The Pittsburgh Gazette.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1868.

The speech of Hon. O. P. Morton on the financial questions of the nation attracted great attention, and is the theme of universal comment where men most do congregate. I observe that you take issue with the views which have been attributed to him as to a gradual resumption. Yet I ask you to read his speech through—of course you will do so; editors are known to read everything—are supposed never to sleep or take time to eat—and say if he has not grappled with the whole subject more like a master than any of the other Senators who have touched upon it.

I noticed, with much pleasure, as have others of your numerous readers here, that you corrected the story, about Gen. Howard and the Chaplain of the House, which got into the newspapers and was dishonoring to both. Whatever the Reverend gentleman may be, he is not a street brawler; what General Howard is, I think you and all who heard and saw him recently in Pittsburgh can judge. A faithful officer, he gave his right arm to his country; a faithful head of an important bureau, over which he was set by Abraham Lincoln, who loved him, he has never been charged with wilfully neglecting his duty or with corrupt dealings; a faithful Christian, he has sought to build up a house to God where men might worship according to the faith and forms (or absence of forms) of the Pilgrim Fathers.

The only people who have had fault to find with General Howard are Fernando Wood and an anonymous writer who at one time had access to the Cincinnati *Gazette*. From the latter sprung, it is supposed, the unworthy tale about a street quarrel here between General Howard and the pastor alluded to.

The General is opposed to the continuance of the Bureau except in its work in organizing education in the States where no provision is made by law for schools. Of course in his wide and worthy career he runs counter to certain weak and narrow-minded persons who cry out on him to attract attention to their own small selves. A great many petitions are laid before Congress from people in the South praying that the work heretofore so nobly carried forward by General H. may be continued, but it is supposed that against his wish no legislation for that purpose will be had.

When before the regular Committee on the Freedmen the other day, to give information concerning the continuance of the Bureau, he repeated his request for a full investigation of all the matters pertaining to the Bureau since its organization, but was told that no such investigation would be had, or was needed, as they were satisfied he had done all well. So the Boynton thunder will be harmless to all but themselves.

The speech of General Moorhead in eulogy of the late Mr. Stevens attracted wide attention, and is commented upon as the most just and flattering terms by the many who heard it. The public mind on the occasion was excited and General M. rose equal to the occasion. The speech which you will publish in full was rich in reminiscence. The high position which Gen. Moorhead has before Congress and before the country as a gentleman of great influence, of lofty character and of high legislative capacity, lent additional interest to all he said. OBSERVER.

The Northmen in America.

An interesting paper was recently read in New York relative to the discovery of the American continent in the tenth century:

The speaker began by explaining that the Northmen were an Asiatic race that settled in Denmark, overran Norway and Sweden, and afterward, in the year 875, colonized Iceland. Near the close of the tenth century the Icelanders, led by Eric the Red, pushed westward and colonized Greenland, where the colony existed until near the beginning of the fifteenth century, and where a line of no less than seventeen bishops presided over the church which was established. The last bishop was Andreas, who in the cathedral church of Gorda, on the west coast of Greenland, celebrated the marriage of a couple from whom the learned Finn Magnussenn took his descent. While the Icelanders were in Greenland they made expeditions far into the North. In 1824 Parry found a monument that was erected by them in latitude seventy-three degrees, in the year 1135. In 1266 another expedition reached the latitude of seventy-six degrees, which was as far as Perry went in 1827. After showing that the Icelandic narratives possess no faults that are not found in modern histories, Mr. DeCosta proceeded to speak of the voyages of the Northmen to New England, which they called Vinland, on account of the quantity of vines they found growing wild. The existence of land south of Vinland was first made known by one Beirne, who in 384, sailing from Iceland to Greenland, was driven southward upon the American coast. This encouraged Leif, son of Eric the Red, to go in search of the new land. He sailed in the year 1000, and passed down the American coast as far as the latitude of Rhode Island, where, in the region of Mount Hope Bay, he spent the Winter, returning to Greenland in the Spring. In 1002 his brother Thorvald made the same voyage, but lost his life in a conflict with the natives. The most distinguished explorer was Karlsefne, who sailed to Vinland in 1007 with three shipps and 160 men. He spent three years in the vicinity of Mount Hope, in Rhode Island. One very interesting confirmation of the truth of the Icelandic narratives which give an account of tke voyages is found in connection with that island which the Icelanders mention as then existing in the ocean east of Cape Cod. This island is also referred to in Gosnold's voyage, and its non-appearance now has led some to discredit Gosnold's account. But recent explorations by Professor Agassiz and others have demonstrated its existence by geological evidence. The result of these explorations was illustrated by a map drawn for the purpose, which makes it clear that the Northmen visited the coast of Massachusetts, and that they have described its appearance at that early time in their narratives, which bear every mark of truth.

The inundations in Switzerland are said to have been increased in violence by the unwise course of some of the cantons in cutting down the forests on the upper parts of the mountains. The sale of the timber reduced the rate of taxation, but in the end, the destruction of property was many times larger than the amount saved. The effects of forests on the climate are also exemplified by the occurrences in the Cape de Verde Islands, where the cutting down of the timber produced severe droughts, lasting in some cases for three years. During the famines occasioned by this lack of rain, over thirty thousandpersons are reported to have perished.

Some Fine Writing About Pittsburgh.

[Correspondence Chicago Tribune.]

I found Pittsburgh the panorama it always was to me—a wondrous *cul de sac*, where nature, working westward on a grand design, pushing her veins of coal and iron like so many railways, rolling her vast serpentine folds of mountains, suddenly finds the world to cease, and strews the last cape with mighty wrecks of impotence, with chimneys blazing and tunnels gaping black with the smoke of her machineries dispersed untimely, and a solemn and dispairing gloom rising between earth and sky, like the horror of Satan's army when heaven is lost and thunderous confusion overtakes its counsels.

What rivers are like these rivers uniting here, illumined weirdly with the white streams of innumerable seams and cracks in the crust of the hills, which escape as from the bowels of the furnace of Vulcan? Bridges that rest upon piers of solid fog? Locomotive engines that leap into opaque clouds, like eagles that part the thunder and wheel in blindness, screaming frightenedly? Clinging to the banks of everlasting twilight, the huddled steamboats are like gulls that hold to the edges of Newfoundland. The people in the high warehouses seem to be pilots waiting in eternal apprehension for the mists to dissipate and the sea to the west to show the whereabouts of sails.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York *Times* says that Jefferson was saved from pecuniary embarrassment only by his Monticello farm; that Madison, after his retirement, with difficulty kept up a respectable appearance at Montpelier, and that his widow supported herself by the sale of the "wreck of personal effects;" that Monroe became "absolutely destitute" before he died; that Jackson had hardly money enough to entertain visitors at the Hermitage, and states other facts showing the painful impecuniosity of Presidential incumbents.

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY, for 1859, under the organization provided by the Parliament of the Confederation, will consist of 90,403 conscripts, of whom 80,092 are to be furnished by Prussia, and 10,390 by the other States of the Confederation. The Federal navy, under the new organization, is to consist of 23,000 sailors.

—Letters from Buenos Ayres, to the 27th of October, and Rio Janeiro to the 7th ult., state that an expedition to flank Lopez's position at Valleta had found troops and fortifications to resist it. Caxias' army was encamped in a swamp. Lopez refused to surrender English prisoners, and Mr. Gould, the Minister, left for England. United States Minister MacMahon had not yet arrived at Asuncion.

—A bill has been introduced in the Arkansas Legislature, requiring all persons to withdraw from the Knights of Camilla or Ku-Klux within thirty days, under a penalty of a heavy fine and imprisonment of from one to ten years in the penitentiary. It was ordered printed. Resolutions were adopted endorsing the Governor's proclamation for martial law in Conway county.

—The Senatorial question in Missouri is exciting a good deal of attention throughout the State and the interior papers are discussing the matter quite earnestly. Of the papers which have spoken on the subject, twenty-eight advocate the election of Gen. Carl Schurz, twelve are for Gen. Loan and eight for all other candidates.

—Hon. R. J. Walker testified before the Investigating Committee that he received twenty-six thousand dollars of the Alaska purchase money, of which he paid three thousand to Colonel Forney, or his representative. He thought no money had been paid to other newspaper men.

—Thomas Stewart, a lad, was cut to pieces by a railroad train, at Worcester, Mass., on Thursday, while crossing.

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ALSO, A TWO-STORY BRICK HOUSE adjoining the Borough of Elizabeth, Allegheny county, Pa., containing 4 rooms and kitchen. Lot 60 feet front by 120 back to an alley. A good stable, wash house, bake-oven and other outbuildings. I am authorized to sell it at the low price of $1,800, on good terms.

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ALSO, A FARM OF 158 ACRES, situated in Elizabeth township, Allegheny county, Pa., 31 miles from the city of Pittsburgh, on the Connellsville Railroad, at Suter station. The improvements are a common log house, a good frame barn, with stabling for ten horses; a cornerib and wagon shed; good orchard of fruit trees; fencing very good. 120 acres cleared, the residue in heavy timber land. This farm is valuable—first, for its excellent soil; secondly, its timber; and thirdly, it contains more limestone than any other farm in Pennsylvania, all accessible. The lower vein of limestone is 40 feet thick; several other veins ranging from 3½ to 6 ft. in thickness, lie under the whole farm. For particulars enquire of ELI SUTER, Esq., at Suter Station, on at my office.

ALSO, 173 ACRES, situated in St. Clair township, Westmoreland county, Pa., near the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Houston Station. The improvements are a two-story frame house, with six rooms and good cellar, a frame bank barn 40 by 60 feet, and other outbuildings. There is on the place a young apple and peach orchard; one hundred and twenty acres cleared land, divided into fields of convenient size, a large portion of which are well set in clover and timothy; the residue of said tract covered with good timber. It is well watered, and underlaid with coal and limestone, and is convenient to churches, schools, stores, mills and blacksmith shops. A real good bargain is offered in this excellent farm.

ALSO, A beautifully situated tract of 60 ACRES of valuable land, under good fencing, situated in McCandless township, Allegheny county, Pa., on a township road, 7 measured miles from the Market House, Allegheny City. This tract is well adapted for a garden or dairy farm, being convenient and of easy access to either city, and near enough to the line of the Mahoning Railroad to make it very desirable for country seats, for persons doing business in the city.

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ALSO, FARM AND MILLS. A small tract of 60 ACRES of very valuable land in Derry township Westmoreland county, Pa., well fenced and in a high state of cultivation, with a new frame dwelling, and other outbuildings; a new grist and saw mill complete, with two run of burrs, two bolting cloths, and all the needed fixtures, in good order; and a young orchard of choice fruits. The land is all underlaid with a six foot vein of coal, now opened and worked, at the back of the mill, and limestone in abundance. Call soon and secure a good bargain.

ALSO, FARM OF 160 ACRES, situated immediately upon the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Blairsville Intersection, 54 miles east of the city. The improvements are a two-story stone house of 8 rooms, a No. 1 barn, 45 by 65 feet, the best of stabling and other outbuildings. The lands lies well, is well fenced, is in good farming order, and will be sold very cheap if applied for soon.

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1	do. of 3	do.	do.	6th	do.	do. 192
1	do. of 5	do.	do.	6th	do.	do. 240
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ORDINANCES.

AN ORDINANCE

Locating Ridge, Roup and Craig Streets.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same,* That Ridge, Roup and Craig street be, and the same are hereby located in accordance with the City District Plan.

SEC. 2. That so much of any ordinance as may conflict with or be supplied by the foregoing, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

Entitled an Ordinance Appointing Viewers on the Opening of Harrison Street.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same,* That Henry Williams be and he is hereby appointed a viewer for the opening of Harrison street, instead of G. S. Bates, who was appointed, and is a party interested.

SEC. 2. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

Locating Webster Avenue.

SEC. 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same,* That Webster Avenue or Coal street, be and the same is hereby located from Kirkpatrick street to its intersection with Miner street, in accordance with the City District Plan, to a uniform width of sixty (60) feet.

SEC. 2. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

Locating Duncan Street.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same,* That Duncan street, be and the same is hereby located from Kirkpatrick street to its intersection with the Township road in front of the Presbyterian Church at Minersville, in accordance with the City District Plan.

SEC. 2. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

Granting Messrs. Rees, Graff & Dull the Privilege of Putting in a Siding.

SECTION 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by authority of the same,* That Messrs. Rees, Graff & Dull, be and they are hereby authorized to construct a Siding from the Allegheny Valley Railroad, along the west side of Thirty-second or Wilson street, in such place as may be designated by the City Engineer, the style of rail and manner of laying to be subject to his approval.

SEC. 2. That Messrs. Rees, Graff & Dull, in using said Siding shall not leave cars standing so as to obstruct travel on any street or alley crossing the line of the Siding, or in any way with the grades or water courses of any street, or any individual drain now located.

SEC. 3. That the Mayor, in conjunction with the Street Committee, are hereby authorized to grant unto the said Rees, Graff & Dull, a license for the same, upon the payment on o the Mayor the usual fee for said license.

SEC. 4. Nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to prevent the city from revoking the privilege granted by this Ordinance, at any time, upon sixty days notice being given.

SEC. 5. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Councils.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

For Opening Forty-Second Street, late Chestnut Street, Lawrenceville.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same,* That the City Engineer be and is hereby authorized and directed to survey and open a street of Forty-second street, late Chestnut (Lawrenceville,) north of Butler street, as has not heretofore been opened, and to appraise damages and assess benefits. Dr. James Robinson, John B. Jackson and Charles N. Itin are hereby appointed in accordance with an act of Assembly approved January 6th, 1864.

SEC. 2. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MORROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

AN ORDINANCE

For a Sewer on Pennsylvania Avenue, from Washington Street to Dinwiddie Street.

SEC. 1. *Be it ordained and enacted by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Pittsburgh, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the City Engineer be and is hereby directed to advertise for proposals for the construction of a public sewer on Pennsylvania Avenue, from Washington street to Dinwiddie street, and to let the same in accordance with an act of Assembly, approved January 6th, 1864.

SEC. 2. That for the payment and expenses of said sewer, it is hereby ordained and enacted that the property benefitted by the construction of said sewer, shall be assessed equitably and fairly; and the Councils do hereby appoint Captain Andrew Miller, James Black and William Jancey, to make said levy and assessment, and return the same in accordance with the act of Assembly of January 6th, 1864.

SEC. 3. That any ordinance or part of ordinance conflicting with the passage of this ordinance at the present time, be and the same is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this ordinance.

Ordained and enacted into a law in Councils, this 17th day of December, A. D. 1868.

JAMES McAULEY,
President of Select Council.

Attest: E. S. MONROW,
Clerk of Select Council.
W. A. TOMLINSON,
President of Common Council.
Attest: H. McMASTER,
Clerk of Common Council. de18

PROPOSALS