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 18, 1865.

At 9 A. M. this morning dense volumes of smoke were suddenly seen to arise from all parts of the city of Charleston, indicating an evacuation. The gunboat Gladiolis was immediately sent to the front to proceed up the channel in company with several boats from our vessel and the monitors. Sumpter was receiving reinforcements of Union troops from Morris Island when the tug got abreast of it. The stars and stripes were hoisted over *her ruins*, and were hailed with loud cheering, which went from vessel to vessel. When I was, shortly after, directed to signal the outside fleet that *the enemy were evacuating their fortifications*, from the maintop I could see the Gladiolis well up, rounding and passing Pinckney and Fort Johnson, preceded by our boats. At the same time, all the batteries on Sullivan's and James' Island were abandoned, with all their guns complete and unspiked. By this time, 9.40, the boats are about to land in Charleston, which is burning in various parts. The wind being from the northeast, the day beautiful and pleasant, with a clear atmosphere, an excellent view from aloft is obtained, as the smoke passes to southward and westward, back of the city. At 11.30 the flag-steamer Harvest Moon, with the Admiral on board, came in over the bar, and started, with Captain Scott on board, for the city, with several small steamers in company—passing the torpedoes and other obstructions carefully, but without any trouble or casualties occurring up to this time, 3 P. M. A boat with some of our officers has just returned. The city was surrendered to Acting Master Gifford, by the Mayor, at 10 40 A. M. A blockader which ran in last night, well loaded, was set on fire, but subsequently extinguished by us. The rams, some three or four, were all blown up this morning, before our vessels entered the channel. S. E. A.

MEXICO AND NEW ORLEANS.

A SENSATION RUMOR FROM MATAMOROS.

The United States Consul Ordered Out, and Clearances for American Vessels Stopped.

FATAL MARINE DISASTER.

CAIRO, Feb. 27.—A steamer from New Orleans on the 21st has arrived.

The New Orleans *Times* says a sensation rumor from Matamoros via Brazos, had been received to the effect that the Imperial Government of Mexico had forbidden the issue of clearances for American ports, and that our Consul had been sent out of Matamoros.

The schooner Jane Dolan, which cleared from New Orleans on January 18th, was lost off the bar at Matamoros. She had a full cargo of merchandise, and a number of passengers, all of whom were lost.

A limited supply of Cotton was offered at New Orleans, and prices were firmer. 230 bales of prize Cotton sold at 60c. for low middling, repacked, 54c. for strict ordinary, repacked. Good ordinary was quoted at 70c. and low middling at 71c. Sugar was quoted at 22c. for fully fair. Molasses—prime, $1 27. There were light supplies of both, with a brisk inquiry. Flour—Sales of good extra at $11.

KENTUCKY.

THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT—MOVEMENTS OF UNION GENERALS—REBELS NEAR MOUNT STERLING.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 26.—The Vice President elect arrived here this evening.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 27.—Generals Granger and Hobson arrived to-night. General Burbridge has been directed to report to General Thomas for service in the field.

A report from Frankfort says about 6,000 mounted rebels are in the vicinity of Mount Sterling.

MILITARY PROTECTION TO DESERTERS.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 27.—General Palmer has just issued an order promising military protection to all deserters from the rebel armies who register themselves as renouncing further connection with the rebel government, and threatening all other absentees with penalties due to spies and guerillas, or otherwise, as the circumstances of each case demand.

THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI.

FREEDMEN'S AFFAIRS—GEN. MEREDITH RESTORED TO COMMAND.

CAIRO, Feb. 27.—The steamer Silver Spray, from New Orleans, brings 300 bales of cotton for Cincinnati.

The Memphis *Bulletin* publishes a military order, assigning Colonel Samuel Thomas, of that city, to the inspection of freedmen's affairs.

The steamer City of Cairo has arrived from Memphis, with 240 bales of cotton for St. Louis. Thirty bales of cotton, belonging to merchants of Memphis, were burned by guerillas, a short distance above Memphis, on the 23d.

The order relieving General Meredith has been revoked by the War Department.

Lee's Movement to "Astonish the World."

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 27.—The *Journal*, in an editorial speaking of Lee's army, says: "We have reason to say that the rebels are expecting very soon to startle the whole country and 'astonish the world.' No matter what our reason may be, it is a good one."

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1865.

THE ENROLMENT BILL.

The following are the names of the thirty-nine members of the House of Representatives who this evening voted against the amendatory enrolment bill:

Messrs. James C. Allen, Eden, Morris, and Ross, of Illinois; Ancona, Dawson, Dennison, Johnson, and Stiles, of Pennsylvania; Brooks, Chanler, Gansen, Herrick, Hotchkiss, and Kernan, of New York; Baldwin, of Michigan; Clay, Grider, Harding, Mallory, and Wadsworth, of Kentucky; Cravens, Edgerton, and Harrington, of Indiana; Eldridge, of Wisconsin, Finck, Leblond, Long, McKinney, Morris, Noble, O'Neill, Chilton, A. White, Joseph W. White, of Ohio; Middleton, Perry, and Rogers, of New Jersey; Harris, of Maryland, and Scott, of Missouri.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL MOSQUERA.

General MOSQUERA, President of the Republic of Colombia, and its minister to London, have arrived here, accompanied by General SALGAR, Colombian minister to Washington, and Señor BRUZERAL, the distinguished minister from Venezuela. The parties are the guests of Señor ROMERO, the Mexican minister.

General MOSQUERA has been introduced to the Secretary of State and the President, and to-day left for City Point on a visit to General GRANT's armies.

JUDICIAL.

In the case of FREDERICK W. COLEMAN, appellant, vs. The Hudson River Bridge Company, of Albany, the Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed, with costs, the decree of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Northern District of New York.

APPOINTMENT OF A COLORED SURGEON.

A colored man named DELANEY has been appointed a surgeon of volunteers, with the rank of major, by the President, and ordered to report to Gen. SAXTON, of South Carolina, for duty.

INDIAN GOODS.

The contract for the transportation of Indian goods to Fort Benton, on the Missouri river, was awarded to-day to the owners of the steamer St. Johns. The goods, Indian agents, and Territorial officers will leave St. Louis about the 18th of March for Fort Benton.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE.

THE TROOPS FURNISHED FROM THE SEVERAL STATES.

A communication was received from the Secretary of War in response to a call for information as to the number of troops furnished by each State, declining, on instructions from the President, to furnish the information.

PROTECTION OF EMIGRANTS.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported back a House bill for the protection of emigrants, imposing a penalty for forcing or decoying emigrants into the army or navy, &c., with a recommendation that it pass.

CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS.

Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution that all undistributed documents now in store shall be distributed among the members of the present Congress, which was passed.

A NATIONAL PICTURE.

Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, called up a resolution to authorize a contract with Wm. H. Powell, of Ohio, for painting a national picture, at a cost of $25,000.

VICTORIES OVER FELLOW-CITIZENS.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, offered a proviso that in the National Capitol, dedicated to the National Union, there shall be no picture representing a victory in battle with our fellow-citizens.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, was opposed to this. He wanted to see the noble deeds of our army and navy commemorated upon every foot of the territory of the nation.

Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, spoke of the propriety of commemorating the heroic deeds of our navy. This had never been done, while our eminent statesmen and lawyers had been repeatedly chiseled in marble and painted on canvas.

The morning hour expired, and the above subject went over.

THE TAX BILL.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, moved to proceed to the consideration of the tax bill.

THE LOUISIANA QUESTION.

Several Senators desired to call up the Louisiana question.

Mr. SHERMAN was willing to have the Louisiana question taken up, provided it could be disposed of in an hour or two.

Mr. SUMNER answered Mr. Sherman, that no vote could be taken on the Louisiana question within the time he mentioned.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, said there could have been a vote taken on the Louisiana resolution on Saturday night but for the factious opposition of one third of the Senate.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, said he was opposed now, as he had been always, to forcing a Constitution upon the people of any State, as the resolution of the Judiciary Committee proposed. It was an attempt such as he resisted, when years ago the friends of the Lecompton Constitution. It would be an insult to New York, to Ohio, and to Illinois, to admit Senators from Louisiana who represented nothing and nobody.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, said the voice of the people had not been heard on this subject, and he thought it ought, therefore, to be postponed until next winter.

Mr. SPRAGUE, of Rhode Island, was opposed to the Louisiana resolution because he had information to the effect that twenty five or thirty of the members of the Legislature of Louisiana were office-holders under the Government of the United States or of the State of Louisiana, which was the same thing.

Mr. SUMNER had heard a responsible gentleman, who was in Louisiana when the State Government was formed, say that it was a stupendous hoax.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, said if the Senate would give him a committee he would prove that the votes of the outlying precincts were cast by disabled soldiers and others, who were conveyed from New Orleans to the polls in army transports, and carried back again in the same way after voting.

Mr. SUMNER. I denounce this pretended State Government of Louisiana as nothing more than a seven-months child, begotten by the bayonet in criminal conjunction with the spirit of caste. This is the whole case.

The question was then taken on postponing the Louisiana resolution and taking up the tax bill, which was decided in the affirmative—yeas 34, nays 12, as follows:

YEAS.

Anthony,	Foster,	Powell,
Brown,	Grimes,	Riddle,
Buckalew,	Harlan,	Saulsbury,
Carlile,	Henderson,	Sherman,
Chandler,	Hendricks,	Sprague,
Clark,	Howard,	Sumner,
Conness,	Johnson,	Wade,
Cowan,	Morgan,	Wilkinson,
Davis,	Morrill,	Wilson,
Dixon,	Nye,	Wright.
Farwell,		

NAYS.

Doolittle,	McDougall,	Ten Eyck,
Harris,	Nesmith,	Trumbull,
Lane (Indiana),	Pomeroy,	Van Winkle,
Lane (Kansas),	Ramsay,	Willey.

Mr. SHERMAN made a report from the committee of conference on the army and navy appropriation bills, which was agreed to.

THE TAX BILL.

The tax bill was then taken up.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, moved its indefinite postponement, and on this motion made a lengthy speech, animadverting especially on the conduct of the Administration in the management of affairs in Kentucky.

The Senate, at 4.30 P. M., took a recess till 7 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The consideration of the tax bill was resumed.

The motion of Mr. DAVIS, to indefinitely postpone, was rejected, and the bill was then read at length.

REMARKS OF MR. SHERMAN.

Mr. SHERMAN said. The late period of the session at which the House of Representatives have sent in this bill precludes full discussion upon any of the important questions presented in it.

The House is jealous of its exclusive privilege of originating revenue bills, but it ought at least to give us an opportunity to exercise our undoubted power to amend them. This important measure, affecting every individual interest of the country, declaring in its title that it is to provide revenue to support the Government and pay the interest on the public debt, containing fifty pages of printed matter, every line demanding an examination of the previous law, was sent to us within two weeks of the close of the session. The Committee of Finance have worked diligently to prepare it for the consideration of the Senate, and now, during the closing week, with all the hurry incident to the closing days of the session, with the appropriation bills still pending between the two houses, we must urge the Senate to pass judgment upon the numerous provisions of the bill, rather than to discuss them. After the first careful reading of this bill, and considering the many important changes proposed in it, I was inclined to recommend that the Senate postpone it until the next session, rather than by hasty legislation to run the risk of new errors; but the Government's need of new sources of revenue, the loss of revenue caused by the defeat of the present law, by the constructions put upon part of it by revenue officers, and the palpable failure to enforce the present law, especially as to incomes, induced your committee to report it back with several important amendments, and especially to provide for such an examination of the whole subject of internal tax as will enable us to legislate in the future with fuller information. It may expedite our action to submit at the outset a few general remarks as to the necessity which compels us to impose upon our constituents the system of internal taxation provided for by this bill and the act of last session. Under the practice of Congress of dividing financial measures into numerous bills, all of which are considered separately, without any connection with each other, there seems no appropriate time to consider the budget, or the general financial estimates and plans of the Government. Yet it is obvious that when it is the chief duty of Congress to provide ways and means to carry on the Government, some general principles ought to be adopted and applied to all our financial measures. When at peace the United States had an ample source of revenue in a moderate rate of duty on imported goods. The tax was so light as never to be felt by our people, and its incidental effect in protecting our domestic industry made it a blessing rather than a burden. But the rebellion changed all this—we had either to submit to have our existence as a nation destroyed by a haughty but base, ignorant, and defeated oligarchy, or we had to assume what was its unavoidable incident—taxation and debt.

The people of the United States having definitely determined to prosecute the war, it only remained for Congress to provide the ways and means for carrying it on. It is manifest now, as I then urged, that it would have been better at the first session in 1861 to have reduced to the lowest possible standard all expenditures, and to have provided a system of internal tax. It is easy now to see the errors of the past. None of us appreciated the magnitude of the contest—the enormous armies demanded and the vast sums required for the contest. I still think that with parsimonious economy and heavy taxes from the beginning we might have borrowed money enough on a specie basis to have avoided a suspension of specie payments, but when the war came we were without a currency and without a system of taxation. Gold disappeared and was hoarded by the banks and by individuals. It flowed in a steady stream from our country. But by the sub-treasury act we could not use the irredeemable bills of State banks, and with the terrible lessons of 1815 and 1837 staring us in the face, no one was bold enough to advise us to make taxation as the standard of value the issues of 1,600 banks founded upon as many banking systems as there were States. Under these circumstances we had but one resource. We had to borrow vast sums, and as a means to do it, we had to make a currency. This was done by the issue of United States notes; and subsequently to invite the interests of private capital with the security of the Government as a basis of bank, we established a system of national banks, and upon this currency, as a medium for collecting taxes and borrowing moneys, have waged a war unexampled in the grandeur of its operations, and, as I trust, soon to be crowned with undeniable success. Such a war has not been conducted without vast expenditures. Our actual expenditures during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1864, were $865,234,087. The estimated expenditure for the current fiscal year is $895,726,185. Upon the basis of the present law much more than one half of this sum had already been expended. To this sum you must add every dollar you provide for by new loans, and this grim fact must not be overlooked for a single moment when you are making new appropriations. Every dollar of this must be paid in the form of taxes, and that is not the worst of it—it must be paid now. We must get the money, either by making it, borrowing it, or by collecting it from our people. If we could postpone the borrowing until the war is over, it would be easy, but we must devise the means of getting it before we can sympathize with the poor clerk, the brave soldier, or the needy contractor; until then your sympathy is mockery, your every measure of relief may add more to the distress of all whose livelihood depends on their taxed salary. I repeat that there are but three modes of raising this money—one is by issuing your notes, calling them money, and compelling your people to take them; another is by issuing your bonds or promises to pay in future, and another is to collect the money in the form of a tax from the people. That all these modes may be resorted to is proven from the hasty modes of nations when involved in war. As the first is the easiest it is apt to be resorted to first, but it is a doubtful expedient at any time, always dangerous and soon exhausted. If pressed too far, it destroys laws and taxes, and national bankruptcy is the inevitable result. A limited amount of the money was indispensable to use as a medium of exchange. It is like some medicines, necessary in certain cases and in moderate quantities, but if taken in excess are mere death. Paper money is used by a government is called a loan, but it has none of the elements of a loan, except the promise to pay. There can be no loan without a lender, and his act must be voluntary. In the middle ages governments resorted to forced loans—a contradiction of terms. A forced loan was merely an unjust and an unequal tax. I choose to regard the United States legal-tender notes not as a loan made, but as money, lawful money—which the citizen is compelled to receive—that which now takes the standard of all values. Whether the power to issue is derived from the power to coin money or to borrow money, or whether it is inherent in every government clothed with the attributes of sovereignty, are questions we need not now discuss. We have exercised the power. It is now the currency of the country, the measure of value, and we can only regulate its form and amount by providing for its redemption. While we can and have made our paper money the standard of value, we cannot fix the price or value of any other commodity, whether gold, silver, or food. This attempt has been made in many governments in different ages, and has uniformly failed. The standard of value may be fixed by the Government, but a higher law fixes the relative value of all commodities. As measured by this standard, we may by our tariff or tax law affect the relative value of commodities, but we cannot by direct legislation fix the value of any commodity, either in gold or paper money. When the attempt has been made, the result has been to advance rather than to decrease the value of the commodity. All our efforts to fix the value of gold, as measured by our currency, have failed. We may make it a penal offence to buy or sell gold; we may deny the use of our courts to enforce such contracts; we may prohibit the exportation of gold; we may determine value of gold by heavy taxation—yet, after all, the price of gold rises and falls as our national credit rises and falls. So far as our legislation provides means in strengthening our army it produces a fall of gold as measured by our standard; so far as it merely discourages trade in gold, or any other commodity, it increases its market value. It is an axiom of political economy, proven by the experience of all nations, by every form of government—despotic, monarchic, or republican—that the relative value of all commodities is beyond the power of legislation. We may fix the standard of value. We may fix the tax upon the commodity, and there our power ends; and especially is this so of gold, which, in all civilized nations of the world except with nations for a time involved in war, is everywhere the standard of value. It is therefore manifest that the first duty of Congress is to keep our lawful money a standard of value, as near as possible to the standard of gold, and this can only be done by limiting the amount and by making it valuable to pay taxes or loans. It can only be redeemed by the Government as a receiver of duties, and every tax or duty, however oppressive to the individual, which withdraws for a time our paper money, brings it nearer the standard of gold. The power to make money by issuing legal-tender bills is now exhausted. More than enough is now outstanding to supply a currency. The issue of $100,000,000 more would not only increase our debt to that amount, but would add even a quarter more to our expenditures by the increased price of commodities consumed by the war, while the imposition of an equal amount of taxes gives value to our currency, and thus reduces the price of commodities we are compelled to buy. An increase of paper money benefits the tax payers now at the expense of the soldiers, as it reduces the purchasing value of the pay of the soldier, while by debasing the currency, it is made easier for the tax payer to pay a specific sum in the end. However, the tax, by the increased cost of food and clothing, and transportation of the army, must be finally paid in gold. I assume, then, that while the necessity for raising these vast sums is still imperative, yet our mode of doing it, and that the easiest, is exhausted, loans and taxes are our only resource. A loan must be voluntary. It may, to some extent, be induced by patriotism. In this contest thousands of patriotic people—men, women, and children, rich and poor—alike have loaned their savings to the Government, from the purest motives. The admirable system of distributing this loan by going out from money centres to remote hamlets and villages, gathering from the small savings of the people rather than from garnered treasuries of the rich, has proved a wonderful success; yet, after all, to borrow money you must appeal to the self-interest of the lender. A great nation borrowing money will be tried by the interested tests applied by the pawnbroker to his shivering victim. The more it wants to borrow the more it must pay. The terms upon which we now borrow prove that we have pressed this resource as far as is expedient. Tested by the present standard of gold, we now pay 7 3-10 per cent. for three years, and 12 per cent. afterwards until the debt is paid. We promise to pay $1,000 in gold at the end of eight years, with interest for five of these at 6 per cent. in gold, and for three years at 7 3-10 in currency, and we receive for this promise, which must be fulfilled to the uttermost, $1,000 in currency, which will buy our soldiers no more than $500 in gold. But this is not all. We stipulate that this property lent us shall be exempt from all the burdens which this war casts upon all other property of State, county, and municipal taxes. This simple statement shows that this process of borrowing is exhaustive, that we are not extend it, except for the highest object of national existence. When I see the money thus borrowed expended in trivial subjects I cannot but look forward to the slow and hard process by which it must all be repaid in gold, with interest accumulated and accumulating through the agency of collectors, by the process of this bill and from the labor of the poor. And if, Senators, you have thought me hard and close as to salaries and expenditures, I trust you will do me the justice to believe that it is not from any doubt of the ability of our country to pay, or to favor the base and selfish desire for cheap reputation, or from a disinclination to pay my share, but because I see in the dim future of our country the same uneasy struggle between capital and labor, between the rich and the poor, between fund holders and property holders, that has marked the history of Great Britain for the last fifty years. I do not want our public debt increased one dollar beyond the necessities of the present war, and the only way to prevent this increase is to restrict our expenditures to the lowest limit consistent with the public service, and to increase our taxes to the highest aggregate our industry will bear.

Mr. SHERMAN regarded the tax on sales as indefensible in principle, yet he was willing to vote for it as a temporary expedient to raise the revenue. The increase of letter postage was to make the Post Office Department self-supporting. The changes in the income tax he deemed necessary to prevent a repetition of the shameless and wholesale evasion of the special income tax. This was the only tax imposed on accumulated property—the only tax on money in State or Government securities. It was one which should have been paid most cheerfully; but its assessment and collection was a disreputable farce. A still more important feature of the bill was the section compelling the withdrawal of notes of State banks, as the volume of currency affects the price of commodities. He had no doubt the amount of paper now outstanding increases the cost of purchasing by many millions, and that the refusal of Congress, at the last session, to pass restrictive measures compelling its redemption had seriously affected the value of the currency. National banks were intended to supersede State banks, and both could not exist together, yet issues of State banks had not materially decreased, while the national bank system was extending. Indeed, many local banks had been converted into national banks, and yet they keep up their circulation upon the same capital. It were better at once to abandon the national system rather than lease it as a cloak for outstanding State issues. If State banks have power enough in Congress to prolong their existence beyond the present year, it were better to suspend the organization of national banks. As a fast friend of the new system, he would to-day vote for its repeal rather than to allow it to be the agency by which State banks may inflate the currency. The power of taxation could not be more wisely exercised than in harmonizing such tendency, and placing on a secure basis of national credit the money of the country. Many of the taxes proposed in this bill were not in accordance with the established rules of political economy founded upon European experience. Our object, as beginners in the science of taxation, was less to equalize than to increase our revenue. All other questions must yield to the necessity of levying most expeditiously the largest possible taxes. To do this we must extend it to nearly all articles of production and consumption. It was true of some of these taxes that they were unequal. It could only be replied that money was needed now, and to the future must be left changes dictated by riper experience. Taxes levied now must be paid by those at home who do not fight; if postponed they will fall in a measure on those who have fought. Taxes paid now were paid in a depreciated currency. If postponed they must be paid in gold. If paid now the tendency is to reduce the price of commodities and enable the Government to borrow upon better terms. If withheld the sum is increased to be raised hereafter. What we pay now we pay without interest; what we postpone must be paid threefold in accumulating interest.

He held that the war had given great activity to all classes of industry, yielding enormous profits and that it was proper that the Government should receive a full tax before these profits were consumed in expenditures.

A tax system, fully enforced now, would relieve the people from heavy taxes when the reaction of peace should lower the profits of industry. We could not increase taxes, we should prepare to reduce them. Taxes would be paid cheerfully in view of the dangers threatened by secession, at which the people would complain when the danger was past. The spectre of repudiation would never trouble us if we did our duty of tax-paying as well as our soldiers do that of fighting. Therefore, every dictate of policy, every sentiment of patriotism demanded that the largest taxation now be assessed and impartially collected.

The same general principles ... now sufficiently ... the necessity of paying custom duties in gold, and we were in a condition to protect our commerce from competition, because our vessels were the prey of British pirates. Our immediate want was revenue without destroying our national credit. Our tariff laws must then be framed solely with a view to revenue. He would only modify the present duties when such a course would increase the revenue. If by increasing the duty we would enhance the revenue without diminishing the consumption in a greater degree, it should be done. When our industry is employed in repairing the waste of war, increased importation may become a vast injury, by exhausting the country of gold. The true principle must be to frame the tariff laws so as to produce the greatest revenue from the least importation. When the war closes, the English rule should apply, of levying the requisite duties on the fewest articles, with a view to increase commerce and foster industry. He believed if the Commissioner of the Revenue and his subordinates did their duty three hundred millions would be collected during the calendar year, on an ample basis of public credit which would rapidly reduce the public debt. If the war should close this year, our system of finance would soon enable us to commence the reduction of the public debt.

FURTHER DEBATE.

Mr. SUMNER expressed himself opposed to a tax on books. It was a tax on knowledge, which was not worthy of Congress. Every tax on books was an impediment to education. He moved to strike out the clause in the bill of last session imposing a tax on books, magazines, reviews, and other printed matter.

Mr. SAULSBURY said it was very appropriate and very consistent with the legislation of the present day to tax Bibles and Testaments and exempt all other books.

Mr. CLARK said it was a mistake to suppose that the tax on books yielded an inconsiderable revenue. There were single publishing houses that paid eighty to one hundred thousand dollars a year in 6 per cent. ad valorem tax. It would be unfair to tax shirts and stockings and let novels go untaxed.

Mr. HENDRICKS was willing to exempt the Bible, but no other books from taxation.

Mr. WILSON said the people who read the Bible were the ones who were the most willing to pay taxes and he was opposed to exempting any books of any kind.

Mr. Wilson spoke of what he termed the looseness of the manner in which the revenue was collected. There were at least twenty millions of dollars in the hands of collectors who were speculating in whisky and in everything else, to the injury of the Government. The Government was defrauded, he said, in the matter of clerk hire and stationery. In the State of New York this was especially the case. In the Thirty-second Collection district, for instance, which is in the city of New York, the charge for stationery for a year was $3,070. There were 36,000 persons assessed in this district, while in the Thirty-eighth district, assessing 477,000 names, the entire cost of stationery was only $3,110.

Mr. HALE thought a tax on knowledge would be a very fruitful source of revenue, especially if you let every man hand in his own inventory. [Laughter.] There were many Senators here who would have to pay a large sum if assessed on their own returns when the same subjects were under discussion.

The question on Mr. Sumner's amendment to exempt books from taxation was decided in the negative—as follows:

YEAS.

Davis,	Morgan,	Sumner.
Harlan,	Saulsbury,	

NAYS.

Anthony,	Foster,	Ramsay,
Buckalew,	Grimes,	Sherman,
Chandler,	Harris,	Sprague,
Clark,	Henderson,	Stewart,
Collamer,	Howe,	Ten Eyck,
Conness,	Johnson,	Van Winkle,
Cowan,	Nye,	Willey,
Dixon,	Pomeroy,	Wilson,
Farwell,	Powell,	Wright.

The question then recurred on the amendment of the Finance Committee to exempt magazines from the book tax of five per cent. It was rejected—yeas 12, nays 20.

The question was then taken on the Finance Committee's amendment not to exempt Bibles, testaments, and common school books from taxation, and it was adopted.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill amendatory of the act imposing duties on imports, approved June, 1864. He said it was not now proposed to go into a general revision of the tariff, but to postpone the main subject till the next session; but having imposed higher duties on domestic liquors and raised the duty on petroleum and cotton, all the committee now proposed to do was to change the mode of estimating the value and to increase some of the rates.

The bill was read. It proposes, among other things, "That from and after the passage of this act, in addition to the duties heretofore imposed by law, there shall be paid on brandy, rum, whisky, arrack liquors and cordials, fifty cents per gallon of the first proof, to be increased in proportion for any greater strength than first proof.

Silk, spun or reeled from cocoons, ten per centum ad valorem, and in lieu of the present duties there shall be paid on cotton five cents per pound.

Illuminating gas, oil, naphtha, benzine, refined coal oil, shale, peat, petroleum, or other bituminous substances for illuminating, forty cents per gallon. Tobacco stems, fifteen cents per pound. Ready-made clothing of silk, or of which silk is a component part and of chief value, sixty per centum.

On bar iron or iron for railroads, and fitted to be laid down, fifteen cents a hundred pounds.

That the tonnage duty in the tariff act of July 4, 1862, be increased from ten cents to thirty cents, so much of the act of 1856 as prohibits the exportation of guano on islands discovered by Americans is repealed—the act to take effect on April 1, 1865.

The bill contains a provision imposing a duty of twenty per centum ad valorem on goods the value of which is based on the square yard.

THE FORTIFICATION BILL.

The fortification bill having been returned from the Senate with an amendment reducing the original items one-half,

Mr. TOWNSEND, of New York, said this seems rather a careless way of legislating. The House reports a bill appropriating such amounts as in their judgment are necessary, and the Senate reduces the amounts just one-half. Now, it would occur to any person of the most ordinary capacity that there are some places which are of more importance than others. Take, for instance, the fortifications of New York harbor. Large contracts have just been given out, and to curtail the appropriations for that place would be a very serious matter. In the event of a foreign war New York, from its wealth and importance, would probably be the first point of attack. I would like, therefore, to ask the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means if this matter was carefully considered before asking the concurrence of the House.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, replied that the matter was considered very carefully in committee, and although they were opposed to the reduction they considered that the sum appropriated would be as much as they could expend during the year. They therefore concluded to recommend that the House concur in the amendment.

On motion, the House accordingly concurred in the Senate amendment.

EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

The House considered the Senate's amendments to the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill.

Mr. FRANCK, of New York, chairman of the Library Committee, said the enlargement of the Congressional Library, for which an appropriation of $160,000 was asked was absolutely necessary, because no more room exists for the addition of books, and more than half the present library is unprotected against fire. 60,000 out of the 90,000 volumes are in the wooden portion of the library, subject to a repetition of the calamity which destroyed the collection in 1851, and has now nearly destroyed the Smithsonian Institution. The great danger to these national treasures is familiar to all, and once lost, the books cannot be fully replaced. The donations to the library from foreign Government, and those of the several States, are too valuable to be neglected, and this great national library, which has been built up by former Congresses at so much expenditures of care and money, should no longer be suffered to remain unprotected.

The amendment was concurred in, together with others. The House added an amendment requiring the proceedings of Congress to be published the next day in the *Congressional Globe*—speeches not actually delivered to be postponed until there is room for them.

THE DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION BILL.

The next amendment of the Senate was the addition of the deficiency appropriation bill, about the passage of which there has been long delay, owing to the disagreement by the Senate to the appropriation of thirty-eight thousand dollars for extra compensation to the clerks and other employees of the House. The Committee of Ways and Means recommended a non-concurrence in this amendment.

Mr. MORRILL hoped the House would concur in the amendment of the Senate, and thus end the controversy, the amendment being the deficiency bill as it had passed the House, but without the item of extra compensation to clerks and employees.

Mr. STEVENS said the House had refused more than twice to strike out the appropriation, yet the Senate persists. He stated that the fifty-two Senators received $17,000 for stationery, while one hundred and ninety-two members of the House received only $12,000. The Senators distribute ninety-six volumes each of the *Congressional Globe*, while each member of the House can distribute only twenty-four, and also mileage. The Senator from Ohio (Mr Sherman), receives $532, while the member of this House, from the same town, receives $440. Each of the Senators from Kansas receive $1,160, while the member here receives but $1,260; and yet the House did not find fault with these domestic institutions of the Senate, but the House did claim the right to manage their contingent fund in their own way.

Mr. GARFIELD, of Ohio, was unwilling longer to keep up the contest, and referred to the law of 1856 to show that no extra pay shall be allowed unless there is special provision for that purpose. The House, in its generosity, last winter passed a resolution to pay such extra compensation directly in face of law.

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN, of Illinois, was unwilling to yield to the dictation of the Senate, and, therefore, opposed the Senate amendment.

Mr. KASSON, of Iowa, said he was originally opposed to the extra compensation, but thought it was the duty of the House to stand by its position and insist on paying its clerks the compensation to which they were entitled.

The question was taken on the amendment, adding the deficiency bill moneys to the extra compensation for House clerks and employees, and decided in the negative—yeas 54, nays 75.

THE ENROLMENT BILL.

The House resumed the consideration of the amendatory enrolment bill, the section pending being that which increases the penalty for desertion by disfranchising deserters who do not return in sixty days.

Mr. TOWNSEND, of New York, moved to strike out the section.

Mr. SCHENCK, of Ohio, said this section was copied precisely from the bill which has passed the Senate, and he believed it to be a wholesome provision. He was glad the motion had been made, because it would distinguish those who were friendly to those who had deserted their country and flag from those who were in favor of punishing such deserters.

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN opposed the section because it was designed to be retroactive, and he entered his protest against the inference drawn by the gentleman from Ohio, who ought not to be flaunting such remarks in the face of gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House. Those who do not support the section should not be arraigned as enemies of the Government. It was unjust.

Mr. CHANLER, of New York, in his remarks, said there was no necessity for such a stringent measure, and that the bill itself violated the rights of every citizen throughout the country.

Mr. SCHENCK remarked that he had made no general charge of disloyalty, and, in reply to Mr. Allen, said the bill was not retroactive, and the Committee on Military Affairs had carefully avoided making it so.

Mr. TOWNSEND explained his reasons for striking out the section, saying that innocent persons would be affected. He did not go to the gentleman from Ohio for his loyalty to the Government and threw back the infamous insinuation of the gentleman with scorn.

Mr. Townsend was called to order.

Mr. SCHENCK. Oh! let him go on.

Mr. TOWNSEND concluded his remarks. When

Mr. SCHENCK said that, if entertaining the sentiments which the gentleman had expressed, constituted disloyalty, then, in his opinion, the gentleman was disloyal.

Mr. ELDRIDGE, of Wisconsin, inquired whether that language was in order?

The SPEAKER replied that the gentleman could not make the statement as an assertion.

Mr. MALLORY, of Kentucky. He can make it in a Pickwickian sense. [Laughter.]

Mr. SCHENCK. I don't make it in a Pickwickian sense.

The SPEAKER said: If the gentleman so charged against the gentleman from New York, he was out of order.

Mr. SCHENCK said he had taken down the gentleman's language. If it did not agree with the reporter's notes he was not sustained.

Mr. KALBFLEISCH, of New York, wished to know whether the gentleman measured his loyalty by that of those on the Opposition side of the House?

Mr. SCHENCK replied that he would not say whether he was below or rose above such a standard.

At this point Mr. MORRILL made a report on the disagreeing amendments to the navy appropriation bill, and it was concurred in.

The question was taken on Mr. Townsend's motion to strike out the pending section of the enrolment bill, and it was decided in the negative.

Mr. CHANLER offered a new section, that so much of all acts as authorizes the President to raise troops by conscription be, and the same are hereby repealed, and supported it by a speech. The amendment was rejected—yeas 27, nays 96.

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Messrs. Ancona, Brooks, Chanler, Clay, Denison, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, Harris (of Maryland), Leblond, Long, Mallory, Miller (of Pennsylvania), Morrison, Noble, O'Neill (of Ohio), Pendleton, Perry, Pruyn, Rogers, Ross, Stiles, Strouse, Townsend, Wadsworth, Chilton, A. White, and Joseph White.

The following section relates to credits in States, districts, wards, &c.:

Hereafter, all persons mustered into the military or naval service, whether as volunteers, substitutes, representatives, or otherwise, shall be credited to the State and to the ward, township, precinct, or other enrolment sub district where such persons belong by actual residence, if such persons have an actual residence within the United States, and where such persons were or shall be enrolled, if liable to enrolment; and it is made the duty of the Provost Marshal General to make such rules and give such instructions to the several provost marshals' boards of enrolment and mustering officers as shall be necessary for the faithful enforcement of the provisions of this section, to the end that fair and just credit shall be given to every section of the country; *provided*, that no credit shall be given except for such men as have actually been mustered in.

The following amendment was added, on motion of Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana:

That in every case where any regiment, battalion, or company has been mustered out of the service of the United States, by reason of the expiration of the term for which such organization had been accepted, the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to cause immediately to be mustered out all those non-commissioned officers and privates who, during the years 1862 and 1863, were enlisted with the assurance and understanding that they were to serve only for the unexpired term of any such organizations; and in cases where regiments, battalions, and companies have not been mustered out, then such non-commissioned officers and privates as are above described, he shall cause to be mustered out whenever the term of such organization shall expire: *Provided*, That before any such enlisted man is mustered out he shall sign a statement, under oath, that he enlisted with the distinct assurance and understanding that he engaged to serve only for the unexpired term of the organization into which he entered; such statement to be verified by the recruiting officer by whom he was enlisted, and by some commissioned officer having actual and personal knowledge of the facts in the case.

Another section provides that in ... hereafter credit shall be given to the several States, districts, and sub-districts, for all men furnished from them respectively and not heretofore credited during the present rebellion for any period of service of not less than three months, calculating the number of days for which such services were furnished, and reducing the same to years: *Provided* that such credits shall not be applied to the call for additional troops made on the 21st of December, 1864.

Fourth. No person of foreign birth who has resided in the United States for three years preceding his arriving at the age of twenty-one years, shall be exempt from enrolment and draft on account of being an alien, but shall be subject thereto.

The remaining sections provide that the mustering in of a substitute shall be conclusive in favor of the principal, and exempt him from military service for the term for which he was drafted.

Assistant provost marshals are to be appointed by the President, and chargeable with the duties intermediate between the Provost Marshal General and the district provost marshal.

Any person who has been or may be drafted for one year, but who has furnished or may furnish an acceptable substitute for three years, shall be exempt for this period of time.

It shall not be lawful for any person to engage in the business of procuring recruits or substitutes for money or profit without having first obtained from the Secretary of War authority in writing. The party is to file proof of his loyalty and good character, and give bond to the amount of $50,000 that he will faithfully observe all laws and regulations in force governing the obtaining of recruits or substitutes. Any recruiting agent who causes to be enlisted any insane person or convict, or person under indictment for felony, is to be punished by fine and imprisonment, and any officer knowingly mustering any deserter or insane person, or persons in a condition of intoxication, or any minor without the consent of his parent or guardian, shall, on conviction, be dishonorably dismissed from the service. Principals who put in insufficient substitutes are to be notified of the fact in order that their places may be properly supplied; *Provided*, that notice be given to such principals within thirty days.

In addition to the other lawful penalties of the crime of desertion from the military or naval service, all persons who have deserted who shall not return or report themselves to a provost marshal within sixty days, shall be deemed to have voluntarily relinquished and forfeited their rights of citizenship, and their rights to become citizens, and all persons who shall hereafter desert on being duly enrolled, shall depart the jurisdiction or go beyond the limits of the United States, with intent to avoid any draft duly ordered, shall be liable to the penalties of this section. And the *President* is authorized to issue his proclamation that he will pardon those who return to serve out their original term.

This act is to take effect from and after its passage, and nothing therein is to operate against, to part from, or interfere with, or postpone the pending draft, or the quotas assigned therefor. The bill repeals the third section of the present enrolment law, which authorizes the Governors of States to send recruiting agents into the rebel States.

The bill having been perfected, Mr. SCHENCK moved the previous question.

Mr. MALLORY moved that the bill be laid upon the table, but the question was decided in the negative.

THE BILL PASSED.

The bill was then read a third time and passed by a vote of 80 yeas to 39 nays.

The House, at six o'clock, took a recess till half-past seven o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

APPROPRIATION.

The House passed the Senate bill appropriating $1,500 to Mrs. Lucy A. Wright, late of Richmond, Virginia, for her courage and patriotic devotion in secreting Col. Streight and his party, and enabling them to make their escape from the rebels.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The House passed the bill to authorize and aid in the construction of a railroad to connect the Pacific Railroad, in California, with the Columbia river, in Oregon, and Puget Sound. The House, in Committee, proceeded to the consideration of the $600,000,000 loan bill.

THE LOAN BILL.

Mr. STEVENS offered his substitute to borrow the same amount at a rate of interest not exceeding 5 per cent. per annum, etc.

Mr. HOOPER said the bill authorized $600,000,000 to be borrowed on such terms and in such forms as heretofore authorized, excepting that no part of it shall be made a legal tender or of smaller denomination than $50, the annual rate of interest not to exceed 6 per cent. if payable in coin, and in no case 7 3-10 per cent.; and the time in which any bonds issued are to be redeemed at not less than five nor more than forty years. Within this limitation and restriction the bill left everything else at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury. The substitute offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania proposes that the bonds shall be payable at the pleasure of the Government after twenty-five years, at an interest of 5 per cent. in currency. In all other respects the bill and the substitute were essentially alike. The annual rate of seven and three-tenths interest was deemed by the committee the highest rate the Government ought to pay, and by making principal and interest payable in coin, we have some standard in view to which everything used as currency should be brought, and making currency equivalent to coin at the earliest practicable period.

Mr. F. WOOD calculated the present and prospective public debt at $7,893,000,000 (seven thousand six hundred and eight millions), or more than the combined debt of England, France, Russia, Austria, Spain, and Prussia. He assigned reasons for this enormous debt; among others, the erroneous financial policy at the commencement of this administration and its continuance to the present time. Then the ignominious failures to take Richmond, which cost the Government more than $100,000,000, and millions have been spent for the support of idle and worthless brokers. In addition to this, were corruptions and frauds in making contracts and commissions between Government officers and outside parties to deplete the treasury. The reason why affairs of the country are badly conducted; because the system of expansion depreciates the public currency, and because our expenses are so much in excess of our legitimate revenue. Victories do not permanently effect the value of gold. As a relief to the treasury, instead of relying on loans, he advocated the taking advantage of our mineral lands, containing untold wealth. As another means of revenue, he argued in favor of the levying of export duties, which would come out of the pockets of Europe and add largely to our finances.

Mr. HOOPER, of Massachusetts, reported an amendment, from the Committee of Ways and Means, providing that the act of June, 1864, shall be so construed as to authorize the issue of any description of bonds authorized by this act, and that any treasury notes or other obligations under any act may be converted into any description of bonds. This was agreed to.

Mr. WILSON, of Iowa, offered a substitute for the first section of the bill to borrow six hundred millions of dollars, at a rate of interest not exceeding 7 3-10 per centum. He expressed his views on the subject, and wished to confine the loan under this act to bonds.

Mr. KASSON, of Iowa, replied that the gentleman from New York (Mr. Wood), and his colleague, Mr. Wilson, had taken positions—the former that this bill was unprecedented in policy, and the latter that it tends to unsettle the money market. Now, the policy of the bill was not unprecedented, because it conformed to every other loan act, and it does not tend to unsettle the policy of the Government, but is exactly what the money market is accustomed to. The bill had been published for a week, and he had yet to hear that the provisions of the bill tend to unsettle the money market or the financial policy of the Government.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, supported Mr. Wilson's proposition.

Mr. KERNAN, of New York, suggested that the interest should be confined to bonds, saying that we ought to raise money without issuing any more currency.

Mr. WILSON said that such was the design of his amendment.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, opposed the amendment. The Government he said, could not raise by loan money as fast as it was needed.

Mr. KASSON replied to Mr. Davis who, he said, had argued the question as if treasury notes authorized by the bill were intended to be issued as currency. It was not the object, either of the Committee of Ways and Means or of the Secretary of the Treasury, thus to swell the currency.

Mr. PRUYN, of New York, said he should vote for Mr. Wilson's proposition. We should never have given the large circulation to the national banks, and the sooner we get it back the better.

Mr. HOOPER, of Massachusetts, said the bill itself prevented anything issued under this act from being used as a legal tender.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, the first section was amended so that for the six hundred millions the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue bonds and notes, instead of bonds and other obligations.

Mr. WILSON said they were now giving a definition to the term "other obligations."

Mr. PRICE, of Iowa, objected to authority being given to any man to increase the volume of currency. This was a bold faced proposition to increase six hundred millions at one fell swoop.

Mr. MORRILL said he had been a consistent opponent of legal tenders, and confessed his surprise at the remarks of the gentleman from Iowa, as those now bearing interest were not to circulate as currency. The treasury notes were for the convenience of small capitalists, and should be granted. Be begged the House to have confidence in the Treasury Department.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland said that it was known to every one that treasury notes, though bearing interest, do not circulate as currency. This bill authorized the issue of six hundred millions in fifty-dollar treasury notes, which will pass from hand to hand as currency.

Mr. BOUTWELL, of Massachusetts, thought the House should decide how far the power of the Secretary should be exercised. Treasury notes as a currency were not a matter of law, but a fact, and he thought the issue of treasury notes should be limited.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, said he had ... his loan in bonds, being unwilling further to ... the currency.

The Committee at 11 o'clock rose, and the House, without coming to a conclusion on the subject, adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, February 27, 1865.

SENATE.

Mr. HOGE read a bill incorporating the Franklin and Wallaceville Railroad Company.

Mr. GRAHAM, one incorporating the National Railroad and Transportation Company.

Mr. RANDALL, a supplement to an act incorporating the Mount Carbon and Great Carbon Railroad.

Mr. CONNELL read an act to make valid conveyances by wives, in their minority, of their interest in their husbands' real estate.

HOUSE.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. STUDDIVANT moved that the Railroad Committee be discharged from the consideration of a bill incorporating the Titusville and Union Mills Railroad, which he said had been introduced a long ago as January 10th, and had never since seen daylight. The bill proposes to construct a new railroad to the oil region between points named, and is desired by 5,000 residents of the section, who now hold 20,000 barrels of oil which they cannot get to market by any of the existing roads.

Messrs. STURDIVANT, HILL, BROWN, and COCHRAN, of Erie, spoke in favor of discharging the committee, so that the bill could be freely considered by the House.

Mr. McCLURE was opposed to discharging the committee.

The motion to discharge the committee was not agreed to, there not being the necessary two thirds voting in favor.

Mr. SMITH moved to refer the petroleum storage bill to a committee consisting of the entire Philadelphia delegation.

Mr. COCHRAN moved to amend by requiring the committee to report within twenty-four hours.

The parties interested in the bill, together with Marshal Blackburn, were present.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. FOSTER, a bill allowing tenants to pay contractors for constructing sewers when they are ordered by the Board of Surveys, and to charge the cost to their landlords.

Mr. RUDDIMAN, a bill making new boundaries between the second and Third wards.

Mr. WAIT, a bill restricting the rate of charge for motive power on railroads to two and a half cents per ton of coal per mile.

Mr. SMITH, a bill repealing the act approved February 9, 1865, which pays Philadelphia assessors ...

Adjourned.

Substitutes and Commutation.

We have received numerous letters from persons who have been drafted in former calls for troops, and have either furnished substitutes or paid commutation money at the time, requesting information as to their liability or non-liability to draft under the present quota. For the information, as well as of all so situated as of those who may now be drafted, we publish the law relating to substitutes and commutation:

An Act to amend an act entitled "An Act for enrolling and Calling out the National Forces," and for other purposes.—United States Statutes at Large, vol. 13, p. 6. Approved March 3, 1864.

SECTION 5. And be it further enacted, that any person drafted into the military service of the United States may, before the time fixed for his appearance for duty at the draft rendezvous, *furnish an acceptable substitute*, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. That if such substitute is not liable to draft, the person furnishing him shall be exempt from draft during the time for which such substitute is not liable to draft, not exceeding the term for which he was drafted; and, if such substitute is liable to draft, the name of the person furnishing him shall again be placed on the roll, and shall be liable to draft on future calls, but not until the present enrolment shall be exhausted; and this exemption shall not exceed the term for which such person shall have been drafted. And any person now in the military or naval service of the United States, not physically disqualified, who has so served more than one year, and whose term of unexpired service shall not at the time of substitution exceed ... months, may be employed as a substitute ... in the troops of the State in which he enlisted ... if any drafted person shall hereafter pay ... the procuration of a substitute, under the provisions of the act to which this is an amendment, ... payment of money shall operate only to relieve such person from draft in filling that quota, and his name shall be retained on the roll in filling future quotas; but in no instance shall the exemption of any person, on account of his payment of commutation money for the procuration of a substitute, extend beyond one year; but at the end of one year, in every such case, the name of any person so exempted shall be enrolled again, if not before removed, to the enrolment list under the provisions of this section.

LARGE POSITIVE SALE OF BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, ARMY GOODS, CAPS, LEATHER CUTTINGS, LACETS, &c.—The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large assortment of boots, shoes, brogans, military caps, leather cuttings, &c., embracing samples of 1,200 packages of first-class seasonable goods, of city and Eastern manufacture, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, on four months' credit, commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

THE GERMAN OPERA.—Last night the most decidedly successful performance of the season took place. "La Dame Blanche" was well sung, Habelman appearing as *George Brown*, Hermanns as *Gaveston*, and Madame Rotter as *Anna*. The overture and first act of "Tannhauser" were also given in excellent style; the concerted pieces and voices being finely executed.

This evening Meyerbeer's grand opera, "Les Huguenots," will be presented. It is sufficient to say that Karl Formes will enact the *rôle* of Marcel, the rendition of which he stands unequaled. Messrs. ... ro, Habelman, Steinecke, and Mesdames Johannsen, Rotter, and Dziuba are cast for the other leading characters.

MR. J. S. CLARKE.—This distinguished comedian has commenced an engagement at the Walnut-street Theatre, where he is performing the character of *Tom Badger*, in the "Streets of Philadelphia," a drama which has been localized to suit the city. Mr. Clarke, since his last appearance here, has been fulfilling a highly successful engagement in Washington. We are glad to announce his return to our city.

THE CITY.

[FOR ADDITIONAL CITY NEWS SEE FOURTH PAGE.]

HANCOCK'S FIRST ARMY CORPS—BIRNEY BRIGADE.

Especial attention is requested to the new advertisement, of Chief Franklin, in this day's Press, relative to recruiting for the grand army corps of the gallant General Hancock. The Chief has received hundreds of letters, from all parts of the United States, desiring to know the particulars. The advertisement is framed as an answer to the principal inquiries. It is so plain that anyone of ordinary sense can understand it. O. ... Davis, Esq., the law partner of that gentleman, the lamented General David B. Birney, is active in organizing a brigade in honor of the deceased hero. This brigade will be attached to the 1st Army Corps. In this patriotic movement Mr. Davis is assisted by Chief Franklin and a number of influential wealthy gentlemen and corporations. The recruiting is progressing with patriotic ardor. Men who are drafted will find something in the advertisement that directly interests them. The mustering in, examining, and disbursing offices were rented yesterday in the second-story of the building at the northeast corner of Sixth and Market streets. The hall formerly occupied by the commissioners of Richmond has been selected as headquarters for the veterans after they have been mustered in.

Chief Franklin has succeeded in having the veterans paid off in Philadelphia. This will avoid the necessity of sending the men in squads to Washington to be sworn in there and paid off. The whole of this will be done in this city, thereby economizing time. Chief Franklin will cause to be posted in this city and other principal towns and public places in a number of the loyal States one thousand handsome three-sheet posters, engraved in a special purpose, and printed in national colors, ever issued from any press in Philadelphia. ... work of art it will challenge criticism.

TESTIMONIAL TO JOHN W. LEIGH.

Last evening the appointees and friends of John W. Leigh, Esq., retiring City Commissioner, invited that gentleman to join with them in an entertainment at Stokley's Saloon. Previous to sitting at the table, Mr. Williams was called to the chair. He introduced David W. Sellers, Esq., who, in a few remarks, informed Mr. Leigh that his appointees, as a testimony of their personal regard and the relations which they had lately borne to him, had procured a beautiful gold watch and chain for presentation to him. Mr. Sellers expressed ... the opinion of all those with whom the retiring Commissioner had had business connections, that they had never known him to be remiss in duty, but that all the duties owed to the city and to his workmen were faithfully performed. Mr. Leigh thanked Mr. Sellers and the appointees in a neat speech. He said that in whatever situation they might hereafter be placed he would ever hold in joyful remembrance the present occasion and the feelings which had called it forth. The company then sat down to an excellent supper. After the cloth was removed speeches were made by a number of gentlemen present, and the best feeling prevailed. The watch is an excellent gold hunting case lever, and the chain is elaborate and costly. Mr. Leigh in retiring from office has certainly the satisfaction of knowing that his efforts for the public good were appreciated by those who probably knew him best.

FRANCES E. HARPER.

Last evening Mrs. Frances E. Harper, the gifted colored oratrix, delivered a lecture on "The Causes and Effects of the War, before the Social, Civil, and Statistical Association of the Colored People of Pennsylvania, at Concert Hall. The audience was large and appreciative. Previous to the delivery of the lecture, Miss E. T. Greenfield, the "Black Swan," sang, and a band of musicians discoursed beautiful music. Her subject was discussed with ability. Her manner is pleasing and graceful. She attracts and holds the attention of her audience during the entire delivery of her lecture. She defended the colored troops from the many aspersions thrown upon them, and instanced their heroism on many a hard-fought battle-field of the present war.

DEATH OF AN ESTEEMED FUNCTIONARY.

George Taylor, aged 64 years, and who for the past twenty-six years, was messenger at the Pennsylvania Hospital, has gone to his rest. He was much loved by all who knew him, and dispatched his duties well, as all who ever had business with that institution can testify. He was buried yesterday from the house of Mr. David P. Moore. Rev. Theo. G. Allen delivered a touching address in which he spoke of the high character of the deceased and of the respect in which he was held by his many friends. The funeral was largely attended, and all mourned the loss of this worthy man.

ARMY HOSPITAL REPORTS.

The following are the weekly reports of the Government hospitals in this district as received at the Medical Director's office, in this city, yesterday morning:

HOSPITALS.	Admitted.	Ret'd to Duty.	Transferred.	Deserted.	Deceased.	Remaining.
Broad-street	19	3	3	4	1	[illegible]
Summit House	5	17	..	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
Chestnut Hill	8	110	64	151	1	[illegible]
White Hall	8	2	1	1	..	[illegible]
Satterlee	153	11	4	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
Filbert-street	34	10	1	..	1	[illegible]
Pittsburg	14	10	..	4	1	[illegible]
York	231	74	13	..	..	[illegible]
Germantown	2	10	6	3	..	[illegible]
McClellan	14	49	18	41	..	[illegible]
Haddington	18	23	4	[illegible]	1	[illegible]
Islington lane	6	1	7	..	..	[illegible]
Beverly, N. J.	9	11	9	[illegible]	..	[illegible]
Turner's lane	26	10	..	..	1	[illegible]
Chester	3	20	..	..	..	[illegible]
South-street	9	2	1	..	..	[illegible]
Citizens' Volunteer	1	..	..	..	..	[illegible]
Officers'	2	..	..	..	..	[illegible]
Total	556	391	131	[illegible]	11	[illegible]