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THE WEEKLY GAZETTE,
TWO EDITIONS.
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY.
A large sheet, containing FORTY COLUMNS of interesting reading matter, including leading Editorials, latest News by Telegraph and Mail, valuable Reading Matter for the Farmer, and fullest and most reliable Financial and Commercial Market Reports given by any paper in the city. No Farmer, Mechanic or Merchant should be without it.
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The Pittsburgh Gazette

CONDITION OF THE RIVERS.

The Youghiogheny river, on whose banks are located many of the best coal fields of the State, is in sad condition, resembling an unclaimed creek more than an important trade course. The dams and locks were swept away by the memorable ice gorge of last winter, since which time they have not been rebuilt, and the beautiful river has been practically until for navigation. The Connellsville Railroad traverses its right bank from McKeesport, where it empties into the Monongahela, to Connellsville, and in a measure relieves the coal operators on that side, transporting their minings to market, but the pits on the other bank have been closed until such time as the river may be made navigable. We learn that a movement is on foot to organize a Youghiogheny Slackwater Company, which we trust will be successful, so that river, when in order, contributes largely to the prosperity of the city.

The Monongahela river is in excellent order, so far as dams and locks are concerned, from Pittsburgh to Geneva, but it is wofully deficient of water. At points above an immense quantity of coal in barges and boats awaits a rise to get down to Cincinnati, Louisville and other places dependent on Pittsburgh for fuel. The prospects for an early rise are by no means brilliant, and we urge our friends below to economize their fuel and wait for the worst. Those inclined to be weather-wise cling to the belief that we will have full channels before the present month closes. We are now in the middle of November, with no signs of a rain or rise. Should the winter set in early and prove severe, the river will close with ice, and the good folk below must depend on getting their supply of coal by rail, at least until the coming of the spring rise in March or April. To them a fuel famine now seems inevitable.

The Allegheny river is very low, and at points can be easily forded. Many river men regard navigation as effectually suspended on it till next spring.

The discovery of the existence of a secret political society plotting against the Government of France, in Paris, may be of more importance than the cable message seems to attach to it. The people of France are ever ready for an outbreak against their rulers; are as explosive as gunpowder. The seeds of revolution cannot be long planted to yield plentifully. The presence of a single secret political society in Paris may mean much to the Emperor, whose power is threatened.

THE SERENADE to the President last night by the Conservatives of Washington was a creditable affair. Mr. Johnson made a brief speech, in which he congratulated himself on the recent victories, and rejoiced that the Constitution was coming back with renewed strength from the people. This speech was merely a condensation of the previous efforts of the President.

THE *Day School Gasket* is the title of a new monthly educational journal, published by Dickson, Snodgrass & Co., at Mansfield Valley, Pa. It is in quarto form, and presents a very handsome appearance. We wish the proprietors all the success their enterprise merits.

THE prospectus of a new independent Republican organ, to commence December 2d, was promulgated at Harrisburg yesterday. It is to be entitled the "*State Guard*." It is understood that J. Robbey Dunglison, Esq., is to have editorial control.

STATE ITEMS.

—Three men were severely scalded at the Lewistown foundry, last week, by the explosion of molten metal.

—A man named Jonas Anderson had three of his fingers cut off whilst engaged in sawing lath, in Juniata county.

—The name of McDowell's postoffice, in Hummelstown township, Crawford Co., has been changed to Dickson.

—Daniel Pound, a well-known former resident of Elk township, Warren county, died at Boulder City, Colorado, a short time since.

—The Huntingdon *Journal* says: Wild turkeys are very numerous in this neighborhood, and our sportsmen are having a good time.

—The citizens of Pottsville and Boyertown, Berks county, are enjoying the benefits of a daily mail, instead of a tri-weekly one, as formerly.

—Mr. Arad Sheldon died several days ago at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. He was one of the original character members of the Masonic Lodge at Connellsville.

—Last week the servant who ascended from Perryville in a montgolfier balloon, descended with frightful rapidity into the Juniata river, the balloon having split from the hoop to the top.

—A temperance society of young women has been organized in Connellsville, Crawford county, who pledge themselves to have nothing to do with young men who use intoxicating liquors. It is said the old maids will be wonderfully increased by this arrangement.

—The Mount Joy *Herald* has the following: On the 5th inst., Miss Kate Huber, daughter of Peter Huber, of this place, died from the effects of accidentally taking corrosive sublimate nearly two weeks previous. She was living at the Exchange Hotel at the time of the accident, where the poison was used in house cleaning. In the temporary absence of the person who was using it, Miss Huber passed through the chamber where it was standing, and supposing it to be some medicine or drink that one of the boarders left there, tasted it. In her great agony she ran across the street to her mother. Medical aid was at once called in and since the quantity taken was so very small, hopes were at first entertained that her life could be saved; but all was in vain.

—We clip the following from the Lancaster *Examiner*: In June, 1860, a man named William Donnavan, *alias* Wilkins, was arrested at Manheim, in this county, charged with the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Squibbs and grand-daughter, in Hosstown, York county. A woman named Martha Ann Fonteil, who was travelling in company with him at the time the murder was committed, gave information, which led to his arrest. At a trial some time ago Donnavan was found guilty, but a new trial was awarded him. His second trial in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, of York county, lasting two weeks, created great interest. His case was given to the jury on Monday evening, and after an absence of five hours a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree was returned.

—Yesterday afternoon a brutal fight occurred between one Jemmy O'Connell, of Miller Farm, and a negro called Black Ned, in front of a whisky saloon, at Pioneer. It seems that O'Connell and Ned had been drinking together, when a discussion ensued, which resulted in a fight, Ned was in a state of beastly intoxication, and O'Connell succeeded in beating him in a most brutal manner. After having thrown Ned down O'Connell left him in a senseless condition, but returned soon after and kicked him several times in the face and about the head. About this time several of the bystanders interfered, and had it not been for this, there is little doubt that O'Connell would have killed Ned. The fight lasted about two hours. No arrests have been made.

Weather Report.

Oil Regions.—Clear and cold.
Jamestown, N. Y.—Cloudy and cold.
New York City.—Cloudy and cold.
Harrisburg, Pa.—Clear and cold.
Columbus, Ohio.—Clear and cold.
Louisville, Ky.—Clear and cold.
Indianapolis, Ind.—Clear and cold.
Chicago, Ill.—Clear and cold.

FIRST EDITION.

MIDNIGHT.

FROM EUROPE.

The Roman Question.

Relations of France and Italy.

The Situation Uncertain.

Sentence of Fenian Convicts.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

GREAT BRITAIN.

SENTENCE OF FENIAN PRISONERS.

MANCHESTER, Nov. 12—*Evening.*—The prisoners, Roberts, Featherstone and Gould, were brought up before the Commission to-day, and were each sentenced to five years imprisonment. All the indictments have been disposed of. The Special Commission for the trial of the Manchester rioters was dissolved.

ITALY.

RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

FLORENCE, Nov. 12—*Evening.*—The *Gazette* publishes the text of the diplomatic note from Prime Minister Menabrea, which declares that the suppression of the temporal power of the Pope is indispensible to the maintenance of good relations between Italy and France.

THE SITUATION UNCERTAIN.

LONDON, November 13.—Late dispatches from Florence state the recent note of Menabrea, Prime Minister of Italy, has had a very quieting effect. The press of Italy, however, are almost unanimously of the opinion that it is impossible to reconcile the differences existing between the Italian government and the people and Pope.

FRANCE.

THE CONFERENCE NOTE.

PARIS, November 13.—The last note addressed by the Cabinet of the Emperor to the European powers, simply proposes the assembling of a general Conference for the settlement of the Roman question. It does not suggest any definite plan for the basis of the deliberations of the Conference.

POLITICAL ARRESTS.

Private advices from Paris represent many political arrests made by the police. It was rumored that the existence of a secret society of an alleged political character was made known to the government, and these arrests were made in consequence.

MINOR NEWS.

GALWAY, November 13.—The steamship Crusader, which left New Orleans on the 20th of October for Liverpool, put into this port late last evening short of coal and otherwise in distress. She has evidently been on fire, as her deck is considerably burned. The amount of damage is not ascertained.

LONDONDERRY, November 13.—The steamship Austrian, from Quebec, touched at Moville to-day. The steamship Hibernia, from New York, has arrived.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LIVERPOOL, November 13—*Evening.*—Cotton closed dull; middling uplands 8¾d; middling Orleans 9¼d; sales of 8000 bales. Breadstuffs—Corn advanced to 49s, before the market, closing at 48s 9d. Wheat steady; California 17s, and other western 12s 10d. Barley, Oats and Peas unchanged. Provisions—Beef 115s. Pork 72s. Lard 52s 6d. Cheese 55s. Bacon 52s. Produce—Sugar steady at 20s 6d. Petroleum Spirits nominal at 2s; standard white 1s 5d.

ANTWERP, Nov. 13—*Evening.*—Petroleum, standard white at 49 francs.

LONDON, Nov. 13—*Evening.*—Consols closed at 94½-5-32s, 70 11-16; Illinois Central, 83; Erie, 47.

FRANKFORT, Nov. 13—*Evening.*—U. S. Bonds, 7 3-16.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

—The annual meeting of the Society of the Army of Tennessee was held at St. Louis, last night, at the Mercantile Library Hall, which was crowded with a brilliant audience. The address of welcome to the members of the Society was delivered by Surgeon E. C. Franklin, who gave a rapid sketch of the organization and deeds of the Army of Tennessee, and tendered to its officers a warm and cordial welcome to St. Louis. The regular annual address was delivered by General Sherman, who entered into a rather detailed account of the operations of the army while under his command, beginning with Chattanooga, following its course to Savannah, thence through the Carolinas to Washington. He also alluded in a rather philosophical vein to the causes of the war, attributing it mainly to the acts of certain men North and South, but looked hopefully to the future and urged every man to do his duty as his judgment prompted. He scouted the idea of another attempt to destroy the nation, and said if such an effort should be made, the next northern invasion of the South would not merely devastate it, but purify and regenerate it. There were no direct political allusions made, but he took a calm and conservative view of the present and future condition of the country. After General Sherman finished Gen. Howard delivered a beautiful and glowing tribute to the private soldier, portraying his trials and hardships, his enthusiasm and valor, in vivid colors. The Hall was beautifully decorated with flags and banners and various paraphernalia of war. A tent was erected on the platform and a section of artillery and stacks of small arms occupied prominent positions. The audience was very enthusiastic and loudly cheered Generals Sherman and Howard, and the mention of the names of Grant, McPherson, Ord and other prominent participants in the war, elicited prolonged applause. The exercises were interspersed with music by the Post band of Fort Leavenworth, which came here for the occasion, and patriotic songs by Captain Church and Mr. Anderson. Altogether the entertainment was a brilliant one, and so far the proceedings of the Society have been a decided success. A banquet will be given to-night at the Southern Hotel.

—A fire at St. Louis last night totally consumed the planing mill of Ladd & Miller, situated in the rear of the Everett House, and badly damaged two or three small adjoining buildings. Ladd & Miller's loss on stock and machinery is $22,000. Three or four rooms in the Everett House were badly burned, and a large portion of the house damaged with water. Loss on furniture, &c., is estimated at about $20,000. Insured.

—The Italians of San Francisco held a meeting yesterday and passed resolutions condemning the action of Victor Emmanuel and Louis Napoleon. A subscription for the benefit of Garibaldi was opened and some two thousand dollars collected to be forwarded to Italy to United States Minister Marsh, together with a letter thanking him in the name of the Italian population there, for the sympathy shown Garibaldi.

—Dr. W. J. Knox, of San Jose, California, died at San Francisco yesterday. He was a holding over Senator from Santa Clara county, and his death leaves a vacancy to be filled by special election. Should a Democrat be chosen that party will probably have a majority in the Senate, as two Republican members are considered uncertain.

—Snow fell last evening, at Harrisburg, and in the country adjacent, to the depth of one and two inches.

—It is rumored that Gen. Geo. B. McClellan has been offered, or will be, tendered the appointment of Secretary of War by the President.

—Three citizens of Frederick county, Virginia, who have held the offices of Magistrate, Postmaster and Member of the Legislature, were bailed in the U. S. Court, at Richmond, yesterday, to answer the charge of perjury in registration.

—General Swayne, of Alabama, issued an order giving freedmen a lien on the crops for wages, this lien to be subordinate to farmers' liens.

—The Alabama reconstruction Convention were engaged during the whole of yesterday in discussing the franchise question.

—Gen. Schofield left Richmond for Washington yesterday.

—It is reported that a negro plot to kill certain white and colored men who voted the Conservative ticket in Virginia, had been discovered near Lynchburg. It is also said that the negroes are debating in Mecklinburg and adjoining counties whether to seize the lands on the first of January, if they are not given them.

—The Comptroller of the Currency is preparing a statement which will refute the statements that the Government pays the National banks twenty millions per annum for the privilege of issuing their own notes and others of a like character. The truth is, there is no interest in the country which pays so great a proportion of the taxation on capital invested as the National Bank interest.

—The colored militia question remains unsettled.

—The Pay Department Investigating Committee will not be prepared to submit a final report on the meeting of Congress.

—Judge Chase says he is more radical in name than in fact, and that he has indiscreet friends.

—It is probable that Gen. Pope will send to Congress a list of rebels fit to be enfranchised, and it is probable the Alabama Convention will make provision for such persons in the Constitution.

—Gen. Sherman is expected in Washington this week, and some of the Conservatives are proposing a movement in his behalf for the Presidency, as a "*counter irritant*" to the Grant movement.

—A Cabinet meeting finally decided that the message and accompanying shall not be sent to Congress till December.

—The House Judiciary Committee met yesterday. Only three members were present, Messrs. Wilson, Boutwell and Thomas. Owing to the small attendance nothing of importance was done. There will scarcely be a full meeting before the last of the week.

—General Grant has issued a general order in relation to regulation of contracts with the army, with a view to the correction of abuses and enforce economy. He calls the attention of all officers to the importance of reducing the present expenses of the service as much as possible, and says that department commanders will be held strictly accountable for any failure to carry the order into effect.

—Clinton Rice, of New York, is preparing a report, under the direction of Chief Justice Chase, to be submitted to Congress, showing the operations of the bankrupt law. This is in accordance with the 1th section of the act 1867, which requires reports to be made by the Chief Justice from time to time. Circular letters have been addressed to the various United States District Judges, asking for such information as they possess relative to the operations of the law. They are also required to suggest any amendments that experience has shown the law needs.

—All the music engaged to serenade the President last night was at the expense of the Government, as the bands were ordered to give their services by officials.

—Official returns of the election in Kansas, from twenty-one counties, and reported majorities in six others—the most conspicuous in the State—give the following result: For negro suffrage, 9,070; against, 13,503; for female suffrage, 5,043; against, 18,599; for prohibition, 3,565; against, 9,253; against, 8,025. Seventy one representative districts return fifty Republicans and twenty-one Democrats. Fourteen districts are yet to hear from, ten of which will return Republicans. The Senate will stand, Republicans, sixty; Democrats, twenty-five.

—Weston, the pedestrian, started at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock yesterday morning from Rochester, N. Y., for Buffalo. He has not yet stated but he avowed his intention to be in Buffalo at three o'clock this morning. He indignantly denies that he has been paid to lay in league with those who bet that he will not make one hundred miles in twenty-four hours.

—The steamer Ossipee, on her trip from San Francisco to Alaska, encountered a terrible hurricane forty miles off Archangel, and was nearly wrecked, losing all her boats, a number of sails and her chronometer destroyed. Gen. Rousseau and staff were on board.

Hon. Thaddeus Stevens left Lancaster yesterday morning at nine o'clock, in a special car, arriving at Philadelphia at noon. The car was attached to the through train for Washington. Theride did not fatigue him. He was sitting up in good spirits, and conversed freely with a large number of friends who paid their respects to him during the time he was at West Philadelphia.

—It is rumored that Commodore Vanderbilt will be President of the New York Central Railroad. Letters published show proxies from Commodore Astor, Jr., Bankhead and Hutton, authority to represent thirteen millions of stock, placed in his hands for the election.

—The Nantic thread mills, at Fall River, owned by E. A. Swail, New York, and J. M. Davis, Fall River, were totally destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. Loss $40,000; partially insured. It is supposed the fire was the work of an incendiary. About eighty hands are thrown out of employment.

—George Johnson was arrested at New York, yesterday, and held for trial, charged with having attempted to procure United States bonds, amounting to $33,450, on a check for $28,460.51, purporting to be drawn by Fred. Butterfield & Co., on the Tenth National Bank, in favor of Jay Cooke & Co.

—The Young Men's Christian Convention commenced its session at New York, yesterday, also the Protestant Episcopal Diocesan Convention. Bishop Lee, of Iowa, by invitation, took a seat beside the President of the latter body.

—Colonel Baldwin, the Irish giant, has challenged Jim Mace to fight him in this country, for $5,000. Mace is shortly expected in New York, but it is not known if he will accept O'Baldwin's challenge. O'Baldwin has also forwarded a challenge to Mike McCoole, to fight in England or America, for $5,000. Report says Jim Elliott will challenge O'Baldwin, should he come here.

—Prince Jacobs has been arrested in New York, charged with setting fire to his house No. 315 First avenue, and thereby endangering the lives of thirty persons. He keeps a fancy dry goods store on the premises, which were insured for some three thousand dollars.

—Building No. 12 Chambers street, New York, occupied by Mandlebaum & Co., Wolfsohn & Meyerburg, C. B. Churchill & Co., and Leader & Lockwood, was damaged by fire yesterday morning. Total loss $13,000; fully insured.

—The Tennessee State Teachers Association met at the Capitol, in Nashville, yesterday, and engaged in discussing the propriety of uniting the white and colored schools. It is not probable that this will be accomplished, as some of the most influential of Northern teachers oppose it as a matter of policy.

—Major Joseph York, formerly a rich slave holder and resident of Nashville, Tennessee, but more recently of Bowling Green, Kentucky, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor, yesterday.

—The friends of the late Ex-Governor Andrew are engaged in raising a fund of $100,000 for the benefit of his family. Over sixty thousand dollars has already been subscribed.

—The cost of registration in Virginia was $230,000. The cost of the military establishment in Virginia for the last ten months was five million dollars.

—Mrs. Lenaliter, German woman, who poisoned her husband last winter, was hanged yesterday at Brooklyn, Pa. She made a full confession.

—Ulrich and Harez, American counterfeiters, confined in jail at Toronto, Canada, awaiting extradition, escaped yesterday morning.

—Senecal & Meigs, of Montreal, Canada, largely interested in the United States lumber trade, have failed with liabilities estimated at $400,000.

—At Buffalo, yesterday morning, the ground was covered with snow.

—The British, French and Danish merchants at New York are about to send a steamer with supplies to the sufferers at St. Thomas.

—Fernando Wood has been nominated for Mayor of New York by the Mozart Democracy.

—Chief Justice Chase arrived at Richmond, Va., yesterday morning. He presided in Court. Jeff. Davis is expected on the 23d inst.

—General McClellan did not return on the Scotia. It is said private business will keep him in Paris till spring.

SECOND EDITION.

THREE O'CLOCK A. M.

THE SERENADE.

Speech of the President:

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13, 1867.

The Conservative Army and Navy Union having tendered to the President a congratulatory serenade, they invited all the Conservatives and Democrats to join them in the demonstration to-night. The procession, which formed at the headquarters of the Army and Navy Union, was composed of delegations and associations, including Johnson clubs and Unions of Washington and Georgetown, and a large number of soldiers and sailors. Various army flags, banners, transparencies, lanterns, torches, &c., were carried in the procession, and during the march there was a continuous display of rockets and fireworks. There were three bands of music. A broom about four feet long and nearly as broad, with a huge handle, was significantly exhibited. It is the same that was presented to President Lincoln, and which was purchased at an auction sale.

When the procession arrived at the Executive Mansion, a President's stand and a salute of one hundred guns were fired. The grounds in front were completely called for and cheered by the President. Music was played meanwhile, and fireworks exhibited.

A committee, consisting of Col. Jas. A. Tait, Col. P. H. Allabach, and Col. James R. O'Beirne, waited on the President to the front of the Mansion, where he was greeted with repeated cheers.

Col. Tait, on behalf of the committee, addressed the President as follows:

Mr. President—The Conservative Army and Navy Union of the District of Columbia tender you, their honored chief, the compliment of a grand serenade, in congratulation of the newly promised hope for the welfare of our recently hitherto unhappy country. Our Conservative fellow-citizens of this district of Columbia, representing the different States of the Union, join us in intimating that the prospect, by these indications, may be a harbinger of renewed future prosperity, tranquility and brotherly love throughout the land. We invoke Providence to strengthen your hands, to give courage and fortitude, and to give you strength and wisdom to carry out the mission it is your's to perform. *Salus populi le suprema est.*

The President then addressed the assemblage as follows:

Fellow Citizens—It is not my intention to make an address at this time, but to simply tender you my thanks for this demonstration—a demonstration approaching so near the unanimous one declared in the recent elections in the various States of the Union. They will appreciate the kindness with which they have done, and send back greeting that the heart of the States must be maintained according to the ancient design of our fathers. I confess I am surprised, but not surprised, at the result of the recent elections. I have always had undoubting confidence in the people. They may be sometimes misled by a lying spirit in their leaders, but their prophets, but never perverted, and they will come right if they stay right. In the gloomiest hours through which I have passed, and many of them, God knows, have been gloomy enough, when our Constitution was in the utmost peril, when our free institutions were assailed by a band of traitors, I never for a single hour seemed to be tottering in its hold, and when I felt how vain were my efforts alone to preserve those institutions in their integrity, and save the Republic from ruin, I was still hopeful. I knew that the Constitution was in your hands, and I felt assured they in their might would come to the rescue. They have done so, and I have been saved with you, and that our Republic may yet be saved. It was not for the other day that I officially declared that the restoration of the president unhappy condition of the country must come from the people themselves. They know what is needed, and how it is to be applied at the ballot box. They cannot, according to the forms of the Constitution, place obnoxious laws. They cannot remove or control the military despotism. The remedy is, nevertheless, in their hands, and is a sure one, if not controlled by fraud, overpowering arbitrary power, or from apathy on their part, to be delayed. With abiding confidence in their patriotism, intelligence and integrity, I am still hopeful that in the end the Reed of Despotism will be broken, the armed power taken from the neck of the people, and the principles of the violated Constitution preserved. The people have spoken in a manner not to be misunderstood. Thank God that they have spoken, for it is upon their intelligence and their purity that our Republic is relied, and still rely. The Constitution of the country, which was imperilled, and rescued, has been given back into their keeping, by throwing thirteen millions of stock, placed in his hands for the election.

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RUSSIAN AMERICA.

Formal Possession Surrendered to the United States in Behalf of Russia.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW ARCHANGEL, Oct. 8, *via Sitka*, W. T., Nov. 11.—The formal transfer and delivery of Russian America to the United States Government took place to-day, by Captain Pestrechoff, Acting Commissioner on the behalf of the Russian Government, and Major General Jeff. C. Davis, U. S. Commissioner, of United States troops, under command of Major Charles O. Wood, 4th Infantry, who raised up in front of the Governor's residence. By half past three a large concourse assembled, comprising Americans, Russians and Indians. At the last named hour the Russian forts and fleet fired salutes in honor, lowering the Russian flag; but the flag would not come down. In lowering it they tore its feathers with close by the halyards, and it floated from the cross trees forty feet from the ground. Three Russian sailors attempted to ascend the inch and a half guy ropes supporting the flag staff, but each failed. A fourth ascended in a boatswain's chair, seized the flag and threw it in a direction directly beneath him, but the motion of the wind carried it off. Five minutes after lowering the Russian flag, the stars and stripes went gracefully up, Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau having the honor of flinging the flag to the breeze, the United States steamers Ossipee and Resaca at the same time honoring the event by firing salutes. As the Russian flag was lowered, Captain Pestrechoff stepped forward and addressed General Rousseau as follows: "*General*—As Commissioner of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, I now transfer and deliver the territory of Russian America, ceded by His Majesty to the United States."

General Rousseau, in response, as the American flag ascended, said: "*Captain*—As Commissioner on behalf of the United States Government, I receive and accept the same accordingly."

The Commissioners spoke in a tone of common conversation, and were only heard by Governor Maksutoff, General Jeff. C. Davis, Capt. Kuskin, and a few others who formed the group. Several ladies witnessed the ceremonies, among them Princess Makaroff, Mrs. General Davis, and Mrs. Major Wood. The Princess wept audibly as the Russian flag went down. The transfer was accomplished in a purely diplomatic and business-like manner. The entire transaction was concluded in a few hours, the Commissioner, with the Commissioner on board, steaming into the harbor at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and at five minutes after noon a dozen American flags floated over the newly born American city of Sitka.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

ALLEGHENY COMMON GROUNDS.

Report of the Commission on the Subject of a Conversion into Public Parks.

The improvement of the Common Grounds of Allegheny City is a matter of great importance, and consequently the proposition has excited considerable interest and discussion. It is, doubtless, the desire of the citizens to have the grounds properly improved, but at the same time many of them fear the benefits to be derived from the improvement will not equal or compensate for the amount of money that will be required to do the work as it should be done. The subject having been agitated in Councils for a considerable time, it was finally brought before the State Legislature, and an act passed authorizing the improvement of the grounds, and providing for the appointment of a Commission for that purpose. The Commissioners were duly appointed, and having performed the duties required, met in the Allegheny City Treasurer's office, Wednesday evening, when the report of Mitchell & Grant, landscape gardeners, of New York City, who had been employed by the Commission to lay out the grounds and prepare profiles of the same, was submitted, accompanied by the required maps and profiles. The report was adopted by the Commission and embodied in their report, to be submitted to Councils this evening. It is as follows.

To the Honorable the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny:

The Park Commission very respectfully submit to your honorable bodies the following report of the proceedings of the Commission under the provisions of the Act of Assembly relating to the conversion of the Common Grounds of the City of Allegheny in Public Parks.

In submitting to Councils the results of their efforts in the plan, estimates and statements embraced in their report, it may not be improper to say, that to the extent of their knowledge, the plan they are at present constituted, do the community now owe the initiatory steps in improvement which, if carried to completion, result in the highest possible good attainable by municipal regulation, viz: the health, comfort and enjoyment of every citizen; the development of taste, culture and morality, and the enhancement of material resources. We confidently believe it will be the desire of every member of Councils, as it is of the Commission, to use every effort to ensure the speedy completion of the Public Parks of Allegheny.

The Commission met on the 19th of April, 1867, for organization, which was perfected by the election of James Park, Jr., as President of the Commission, and of Robert Dilworth, Secretary.

Concurred maps, with profiles, of the Common Grounds were carefully prepared by Mr. Chas. Davis, City Engineer, showing the elevations and depressions of the grounds, with grades of streets, which were presented on the 6th of May, 1867, for careful deliberation, as to a general plan of improvement. The Commission instructed Mr. Davis to visit Philadelphia and New York and submit the plans and profiles made by him to such landscape gardeners as in their judgment would be best qualified to prepare designs for the proposed improvements. In accordance therewith, Mr. Davis entered into personal communication with many of the most distinguished architects and landscape gardeners in the United States, including Messrs. Olmsted & Vaux, architects of the Central Park, New York; William Saunders, of Mitchell, Grant & Co., late Engineer of the Central Park, and now designing a system of parks for Montreal; Superintendent of Experimental Gardens, Washington, D. C; Messrs. Shood & Eddson, architects of Boston; Messrs. Bonsteed & Gen. Viele, Topographical Engineer, the author of the first plans for the improvement of the Central Park, Boston, and Central Park, New York, and other eminent men, with their bids and proposals. The report of Mr. Davis, embodying many valuable suggestions, which have been adopted upon the plans submitted, is on file among the papers of the Commission.

Finally, satisfactory arrangements were made with the firm of Mitchell, Grant & Co., among the most eminent in their profession, for the preparation of plans of improvement, and a report upon thereof the Commission are enabled to present to your honorable bodies plans which have met the unanimous approval of the Commission, as is hereinafter set forth.

The most satisfactory explanation of the character and specifications of the details of the proposed improvement, which we can hope to furnish, is found in the masterly communication of Messrs. Mitchell, Grant & Co., addressed to the Commission in submitting the rough plans, of which the plan now submitted is the result, and the most appropriate strategy for embodying the same in this report.

It will be seen from the plan, that Sandusky street crossing over the Commons, is treated as vacated by the designers, and that no provision of Oliver street has been provided, which will require a slight change in the railroad tracks there. So far as the plan contemplates a vacation of that part of Sandusky street, and a change such as is described on Oliver street, further than to indicate their approval of the plan as a whole.

As your honorable bodies are aware, the powers of the Commission are limited to the treatment of the Common Grounds exclusively, and they have not therefore officially approved those portions of the plan which treat of the Seminary Hill purchase and the Public Squares—although they deem it to say that the proposed improvements would suggest with their unanimous approval that they come within the scope of their powers. The Commission submit those portions of the plan to such action as your honorable bodies, in your discretion, may see proper to take in regard to them.

The Commission in conclusion, in pursuance of the act of Assembly governing the expenditure of public moneys, respectfully report to your honorable bodies that they have, to prevent waste, at a meeting duly called, unanimously adopted so much of said plan, herewith submitted, as includes the Common Grounds of the City of Allegheny.

And find that the estimate of cost, that the conversion of said grounds into Public Parks by this plan, including a temporary fence to protect the improvements in progress, will cost not more than two hundred thousand dollars.

And they ask the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

Resolved, by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny, That the report of the Park Commission be and the same is hereby accepted and ordered to be filed.

Resolved, That the plan and specifications of Messrs. Mitchell, Grant & Co., submitted by the Park Commission, with their said report for the making of Public Parks in the City of Allegheny on the Common Grounds, be and they are hereby approved.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES PARK, JR.,
President.
A. H. ENGLISH,
ROBERT LEA,
G. A. ALLABOUGH,
J. C. ROBINSON,
JOHN MORRISON.

PLANS OF MITCHELL, GRANT & CO.

To the Honorable the Commissioners of Public Grounds, Allegheny, Penna.:

GENTLEMEN—Having been entrusted with the work of preparing a plan for the improvement of what is known as the "Common" in the City of Allegheny, we beg leave, in connection with a preliminary draft of such plan—herewith submitted—to make a brief report of our views in regard to the capabilities of the grounds named, and of the reasons which have governed us in the preparation of the plan.

In their present condition the lands are unsightly in the extreme; and we are not surprised that the enterprise and public spirit of the inhabitants have demanded a change. Only a small portion of the south and East Common are enclosed, and the remainder at present serves as the dumping ground for the waste material of the city. Fully one-half of the level surface is disposed in narrow strips, bordered by avenues, for traffic. The open area at the west, offering the only inviting breadth for landscape treatment, is bounded on the east by the black walk of the Penitentiary; it is traversed by an irregular open ditch, in which flows a sluggish stream of foul waters by the Chicago and Fort Wayne Railway, and by a broad public street equipped with rails for passenger cars.

The ditch of course can be done away with by proper sewerage; the railway must be a permanent difficulty—all the greater from the fact that its grade is only trifingly below the general level of the ground.

The street it had been proposed to divert, but in view of all the objections it has been decided to submit no change.

This comprises all the ground originally submitted for improvement. Subsequently, however, your Commission have entertained the project of embracing the so called) Seminary Hill in the scheme, and a contour map of the same has been furnished. Several private residences, as well as the Theological Seminary, intervene between the hill and the "common" grounds, though an opportune approach exists from Irwin avenue, being the only present mode of access. In addition to this difficulty, the eastern side of the hill—there, almost precipitous—is scarred by numerous clay pits and brick kilns, while a yawning coal yard occupies a still lower excavation.

It is only needful to recite these facts to make clear the difficulties with which the Commission will have to contend.

The counter-balancing advantages are that the grounds are within reach of all; they can be graded without great cost; they are admirably suited for planting, and will afford charming walks and shrubbery in the very heart of the city; while the hill, under the treatment we shall propose, will offer a location to every stranger—will be easily accessible by a roadway of moderate grade, and by a bridge hereafter to be described.

Very few cities, of the size and importance of Allegheny, have such opportunity to establish a garden in their very midst; and the situation of the lands trending throughout the most densely populated portions of the city, suggest these public walks of old European walled towns, where the ancient fortifications have given way to gardens, which, from their convenience, are among the most enjoyable of all the public grounds of Europe.

The citizens of Pittsburgh will undoubtedly be won over in large numbers to the enjoyment of the beautiful Park they propose creating; and their avenue approaches will be the means of direct pleasure to thousands who, as well as the strangers—will be by the magnificent St. Clair street bridge and Fairview avenue, or Irwin avenue which is metres and bounded with and aspect. It is highly important that a corresponding amplitude be given to "Stockton avenue, along the Common. We would, therefore, propose the enlargement of the last named street, by doubling the present width and rounding the corners upon the Common, so as to give to this point the eclat. This increased breadth of the street will also favor the comfort of the present Common—already too narrow for any successful landscape treatment. We would propose the planting of a row of elms, in the portion between Federal street and East Common with deciduous trees, of such size as may be hereafter