THE PRESS,
PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)
BY JOHN W. FORNEY.
OFFICE No. 417 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

THE DAILY PRESS,
To City Subscribers, in THE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in advance; or TWENTY CENTS PER WEEK, payable to Carrier. Mailed to Subscribers out of the city, SIX DOLLARS PER ANNUM; FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS; TWO DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS FOR THREE MONTHS, invariably in advance of the time ordered.
Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

THE TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,
Mailed to Subscribers, FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, in advance.

The Press.

VOL. 8.—NO. 198. PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1865. FOUR CENTS.

RETAIL DRY GOODS.
AT RETAIL.
JAMES R. CAMPBELL & CO.,
727 CHESTNUT STREET,
Offer at Popular Prices:
BLACK SILKS
In great variety, including the best goods imported. Royal Armures, Gros Grains, Lyons Taffeta, Parisiennes, Drap de France, Drap de Lyon, Gros de Suines, Gros d'Afrique, &c., &c.
COLORED SILKS
In desirable shades, plain and corded colored Taffeta and Taffetas Parisiennes, Seat Foulards and Golden Brown Gros Grains of magnificent quality.
SPRING DRESS GOODS.
Lupin's choicest fabrics, single and double width. Mons de Laines, new shades. A Hernani's Crepe Marets, and Tamartines, Steel colored Mohair Poplins, Rich Mohair Valencias, French Jaconets, Organdies, Percalas, &c.
CHAPPIN'S BOMBAZINES,
Tamises, Mous de Laines, 5-4 Hernani's Mohairs, Alpacas, and other black goods at greatly reduced rates.
WHITE GOODS.
Jaconets, Jasonets, Cambrics, Swiss Mulls, Fancy Checks, and other popular White Goods at low prices.
LINEN GOODS,
Greatly reduced rates, including Shirting, Sheeting, Pillow Linens, Damasks, Diapers, Napkins, &c., at great variety.
GREAT REDUCTION IN COTTON GOODS.
Bleached Muslins in popular brands at and below market rates.
DUCHOUVOISIER'S CELEBRATED KID GLOVES.
PRINTED LINEN CAMBRIC DRESSES.
Prices are marked in plain figures, from which no one need deviate.
WHOLESALE ROOMS UP STAIRS.
mh18-tf

CURTAIN GOODS.
CARD.
I WILL OFFER MY ENTIRE STOCK OF
WINDOW SHADES,
AND
LACE CURTAINS,
AND
PIANO COVERS,
AT 20 PER CENT. LESS THAN
OLD IMPORTION PRICES.
I. E. WALRAVEN.
MASONIC HALL,
mh16-tf NO. 719 CHESTNUT STREET.

1026 CHESTNUT STREET. 1026.
C. M. STOUT & CO.,
DEALERS IN
BEAUCATELLE LACE AND NOTTINGHAM CURTAINS,
PIANO, TABLE, AND FURNITURE
COVERINGS,
WINDOW SHADES, &c.
1026 CHESTNUT STREET.
feb9-fmwtm

DEPOT FOR WINDOW SHADES.
NOW READY.
The subscribers are now prepared to put up
IN TOWN OR COUNTRY,
at the shortest notice, all the usual widths and styles of
PLAIN OILED, GILT BORDERS,
ON
FANCY WINDOW SHADES,
And to furnish and put up to order in the best manner
NEW DESIGNS OR EXTRA SIZES
FOR
DWELLINGS, STORES, CHURCHES, OR OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
They also keep on hand a large assortment of SHADINGS, SHADE TRIMMINGS, FIXTURES, &c., which they will sell to the trade at the lowest market price.
SHEPPARD, VANHARLINGEN, & ARRISON,
Window Curtain and Shade Store,
mh17-fmw15t 1p No. 1008 CHESTNUT Street.

SILK & DRY GOODS JOBBERS.
SPRING. 1865. SPRING.
JAS. R. CAMPBELL & CO.,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS OF DRY GOODS.
727 CHESTNUT STREET,
OFFER TO
CASH BUYERS AT WHOLESALE
An extensive assortment of choice fabrics in
FOREIGN AND AMERICAN DRY GOODS,
At and under market rates.
As their stock is daily replenished with the most desirable offerings of this and other markets, it will always prove worthy of inspection.
mh6-2m WHOLESALE ROOMS UP STAIRS.

SPRING—1865.
EDMUND YARD & CO.,
617 CHESTNUT AND 614 JAYNE STREET.
HAVE NOW IN STORE A FULL STOCK
OF
SILKS AND FANCY DRESS GOODS,
AMERICAN DELAINES,
BALMORALS,
SHAWLS AND GLOVES,
WHITE GOODS AND LINENS.
JACKETS, PANTS, &c.,
NOW READY.
COOPER & CONARD,
mh9-1m S. E. CORNER NINTH & MARKET STS.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.
ZIEGLER & SMITH,
WHOLESALE
Drug, Paint, and Glass Dealers,
Proprietors of the Pennsylvania Paint and Color Works,
Manufacturers of
BEST WHITE LEAD, BEST ZINC,
PURE LIBERTY LEAD,
Unsurpassed for Whiteness, Fine Gloss, Durability, Firmness, and Evenness of Surface.
PURE LIBERTY LEAD—Warranted to cover more surface for same weight than any other.
TRY IT, AND YOU WILL HAVE NO OTHER!
PURE LIBERTY ZINC,
Selected Zinc, ground in Refined Linseed Oil, unequaled in quality, always the same.
PURE LIBERTY ZINC.
Warranted to do more and better work at a given cost than any other.
GET THE BEST!
Store and Office—No. 137 North THIRD Street,
mh10-3m* PHILADELPHIA.

ROBERT SHOEMAKER & CO.,
N. E. Corner of FOURTH and RACE Streets,
PHILADELPHIA,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
WINDOW AND PLATE GLASS.
MANUFACTURERS OF
WHITE LEAD AND ZINC PAINTS, PUTTY, &c.
AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED
FRENCH ZINC PAINTS.
Dealers and consumers supplied at
feb14 3m VERY LOW PRICES FOR CASH.

COAL.
THOMAS J. ORAM. ROBERT J. HEMPHILL.
ORAM & HEMPHILL,
DEALERS IN
LEHIGH AND SCHUYLKILL COAL,
Of all sizes and of best qualities,
Carefully picked and screened, and invariably at the lowest cash prices.
Office and Yard, WILLOW, below FIFTEENTH Street.
Orders can be left at 646 North FIFTH Street, 653 NORTH Street, 1433 RIDGE AVENUE, or through the Post Office, which will be promptly and satisfactorily filled. jal7-3m

E. SCHREINER, NEW COAL DEPOT,
NO. 1038 NORTH MARBLE Street, above Ninth Street.
Constantly on hand a superior qualities of Lehigh and Schuylkill Coal, selected expressly for family purposes, at the lowest market prices. Yard, Marble Street, below Arch Street. Office 1119 SOUTH FOURTH Street. ocl2-6m

COAL.—SUGAR LOAF, BEAVER MEADOW, and Spring Mountain Lehigh Coal, and best Locust Mountain, from Schuylkill, prepared expressly for family use. Depot N. W. corner BRIDGE and WILLOW Streets. Office No. 119 SOUTH SECOND Street. [apr-tf] J. WALTON & CO.

GOLD'S PATENT IMPROVED STEAM
AND
WATER-HEATING APPARATUS
FOR WARMING AND VENTILATING PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PRIVATE RESIDENCES,
MANUFACTURED BY THE
UNION STEAM AND WATER-HEATING COMPANY
OF PENNSYLVANIA.
JAMES P. WOOD & CO.,
41 South FOURTH STREET.
B. M. FELTWELL, Sup't.
ja7-6m-fp

B. H. SLEEPER & CO.,
515 MINOR STREET.
MANUFACTURERS, AGENTS, AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
FLINT AND GREEN GLASSWARE,
Have now in store a full assortment of the above goods, which we offer at the lowest market rates.
Being sole agents for the SALEM GREEN GLASS WORKS, we are prepared to make and work private moulds to order.
PORTER, MINERAL, and WINE BOTTLES, of a superior color and finish.
Also, LAMP CHIMNEYS, APOTHECARIES' SHOP FURNITURE, SHOW BOTTLES, SYRINGES, HOMEOPATHIC VIALS, and Druggists' Glassware generally.
T. A. EVANS & CO.'S PITTSBURG GLASS VIALS constantly on hand at factory prices. feb14-3m

THE AMERICAN CAR COMPANY,
THIRTY-FIRST AND LOUST STREETS,
WEST PHILADELPHIA,
CAR BUILDERS, IRON FOUNDERS, AND MACHINISTS.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that this Company is now prepared to receive orders for building
ALL KINDS OF CARS.
The shops of the Company being supplied with the latest approved labor-saving machinery, will enable it to execute all orders with great despatch, and in the very best manner.
The seven-foot gauge has also purchased the right to use "DOTTERER'S" and "MIRIMONDES'" Patent Anti Friction Self-Lubricating CAR JOURNAL BOXES, and MR. THOMAS H. JENKINS' Patented Process for HARDENING CAST IRON. All these Patents the Company intends using for and on all the Cars built in their Works—thereby greatly adding to the utility and durability of the work performed.
In addition to the above, the Company is prepared to execute orders for
STAMPING, PLANT AND PORTABLE ENGINES,
BLOWING ENGINES FOR FURNACES and FORGES,
Including all kinds of work connected with a
GENERAL MACHINERY BUSINESS.
Also, all kinds of Iron and Brass Castings and Smiths' work executed in the very best manner, both as regards design, material and workmanship.
Drawings and estimates made at the Works free of charge.
D. H. DOTTERER,
SUPERINTENDENT.
THE AMERICAN CAR CO.
CAPITAL, $500,000, IN SHARES OF $100 EACH.
A limited number of Shares in this Extensive Manufacturing Company—which promises to be largely remunerative—for sale at the office of the Company.
JAMES W. BARRETT, Secretary,
mh1-wfrmlm

FISH AND CANNED MEATS.
500 bbls Mess and No 1 Mackerel.
2,000 cases assorted Meats, Lobsters, &c.
For sale by P. O. BURROUGH,
ja3-3m 116 NORTH FRONT Street.

HELMBOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU
gives health and vigor to the frame and bloom to the pallid cheek. Debility is accompanied by many alarming symptoms, and if no treatment is submitted to, consumption, insanity or epilepsy the result.

The Press.
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1865.
MESSAGE OF JEFF DAVIS.
HIS CONFESSION OF DEFEAT.
Richmond Never in Such Danger—Men Never so Few—Money Never so Scarce.
HIS APPEAL TO THE REBEL CONGRESS.
Absolute Impressment, New Taxes, Repeal of Exemptions, Suspension of the Habeas Corpus, a Practical Dictatorship, necessary to the Success of the Rebellion.
More Revelations of the Peace Commission.
LEE PROPOSED A MILITARY CONVENTION TO GRANT.
The following message was transmitted to the rebel Congress Monday, March 13:
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:
When informed, on Thursday last, that it was the intention of Congress to adjourn *sine die* on the ensuing Saturday, I deemed it my duty to request a postponement of the adjournment, in order that I might submit for your consideration certain matters of public interest which are now laid before you. When that request was made, I had no more important measures that had occupied your attention during the session had not been so far advanced as to be submitted for executive action, and the status of the country had been so materially affected by the events of the last four months as to evince the necessity of further and more energetic legislation than was contemplated in November last.
Our country is now environed with perils which it is our duty calmly to contemplate. Thus alone can the measures necessary to avert threatened calamities be wisely devised and efficiently enforced.
Recent military operations of the enemy have been successful in the capture of some of our seaports, in interrupting some of our lines of communication, and in devastating large districts of our country. These events have had the natural effect of encouraging our foes, and dispiriting many of our people. *The capital of the Confederacy has been threatened, and at the greater danger than it has heretofore been during the war.* The loss in material and resources is considerable, as due to the people, whose servants we are, and in whose courage and constancy entire trust is reposed; as due to you, who need wisdom and resolute spirit the people have confided, for the adoption of the measures required to guard them from threatened ills.
While stating to you that our country is in danger, I desire also to state my deliberate conviction that it is within our power to avert the calamities which menace us, and to secure the triumph of the sacred cause for which so much sacrifice has been made, so much suffering endured, so many precious lives been lost. This result is to be obtained by fortitude, by courage, by constancy, by putting the sinews of war to strain as a word, by the prompt and resolute devotion of the whole resources of men and money in the Confederacy to the achievement of our rights and independence.
The measures now required to be successful should be prompt. Long deliberation and protracted debate are not important measures are not only natural but laudable in representative assemblies under ordinary circumstances; but in moments of danger, when action becomes urgent, the delay thus caused is itself a new source of peril. Thus it has unfortunately happened that some of the measures contained in the pamphlet of the recommendations contained in my message of November last have been matured so late as ten days of their valor, or have not, for the same reason, been abandoned after being matured, became no longer applicable to our altered conditions; and others have not been brought under examination. In making these remarks it is far from my intention to attribute the delay in action to any other cause than those inherent in deliberative assemblies, but only urgently to recommend prompt action upon the measures now submitted.
We need for carrying on the war successfully men and supplies for the army. We have both within our country sufficient to attain success.
To obtain the supplies it is necessary to protect productive industry, guard our coasts and munitions by an increase in the number of our forces; and hence it results that with the augmentation in the number of men in the army, the facility of supplying the troops would be greater than with our recentduced strength.
For the men, we must rely upon volunteers, and, if need be, the impressment of the necessary labor. The impressment must be resorted to with discretion, and the exemption of agricultural and other classes from military duty be carefully adjusted to the requirements of the service in the fields and in the manufacturing establishments. It has been ascertained by examination that we have within our ranks a number of men in excess of what is needed for the army, and without having recourse to the ample provision existing in those parts of the Confederacy with which our communication is now for the time interrupted by hostile operations. But in some districts from which supplies are to be drawn, the inhabitants, being either within the enemy's lines or in very close proximity, are unable to make use of Confederate treasury notes for the purchase of articles of first necessity, and it is necessary that, to some extent, coin be paid in order to obtain supplies. It is, therefore, recommended that Congress devise the means for making available the coin within the Confederacy for the purpose of supplying the army. The chiefs of the supply departments report that with two millions of dollars in coin the armies in Virginia and North Carolina can be amply supplied for the remainder of the year, and the knowledge of this fact should suffice to insure the adoption of the measure necessary to obtain this moderate sum.
The impressment law, as it now exists, prohibits the public officers from impressing supplies *without making payment of the valuation at the time of impressment.* The limit fixed for the issue of treasury notes has been nearly reached, and the Treasury cannot, without further risk the funds necessary for prompt payment, while the law for raising revenue by taxation has been so modified as to afford but little relief. If not removing this difficulty, was unfortunately delayed for several months, and has that been attained. *In the condition of things it is impossible to supply the army, although ample stores may exist in the country,* whenever the owners refuse to give credit to the Government. It is necessary that this restriction on the power of impressment be removed. The power is a dangerous one, liable to be perverted to abuse, and unequal in its operation on individuals; yet all these objections must yield to absolute necessity. It is also suggested that the system of valuation now established ought to be radically modified. The legislation requires in such cases of impressment that the market price be paid, but there is really no market price in many cases, and arbitrary valuation is made without any evidence founded upon the transaction. The result is that the most extravagant prices are fixed, such as our treasury can not be paid in coin. *None believe that the Government can ever redeem its coin, the obligation to pay fifty dollars a bushel for corn, or seven hundred dollars a barrel for flour.* It would seem more just and appropriate to estimate the supplies impressed at their value in coin; to give the obligation of the Government for the amount, with interest, payable at a specified date, at the option of the creditor to return in kind the wheat or corn impressed, with a reasonable interest on the supplies thus taken; and to make the obligations thus issued receivable for all payments due in coin to the Government. We refer to the subject of finance in Congress to these suggestions, it is hoped that there will be no hesitation in so changing the law as to render it possible to employ the army in case of necessity for the impressment of provisions for that purpose.
The measure adopted to raise revenue, though liberal in its provisions, being clearly inadequate to meet the arrear of debts and the current expenditures, some degree of embarrassment in the management of the finances must continue to be felt. It is to be regretted, I think, that the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, of a tax on agricultural income, equal to the augmented tax on other incomes, payable in Treasury notes, to yield a revenue in kind, has not been more earnestly urged, and diminish the necessity that is now felt for a supply of coin.
The measures passed by Congress during the session for supplying the army and for the enlargement of the force needed for the public defence have been, in my judgment, judicious and well adapted to the end in view, and stimulated by a sense of the perils which surround our country, to urge upon you additional legislation on this subject.
The bill for employing negroes as soldiers has not yet reached me, though the printed copies of your proceedings inform me of its passage. *Much benefit is anticipated from this measure, though far less than would have been realized from its adoption at an earlier date,* so as to afford time for their organization and instruction during the winter months.
The bill for diminishing the number of exempts has just been made the subject of a special message, and its passage will add no strength to the military force of the army. The recommendation to abolish all class exemptions has not met your favor, although still deemed by me a valuable and efficient measure; and the number of men exempted by a new statute in the act just passed is believed to be fully equal to that of those whose exemption is revoked. A law of a few lines repealing all class exemptions would not only strengthen the forces in the field, but it would remove a source of danger the natural discontent and jealousy created in the army by the existence of classes who are never exposed to the place of safety, while their fellow-citizens are exposed in the trenches and the field.
The measure most needed, however, at the present time, for affording an effective increase to our military strength, is a general militia law, such as the Constitution authorizes Congress to pass, for arming to it power "to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Confederate States," and the further power "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Confederate States, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions." The necessity for a measure of this character has never existed, if not in the circumstances which now surround us. The security of the States against any encroachment by the Confederate Government is amply provided for by the Constitution by "reserving to the States, respectively, the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia, according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."
A law is needed to prescribe not only how and of what persons the militia are to be organized, but to provide the mode of calling them out. If insurrection be required to exist, the necessity for such a general law, it is sufficient to mention that in one case I have been informed by the Governor of a State that the law does not permit him to call the militia from one county for service in another, or to call a single brigade of the militia of the country across the State and devastate each county in turn, without any power on the part of the Executive to use the militia for effective defence of the entire State the Executive retained to allow the militia "to be employed in the service of the Confederate States," in the absence of a law for that purpose.
I have heretofore, in a confidential message to the two Houses, *stated the facts which induced me to consider it necessary that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus should be suspended.* The conviction of the necessity for this measure has become strengthened as the events of the struggle have been developed. Congress has not concurred with my opinion, on the ground that it is say that *the time has arrived when the suspension of the writ is not simply advisable and expedient, but is an indispensable to the successful prosecution of the war.* On Congress must rest the responsibility of declining to exercise a power conferred by the Constitution as *a means of public safety to be used in periods of national peril resulting from foreign invasion.* If our present circumstances do not come at a time contemplated when this power was conferred, I confess myself at a loss to imagine any contingency in which the clause of the Constitution will not remain a dead letter.
With the prompt adoption of the measures above recommended, and the united and hearty co-operation of Congress and the people in the execution of the laws and in the defence of the country, we may repose the present campaign with cheerful confidence in the result. And we may doubt the continued existence of that spirit and fortitude of the people, and of that constancy under reverses, which alone are needed to render our triumph secure? *What other resources remain available but the undying, unconquerable resolve to be free?* It has become certain beyond all doubt or question, that we must continue the struggle to a successful issue, or must make abject and unconditional submission to such hard terms as shall please the conqueror to impose on us after our surrender. If a possible doubt could exist after the conference between our commissioners and Mr. Lincoln, as recently reported to you, it would be dispelled by a recent occurrence, of which it is proper that you should be informed.
Congress will remember that in the conference above referred to our commissioners were informed that the Government of the United States would not enter into any agreement or treaty whatever with the Confederate States, nor with any single State; and that the only possible mode of obtaining peace was by laying down our arms, disbanding our forces, and yielding unconditional obedience to the laws of the United States, including those passed for the confiscation of our property and the constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery. It will further be remembered, that Mr. Lincoln declared that the only terms on which hostilities could cease were those proposed in his message to Congress, in which we were informed that, in the event of our penitent submission, he would temper justice with mercy so far as to recognize the existence of what he governed as dependent territories, or permitted to have a representation in their Congress, was one of which he could promise nothing, but which would be decided by their Congress after our submission had been accepted.
It has not, however, been hitherto stated to you that in the course of the conference at Fortress Monroe, *a suggestion was made by one of our commissioners that the objections entertained by Mr. Lincoln to treating with the Confederate Government or with any separate State might be avoided, by substituting for the usual mode of negotiating through commissioners or other diplomatic agents, the method sometimes employed of a military convention to be entered into by the commanding generals of the armies of the two belligerents.* This, he admitted, was a power possessed by him, though it was not thought opportune with all the questions involved. He did not accept the suggestion when made, he was afterwards requested to reconsider his conclusion upon the subject of suspension of hostilities, which he agreed to do, but said that he had maturely considered the plan, and had determined that it could not be done.
Subsequently, however, an interview with General Lee, against was asked for by General Ord, commanding the enemy's army of the James, during which Gen. Lee, said was informed by him that there was a possibility of arriving at a satisfactory adjustment of the present unhappy difficulties, by means of a military convention, and that if General Lee received an interview on the subject, it would not be declined, provided Gen. Lee had authority to act. This communication was expressed to be the consequence of the suggestion above referred to, and *Gen. Lee, according to instruction, wrote to Gen. Grant, on the second of this month, proposing to meet him for conference on the subject and stating that he was vested with the requisite authority.* Gen. Grant's reply stated that he had no authority to accede to the proposed conference, that his communication referred only to making a convention on subjects foreign to military character, and that Gen. Ord could only have meant that an interview would not be refused on any subject on which he, Gen. Grant, had the right to act.
It appears that, neither with the Confederate authorities nor the authorities of any State, nor through the commanding generals, will the Government of the United States treat or make any terms or terms of peace short of the cessation of hostilities. *We remain, then, for us no choice but to continue the conflict to a final issue;* for the people of the Confederacy can be not little known to him who supposes possible they would ever consent to purchase, at the cost of degradation and slavery, permission to live in a country garrisoned by their own negroes, and governed by officers sent by the conqueror to rule over them.
I thus fully place before you the information required to enable you to judge of the state of the country, the dangers to which we are exposed, and the measures of legislation needed for averting them. It rests for me, but to invoke your attention to the consideration of those measures by which, above all others, we may hope to escape the calamities that threaten us from our failure. Prominent above all others, is the necessity for earnest and cordial co-operation between all Departments of Government, between the Confederacy and all eminent citizens throughout the Confederacy. To you, especially, the Senators and Representatives, do the people look for encouraging and wise counsel. To your action, not only in your halls of legislation, but in your homes, will their eyes be turned for the example of what is befitting men, who, by willing sacrifices on the altar of freedom, show that they are worthy to enjoy its blessings. I feel full confidence that you will concur with me in the conviction that our public duties will not be discharged when you shall have closed the legislative labors of the session, but that your voice will be heard cheering and encouraging the people to that persistent fortitude which alone can secure liberty to the inheritors of a name made illustrious by the self-sacrifice and the patriotic valor of our ancestors. The unanimity in the country in the support of the Government, if not in the circumstances which now surround us. The security of the States against any encroachment by the Confederate Government is amply provided for by the Constitution by "reserving to the States, respectively, the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia, according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."
A law is needed to prescribe not only how and of what persons the militia are to be organized, but to provide the mode of calling them out. If insurrection be required to exist, the necessity for such a general law, it is sufficient to mention that in one case I have been informed by the Governor of a State that the law does not permit him to call the militia from one county for service in another, or to call a single brigade of the militia of the country across the State and devastate each county in turn, without any power on the part of the Executive to use the militia for effective defence of the entire State the Executive retained to allow the militia "to be employed in the service of the Confederate States," in the absence of a law for that purpose.
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It has not, however, been hitherto stated to you that in the course of the conference at Fortress Monroe, *a suggestion was made by one of our commissioners that the objections entertained by Mr. Lincoln to treating with the Confederate Government or with any separate State might be avoided, by substituting for the usual mode of negotiating through commissioners or other diplomatic agents, the method sometimes employed of a military convention to be entered into by the commanding generals of the armies of the two belligerents.* This, he admitted, was a power possessed by him, though it was not thought opportune with all the questions involved. He did not accept the suggestion when made, he was afterwards requested to reconsider his conclusion upon the subject of suspension of hostilities, which he agreed to do, but said that he had maturely considered the plan, and had determined that it could not be done.
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HARRISBURG.
HARRISBURG, March 18, 1865.
THE SAFETY OF RAILROAD TRAVELLERS.
Both branches of the State Legislature have passed an act declaring that if any employee of a railroad company shall violate any rule of such company, and *injury or loss of life* shall thereby result, the offender shall be immediately arrested by the prosecuting attorney of the city or county where the accident happens, and if found guilty, shall be convicted of misdemeanor, and punished at the discretion of the court with imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for five years, and a fine of ($5,000) FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. In addition to this criminal prosecution the offender and the railroad company shall be alike liable for civil damages.
Under this act every employee of a railroad company, no matter how humble his position, through whom an accident occurs, by failure to "obey any rule," or by "neglect of any precaution," can, and will be arrested, and prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law. Heretofore the only punishment that could be inflicted was dismissal, but hereafter, the leading officers of a number of railroads will unite with the travelling public in punishing any careless or negligent agent by fine and imprisonment, which can be inflicted not merely for loss of life, but also for injuries.

Legislative Proceedings.
HARRISBURG, March 17, 1865.
SENATE.
Last evening's session was occupied with a discussion on the bill to provide for the continuance of the education and maintenance of orphan children of deceased soldiers and sailors of this State. Among the speakers was the Senator from Chester (Dr. Worthington), who gave an interesting account of the progress of fair patriotic movement. It appears that some $40,000 of the $60,000 given by the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company for the purpose still remain unexpended, and it is desired by this bill to appropriate an additional sum of $75,000. Nearly four hundred such pupils have been gathered into the schools. A large number of applicants are desirous to be admitted, and with the appropriation asked for about one thousand in all can be educated, clothed, and fed. The bill was finally passed, by an unanimous vote.
The following bills passed:
Incorporating the Mount Pleasant Railroad Company.
Incorporating the Salem Coal Company.
Incorporating the National Armor Iron Company.
A supplement to the act incorporating the Lombard and South-streets Railway Company, authorizing extension of track, and a ferry at South street over the Schuylkill.
Appointing two additional notaries public in Philadelphia.
Mr. CONNELL called up the bill requiring election polls to be opened in the city of Philadelphia at 7 A. M. and closed at 7 P. M.
Mr. Connell stated that he called it up at the request of, and in conformity with the wishes of a very large number of citizens of Philadelphia.
Mr. DESHAN opposed the bill, as he regarded it as infringement on the rights of those who either had to vote after his daily labors had concluded, or leave his work and lose a day's wages, or be compelled to wait three to five thousand votes were kept outevery election because the present hour of closing was too early. The bill was lost, yeas 14, nays 16, the change being made by Mr. Connell himself.
Mr. CORBIT said that about all the disturbances at the polls occurred after night and during the hours of darkness. This changing of clothes, to which his colleague referred, and which could not be used to bona voters, but was indulged in by New York kanucks and others, was productive of fraud. Mr. Connell then caused a letter from the executive committee of the National Union Club to be read, enclosing a resolution passed by the body, urging the passage of such a bill as a preventive of fraud.
Mr. WALLACE rose against the bill, and Messrs. NICHOLS and NEWLIN also engaged in the discussion. Laid over.
Mr. CONNELL presented petitions from citizens of Philadelphia in favor of the park.
Mr. ROGE called up and had passed a bill incorporating the Mill Creek Railroad Company.
Mr. ROYER called up and had passed a bill allowing the Black Rock Bridge Company to increase its tolls.
A further supplement to the act consolidating the Lackawanna and Western and Delaware and Cobb's Gap Railroad Companies passed.
Mr. CORBIT called up and had passed a bill authorizing all borrowers to contract for the payment of all taxes on loans.
Mr. NICHOLS called up and had passed a supplement to the act relative to more equal assessments in Philadelphia.
The following were read in place:
Mr. WILSON, one authorizing supervisors, road commissioners, and others having charge of highways, to retain the usual percentage of their school channels.
Mr. RIDGWAY, a supplement to the act known as the Philadelphia petroleum act, approved March 1, 1865. This supplement requires refiners, manufacturers, and others, to take out a license, for which they shall pay the commonwealth $1,000 annually. Every firm from the provisions of that section of the original bill which refers to distance; allows the article to be stored, &c., south of Dickerson street and east of Otsego, subject to the provisions of the second section of the original act, and allows the marshal to receive a fee of $10 for the examination of a building where more than twenty-five barrels are stored, and $5 for all other cases.
Mr. RIDGWAY, an act amendatory to the act incorporating the North American Transit Insurance Company. Passed.
Mr. RIDGWAY called up and had passed a bill incorporating the Paraffine Chemical Barrel Company.
HOUSE.
The bill appointing commissioners to assess the damages from rebel raids in the border counties was discussed by Messrs. Barry, Perry, Bowman, McClure, and Sharpe in favor, and by Messrs. Brown, Manley, Denvers, Wells, Koontz, McKinley, Hill, Boone, Ruddiman, and Corbin, of Erie. The bill was defeated by a vote of 43 ayes to 62 noes. The Philadelphia delegation voted in the
In favor of bill.—Messrs Donnelly, Josephs, Lee, Miller, Quigley, Smith, and Watt.
Against.—Messrs. Cochran, De Haven, Hood, Kerns, Pancoast, Ruddiman, Sierner, Sulphin, and Freeborn.
ABSENT.—Messrs. Thomas, Watt, and Quigley.
An act allowing railroad companies whose lines extend beyond this State, to connect with those of other States, for the necessary consolidation for purposes of mortgaging property, &c., was passed.
A supplement to the general mining law of the State (authorizing miners to convey real estate), &c., was passed to third reading, but the House refused to suspend the rules to enable its passage.
An act to disfranchise deserters and those who refuse to do military duty was considered. The House suspended the rules by a vote of 56 ayes to 28 noes, but it being shown by members of both political parties that the Republicans had a majority to disfranchise a citizen except for causes set forth in the Constitution, the bill was postponed.
An act allowing stockholders in all corporations one vote for each share of stock was passed.
An act allowing railroad companies which become merged to issue mortgages on their joint works was passed.
Mr. McCLURE presented a supplement to the general militia law, providing that the Governor may muster volunteer militia organizations which may be formed for the defence of the border, the State not to pay these men unless they are called out by the Governor, nor their number not to exceed three thousand. It is understood that this act will obviate the necessity of organizing the State guard. Passed. Adjourned.
HARRISBURG, March 18, 1865.
SENATE.
The following bills were passed:
Relating to the election polls in Philadelphia to be open from 7 o'clock A. M. till 7 P. M.
Relating to the collection of arrearage of real estate by the Girard National Bank to Margaret C. M. Bruner.
Incorporating the Harrisburg and Jonestown Turnpike Company.
Supplement to the Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company.
Supplement to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's act of incorporation.
A supplement to the act incorporating the Odd Fellows' Cemetery.
Incorporating the Locust-street Mission Association from city and county taxation.
A supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia, providing for school purposes, for the officers in December of each year.
Incorporating the South Park Gold Mining Company of Colorado.
A supplement to the act incorporating the Bear Mountain Railroad Company.
A supplement to the act providing for the appointment of fence viewers in Philadelphia.
Incorporating the William Penn Steam Forging Hose Company.
A supplement to the act incorporating the Frankford and Philadelphia Railway Company.
Authorizing the Supervisors of Twenty-second and Twenty-fourth wards, Philadelphia.
Exempting Christ Church Hospital, and the Union Temperance Society from city and county taxation.
To widen Cadwalader street, in Seventeenth ward, Philadelphia.
A supplement to the act relative to registration of births, marriages, and deaths, providing for the registration of marriages which occurred prior to the passage of the original act.
Further supplement to the act incorporating the city of Philadelphia.
Relative to the construction of sewers.
A supplement to the act allowing free banks to become national banks.
Authorizing Citizens' Passenger Railway Company to extend their road northwardly from Germantown street and Germantown avenue.
A supplement to the petroleum act of Philadelphia.
The River Oil Company bill was called up and killed by a vote of 21 to 7.
Relating to the trustees of the Bethlehem M E. Church to sell certain real estate.
Incorporating the Allentown Passenger Railway Company.
Incorporating the Middle Creek Railroad Company.
Authorizing a railroad from Pendomonty to the Pennsylvania Central to the Susquehanna River, between Northumberland and Trevorton.
Authorizing the Western Maryland Railroad to be located through Adams and Franklin.
Vacating Road road in Philadelphia.
Authorizing a change of the grade of Bridge street, Philadelphia.
Preventing the establishment of nuisances in the First and Twenty-sixth wards, Philadelphia.
Authorizing the Northern Central Railroad Company to construct a public road between their railway and Berry's Mountain.
Incorporating the Allegheny Horse Railroad Company, with power to build a railroad from mouth of Pine Run to Pittsburgh.
Compelling the Cumberland Valley Railroad Company to guard against accidents in Harrisburg.
For the relief of Cornelius Fringhouse.
Incorporating the Harrisburg Skating Club.
A supplement to the act incorporating the Eclectic Medical College.
Allowing the Alexander Presbyterian Church to sell certain real estate.
Vacating certain roads in the Twenty-first and Twenty-fourth wards, Philadelphia.
Dividing the Twenty-fourth ward, Philadelphia, into two school districts.
Relating to the mortgages of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company.
Appointing an additional notary public for Kensington, Philadelphia.
Providing for a free bridge at Manayunk.
HOUSE.
An act incorporating the National Railroad and Transportation Company (with all the rights of the old Pittsburg and Connelsville Railroad) was passed.
An act to prevent the construction of a bridge over the Schuylkill river, at Fowelton avenue, was defeated. The Philadelphia members voted as follows:
YEAS.—Messrs. Donnelly, Josephs, Miller, Pancoast, and Smith.
NAYS.—Messrs. Cochran, De Haven, Foster, Freeborn, Hood, Kerns, Lee, Ruddiman, Sierner, and Sulphin.
ABSENT.—Messrs. Thomas, Watt, and Quigley.
An act allowing railroad companies whose lines extend beyond this State, or connect with those of other States, to effect necessary consolidation for purposes of mortgaging property, &c., was passed.
A supplement to the general mining law of the State (authorizing miners to convey real estate), &c., was passed to third reading, but the House refused to suspend the rules to enable its passage.
An act to disfranchise deserters and those who refuse to do military duty was considered. The House suspended the rules by a vote of 58 ayes to 28 noes, but it being shown by members of both political parties that the Republicans had a majority to disfranchise a citizen except for causes