

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The rebel pirate Semmes has been made a Rear Admiral, and is to take command of the James river squadron.

Rev. H. W. Beecher recently gave as a reason for not belonging to the Democratic party that he was a Democrat.

Gen. Grant reports that since the beginning of the campaign last May, 17,000 deserters have come into our lines from Lee's army alone.

Sixteen hundred and ninety units have been brought against the city of New York for damages done during the riots of 1863. The amount claimed is about \$2,500,000.

A Rebel lady in Newtoun, Virginia, boasts of having made money enough by selling pies to Union soldiers, last summer, to paper her kitchen with greenbacks.

Congress has passed a bill declaring free the wives and children of colored men serving in the army. The democrats in both Houses voted against it, the bright specimen from this District being among them.

General Winder, the notorious beast and keeper of rebel prison, died in Richmond a few days since. He was the fit tool of a brutal conspiracy treating the Union prisoners like dogs, and will ever be remembered as the most beastly development of the slave-holder's rebellion.

The Secretary of the Treasury has commenced paying the troops. Gen. Schofield's army has already been provided for, and the Secretary commenced signing the warrants for the pay of the Army of the Potomac. It is expected that all the other armies will be paid as rapidly as it can be done with safety.

The Government is investigating the manner in which New York City has filed its quotas heretofore, and it turns out principally through forged papers and bounty jumping. Yet that is the city whose press has so frequently cast reflections on the patriotism of Pennsylvania.

A lady in Charleston, Mass., left her bed and started for Boston in a fit of somnambulism, a few nights since, and did not wake till a man on the Warren Bridge spoke to her. She was so overcome by the sense of condition that she fainted, and had to be carried home by the police.

The Penobscot Indians now number 166 males and 224 females. More than one-fifth of their voting population have gone to the war, and consumption, a disease formerly unknown, is now carrying off many of the tribe yearly. Those that remain gain a subsistence by hunting and fishing, and also by the less primitive occupations of farming and basket-making.

At Chattanooga, Tenn., the other day General Sherman punished a merchant, who disregarded the challenge of a negro soldier by confounding his store and its contents and placing a negro guard over it; remarking, "if Mr. Crutcheff did not respect the negro soldiers, he shall respect the authority that made the negro a soldier, and puts him in guard as such."

The first strawberries of the season were received a few days since at Fort Mifflin, No. 147 Fulton-st., Brooklyn. They were in number six, filled one basket, and were sold for a large dinner-party at the moderate sum of two dollars and a half. The fruit was raised in Fitchburg, Mass., where they never use their snow till it is a year old.

A remarkable case of honesty was manifested in Louisville last week. The Board of Enrollment of that district received a notice from Jacob Schuster, a grocer of that city, stating that he had been exempted from a former draft on account of alienage, but that since having taken steps to become a citizen, he desired his name to be placed on the enrollment list. This is an example worthy of imitation.

Governor Low, of California, has by far the largest salary of any of our State Governors. He has \$7,000 a year in gold. The next highest salaries for Gov. nors are in New York and Pennsylvania—\$4,000 in currency. While Gov. Cannon, of Delaware, gets only \$1283, Governor Buckingham of Connecticut, \$1,100, and Governors J. Gregory Smith of Vermont, Gilmore of New Hampshire, and James Y. Smith, of Rhode Island, only \$1,000 each.

It seems that the solid opposition with which the Democratic members of our Legislature doggedly confronted the Constitutional Amendment to abolish slavery was the result of a solemn caucus, in which they deliberately resolved that the party of Copperhead Democracy should stick by slavery till the last and go down with the black flag flying. Perhaps they are right. If they're not infamous, there is some satisfaction perhaps in making their infamy heroic.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

A voracious army correspondent, in a long account of the peace conference, at which it must be remembered that ago the principals were present, says that the first question asked by Mr. Stephens and his companions was whether we had any whiskey on our side. They received an affirmative reply, and drank, not once, but several times, when for the time all their hostilities were buried, and they at once proposed an interview with Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward.

Maj-Gen. George Crook and Brig-Gen. Benjamin F. Kelly, commanding in the Department of West Virginia, were recently surprised in their beds at Cumberland, Md., the headquarters of their department, by a band of sixty or seventy mounted Rebels, who came forty or fifty miles through Union territory, surprised and captured first a cavalry picket, then an infantry post, then dashed across the Potomac into the city, woke up the two Generals, together with Kelly's adjutant, and then dress in a hurry, mounted them on fresh horses, and, supplying themselves with other such, made away into Dixie uncaught and unharmed.

A STRANGER KILLED AT THE DEPOT.—On Thursday evening last a stranger stepped off the Express train, bound west, at the station, went across to the Irish American House to fill a canteen with water for a sick soldier, and on returning found the train in motion, ran to get aboard, slipped from the icy platform near the water-tank, was crushed by the moving train and instantly killed, having the crown of his head cut completely off. Tickets from Boston to Cincinnati, a card upon which was the name of a Mr. Cunningham, and some \$4.50 in money were found in his pockets; but nothing was discovered to show who he was or where he was from: although we understand it is stated by some one that there is in Cincinnati a substitute broker by the name of Cunningham. An inquest held by Dr. Armstrong resulted in a verdict in accordance with the foregoing facts.—Osgo Times.

THE AGITATOR.

M. H. COBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. WELLSBOROUGH, PENNA.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1865.

FROM WASHINGTON. Editorial Correspondence of The Agitator.

Washington, March 1, 1865. Few who were present in the Senate near the close of the last session of the 37th Congress will forget the scenes enacted daily on the floor during an extraordinary session of five days duration. For five days and nights the Senate refused to adjourn, only taking a recess at 7 a. m., for breakfast, and another at 5 p. m., for dinner. Everybody—Senators, clerks, doorkeepers, and reporters, were completely exhausted.

This extraordinary session was the result of the introduction of a new element into Senatorial proceedings. The Confiscation bill was before the Senate; also, the internal revenue bill. A faction, composed of Bayard and Saulsbury, of Delaware, Kennedy, of Maryland, Powell, of Kentucky, Carlile of Virginia, and Wall, of New Jersey, determined to prevent the passage of these measures by a resort to parliamentary gymnastics known by the name of "filibustering." It consists in motions to adjourn, talking against time, and various dodges, practiced, generally, in bodies which do not lay claim to dignity. It was never done in the U. S. Senate before that time. Leaning upon its traditional sense of honor and propriety, the Senate has no rule by which debate may be cut off by the "previous question" being ordered. It is, therefore, at the mercy of every gabbling fool who may succeed in getting a seat on the floor.

Now, when this shameful conduct was being perpetrated by Bayard & Co., no man was more severe upon the perpetrators of the outrage than Mr. Sumner. He denounced it as unworthy the dignity of an American Senator. Everybody who wished the country well agreed with Mr. Sumner. But time and circumstances, set the world face to face with itself. Never was the fact more clearly demonstrated than it has been during the last five days. The occasion was the discussion of the resolution introduced by Mr. Trumbull, to recognize the State government of Louisiana. Mr. Sumner offered an amendment, conditioning the recognition upon the admission of all persons, without regard to color, to the right of suffrage. He took his stand upon this condition and refused to let the resolution come to a final vote after the rejection of his amendment. With him stood four other Republicans—Wade, of Ohio, Brown, of Mo., Chandler and Howard, of Michigan; and against them stood eighteen Republicans, whose fidelity to freedom has never been questioned. With them, too, stood the entire Copperhead force of the Senate. For once, there was a thorough amalgamation of the radicals on both sides of the house. Sumner and Saulsbury ran lashed. It was a humiliating spectacle—such an one as I never desire to look upon again. To carry his ends, Charles Sumner resorted to filibustering—just as Bayard & Co., did in 1863. He moved to adjourn; demanded the yeas and nays; offered new amendments to which he spoke, without other object than the prevention of a final vote. Mr. Trumbull administered to him a cutting rebuke, reminding him of a similar scene in which he, Sumner, was the censor, in place of the offender. Mr. Doolittle followed with a brief sketch of Mr. Sumner's course, and made an excellent point on the Massachusetts Senator. He reminded him that the spectacle presented was that of five Republican Senators arrogating to themselves greater sagacity than that possessed by eighteen other Republican Senators. Mr. Sumner showed considerable temper in his reply to Mr. Doolittle; and in conclusion declared that the bill should never pass. Of course six men can defeat a measure in the Senate if they are willing to usurp the rights of the majority. Mr. Sumner has now put himself upon the record with a few malcontents who deny, in action, that the majority ought to rule. It is to be regretted. And the country will one day call Mr. Sumner and his four colleagues filibusters to account. Even the devotion of his lifetime cannot cover up or excuse such a breach of good faith and Senatorial measures. It is one thing to be radical, another to be utterly impracticable.

WAR NEWS. WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Mar. 5, '65. To Major Gen'l Dix: The following dispatches in relation to the reported defeat and capture of Gen. Early by Sheridan, and the capture of Charlottesville, have been received by this Department. Gen. Sheridan and his forces commenced their movement last Monday, and were at Staunton when last heard from. Maj. Gen. Hancock was placed in charge of the Middle Military Division during the absence of Gen. Sheridan, headquarters at Winchester.

From the Soldier Boys. MILITARY PRISON, FORTRESS MONROE, February 24, 1865. Editor of the Agitator:—I have lately got a number of copies of your last issue, by the way of one of my friends, who gets them sent from home. I saw that the boys from different parts of the army let themselves be known by writing to you. Now, being camp life is very lonesome, I have concluded to occupy a few moments in giving you a little account of our soldiers, although there are but very few Tiogans here with us; but I hope it will be none the less interesting to your readers. It is just about a year ago since I, with about a hundred others, joined our brothers in arms, to help put down this bloodthirsty rebel which has spread over our land, and has caused a great number of our brave boys to bite the dust and go beneath the sod. I joined the third regiment of heavy artillery, which is now stationed at Fortress Monroe, doing garrison duty. The company that I am in was detached from the regiment last spring and put in charge of a military prison and a camp of distribution. The occupants of the prison are composed of prisoners of war, bounty jumpers of the very worst class, also a good many civilians of southern chivalry, who have been put under arrest by Gen. Butler, some for disloyalty, and others for aiding our men to desert over into the rebel lines. But since Gen. Ord took command of the department, a good many of them have been released, because there could be no charges found against them. Besides all these, Butler has put shoulder straps in close confinement, as well as the private soldier. Some of them were put in for cowardice in the face of the enemy, and others for defrauding the Government.

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I just a few days ago returned from the North on a short furlough, and I saw that the people there were anxious to have this war put down; but when father Abraham calls for more men to fill up the ranks of our army, there are but very few that will respond to the call; and a good many, rather than be drafted into Uncle Sam's service, start for parts unknown. I saw quite a number of young fellows, in every town I went through, that I thought would make pretty good soldiers if they would only come; but where is where the fault lies. I am sorry to say it, but I must confess that a soldier, in some of the towns North, is looked upon as an outcast, and as a low degraded being. Some of my friends have also told me that in some places, if a person would only speak to a soldier, he was considered 'nobody,' and was not recognized in society. I was surprised to hear it. I always entertained the idea that the people of the North would respect a soldier.

THEIR ABSOLUTE SECURITY.—Nearly all active credits are now based on government securities, and banks hold them as the very best and strongest investment they can make. If it were possible to contemplate the financial failure of the Government, no bank would be any safer. If money is loaned on individual notes or bond and mortgage, it will be payable in the same currency as the Government pays with, and no better. The Government never has failed to meet its engagements, and the national debt is a first mortgage upon the whole property of the country. While other stocks fluctuate from ten to fifty, or even a greater per cent., government stocks are always comparatively firm. Their value is fixed and reliable, beyond all other securities; for while a thousand speculative bubbles rise and burst, as a rule they are never below par, and are often above.

ITS LIBERAL INTEREST.—The general rate of interest is six per cent., payable annually. This is seven and three-tenths, payable semi-annually. If you lend on mortgage, there must be a searching of titles, lawyers' fees, stamp duties and delays, and you will finally have returned to you only the same kind of money you would receive from the Government, and less of it. If you invest in this loan, you have no trouble. Any bank or banker will obtain it for you without charge. To each note or bond are affixed five "coupons," or interest tickets, due at the expiration of each successive half-year. The holder of a note has simply to cut off one of these coupons, present it to the nearest bank or government agency, and receive his interest; the note itself need not be presented at all. Or a coupon thus payable will everywhere be equivalent, when due, to money. If you wish to borrow ninety cents on the dollar upon the notes, you have the highest security in the market to do it with. If you wish to sell it, it will bring within a fraction of cost and interest at any moment. It will be very handy to have in the house.

IT IS CONVERTIBLE INTO A SIX PER CENT. GOLD BEARING BOND. At the expiration of three years, a holder of the notes of the 7-30 loan has the option of accepting payment in full or of funding his notes in a six per cent. gold interest bond, the principal payable in not less than five, nor more than twenty years from its date, as the Government may elect. These bonds are held at such a premium as to make this privilege now worth two or three per cent. per annum, and adds so much to the interest. Notes of the same class, issued three years ago, are

now selling at a rate that fully proves the correctness of this statement. ITS EXEMPTION FROM STATE OR MUNICIPAL TAXATION.—But aside from all the advantages we have enumerated, a special act of Congress exempts all bonds and Treasury notes from local taxation. On the average, this exemption is worth about two per cent. per annum, according to the rate of taxation in various parts of the country. IT IS A NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK.—While this loan presents great advantages to large capitalists, it offers special inducements to those who wish to make a safe and profitable investment of small savings. It is in every way the best Savings Bank; for every institution of this kind must somehow invest its deposits profitably in order to pay interest and expenses. They will invest largely in this loan, as the best investment. But from the gross interest which they receive, they must deduct largely for the expenses of the bank. Their usual rate of interest allowed to depositors is five per cent. upon sums over \$500. The person who invests directly with Government will receive almost fifty per cent. more. Thus the man who deposits \$1,000 in a private Savings Bank, receives fifty dollars a year interest; if he deposits the same sum in this National Savings Bank, he receives seventy-three dollars. For those who wish to find a safe, convenient and profitable means of investing the surplus earnings which they have reserved for their old age or for the benefit of their children, there is nothing which presents so many advantages as this national loan.

THE HIGHEST MOTIVE.—The war is evidently drawing to a close; but while it lasts the Treasury must have money to meet its cost; and every motive that patriotism can inspire, should induce the people to supply its wants without delay. The Government can buy cheaper for cash in hand than on credit. Let us see that its wants are promptly and liberally satisfied.

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MAJOR GENERAL HANCOCK'S First Army Corps of Veterans. THE BIRNEY BRIGADE. Full Bounties and no Commissions. No Star on Our Flag shall ever be Dimmed. "Rally round the Flag, boys," and keep step to the music of the Union.

TO THE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE: "Rally round the Flag, boys," and keep step to the music of the Union.

BOUNTIES AND PAY. The net pay of a Veteran Volunteer in Hancock's corps is, viz: For one year, Government Bounty.....\$ 400 City of Philadelphia..... 400 Monthly pay from U. S. Gov't, \$16 per month..... 192 Clothing account yearly..... 42 Ward Bounty (average)..... 25 City-relief for families of vets., \$6 per month..... 72 Total.....\$1,111

ORGANIZATION TO RAISE THE BRIGADE. The committee who have charge of the organization of the brigade are: HENRY C. HOWELL, GEORGE BULLOCK, DAVID FAUST, JOHN W. EVERMAN, JOSEPH P. ABELIAS, D. B. WINSTON, SETH B. STITT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF COMMITTEE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Chief of Detective Police of the City of Philadelphia.

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THEIR ABSOLUTE SECURITY.—Nearly all active credits are now based on government securities, and banks hold them as the very best and strongest investment they can make. If it were possible to contemplate the financial failure of the Government, no bank would be any safer. If money is loaned on individual notes or bond and mortgage, it will be payable in the same currency as the Government pays with, and no better. The Government never has failed to meet its engagements, and the national debt is a first mortgage upon the whole property of the country. While other stocks fluctuate from ten to fifty, or even a greater per cent., government stocks are always comparatively firm. Their value is fixed and reliable, beyond all other securities; for while a thousand speculative bubbles rise and burst, as a rule they are never below par, and are often above.

ITS LIBERAL INTEREST.—The general rate of interest is six per cent., payable annually. This is seven and three-tenths, payable semi-annually. If you lend on mortgage, there must be a searching of titles, lawyers' fees, stamp duties and delays, and you will finally have returned to you only the same kind of money you would receive from the Government, and less of it. If you invest in this loan, you have no trouble. Any bank or banker will obtain it for you without charge. To each note or bond are affixed five "coupons," or interest tickets, due at the expiration of each successive half-year. The holder of a note has simply to cut off one of these coupons, present it to the nearest bank or government agency, and receive his interest; the note itself need not be presented at all. Or a coupon thus payable will everywhere be equivalent, when due, to money. If you wish to borrow ninety cents on the dollar upon the notes, you have the highest security in the market to do it with. If you wish to sell it, it will bring within a fraction of cost and interest at any moment. It will be very handy to have in the house.

IT IS CONVERTIBLE INTO A SIX PER CENT. GOLD BEARING BOND. At the expiration of three years, a holder of the notes of the 7-30 loan has the option of accepting payment in full or of funding his notes in a six per cent. gold interest bond, the principal payable in not less than five, nor more than twenty years from its date, as the Government may elect. These bonds are held at such a premium as to make this privilege now worth two or three per cent. per annum, and adds so much to the interest. Notes of the same class, issued three years ago, are

now selling at a rate that fully proves the correctness of this statement. ITS EXEMPTION FROM STATE OR MUNICIPAL TAXATION.—But aside from all the advantages we have enumerated, a special act of Congress exempts all bonds and Treasury notes from local taxation. On the average, this exemption is worth about two per cent. per annum, according to the rate of taxation in various parts of the country. IT IS A NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK.—While this loan presents great advantages to large capitalists, it offers special inducements to those who wish to make a safe and profitable investment of small savings. It is in every way the best Savings Bank; for every institution of this kind must somehow invest its deposits profitably in order to pay interest and expenses. They will invest largely in this loan, as the best investment. But from the gross interest which they receive, they must deduct largely for the expenses of the bank. Their usual rate of interest allowed to depositors is five per cent. upon sums over \$500. The person who invests directly with Government will receive almost fifty per cent. more. Thus the man who deposits \$1,000 in a private Savings Bank, receives fifty dollars a year interest; if he deposits the same sum in this National Savings Bank, he receives seventy-three dollars. For those who wish to find a safe, convenient and profitable means of investing the surplus earnings which they have reserved for their old age or for the benefit of their children, there is nothing which presents so many advantages as this national loan.

THE HIGHEST MOTIVE.—The war is evidently drawing to a close; but while it lasts the Treasury must have money to meet its cost; and every motive that patriotism can inspire, should induce the people to supply its wants without delay. The Government can buy cheaper for cash in hand than on credit. Let us see that its wants are promptly and liberally satisfied.

From the Soldier Boys. MILITARY PRISON, FORTRESS MONROE, February 24, 1865. Editor of the Agitator:—I have lately got a number of copies of your last issue, by the way of one of my friends, who gets them sent from home. I saw that the boys from different parts of the army let themselves be known by writing to you. Now, being camp life is very lonesome, I have concluded to occupy a few moments in giving you a little account of our soldiers, although there are but very few Tiogans here with us; but I hope it will be none the less interesting to your readers. It is just about a year ago since I, with about a hundred others, joined our brothers in arms, to help put down this bloodthirsty rebel which has spread over our land, and has caused a great number of our brave boys to bite the dust and go beneath the sod. I joined the third regiment of heavy artillery, which is now stationed at Fortress Monroe, doing garrison duty. The company that I am in was detached from the regiment last spring and put in charge of a military prison and a camp of distribution. The occupants of the prison are composed of prisoners of war, bounty jumpers of the very worst class, also a good many civilians of southern chivalry, who have been put under arrest by Gen. Butler, some for disloyalty, and others for aiding our men to desert over into the rebel lines. But since Gen. Ord took command of the department, a good many of them have been released, because there could be no charges found against them. Besides all these, Butler has put shoulder straps in close confinement, as well as the private soldier. Some of them were put in for cowardice in the face of the enemy, and others for defrauding the Government.

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MAJOR GENERAL HANCOCK'S First Army Corps of Veterans. THE BIRNEY BRIGADE. Full Bounties and no Commissions. No Star on Our Flag shall ever be Dimmed. "Rally round the Flag, boys," and keep step to the music of the Union.

TO THE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE: "Rally round the Flag, boys," and keep step to the music of the Union.

BOUNTIES AND PAY. The net pay of a Veteran Volunteer in Hancock's corps is, viz: For one year, Government Bounty.....\$ 400 City of Philadelphia..... 400 Monthly pay from U. S. Gov't, \$16 per month..... 192 Clothing account yearly..... 42 Ward Bounty (average)..... 25 City-relief for families of vets., \$6 per month..... 72 Total.....\$1,111

ORGANIZATION TO RAISE THE BRIGADE. The committee who have charge of the organization of the brigade are: HENRY C. HOWELL, GEORGE BULLOCK, DAVID FAUST, JOHN W. EVERMAN, JOSEPH P. ABELIAS, D. B. WINSTON, SETH B. STITT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF COMMITTEE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, Chief of Detective Police of the City of Philadelphia.

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