Pittsburgh Gazette.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 2.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL Observations for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, 58 Fifth St.—corrected daily:

	IN SUN.	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	68	60
12 " M.	83	73
6 " P. M.		63
Barometer		29 19 20

Destructive Fires—Incendiarism—Attempted Robbery and Arson.

On Friday morning, about three o'clock, fire was accidentally communicated to the oil refinery of Messrs. Wm. Johnston & Co., located on Duquesne Way, about midway between the Hand street and Railroad bridges. The alarm was promptly sounded by the watchman at the works, but the refinery was instantly a sheet of flame, and all efforts to save it would have been fruitless. There were twenty or twenty-five barrels of crude oil in the building, and when the fire reached these it spread with great rapidity, making a most brilliant light and intense heat.

Before the fire apparatus could be put into service, the flames communicated to the extensive board yard of Messrs. Kelly & Glass (Andrew Kelly and John Glass) situated between the refinery and Duquesne Way. There was a large amount of lumber piled here, and when the firemen reached the ground the flames had made considerable progress. There is nothing so difficult to extinguish as fire in piles of lumber, as they are constructed so as to permit drafts of air between each layer, and also so as to turn the water which falls upon them. The firemen labored here unceasingly for four or five hours, but nearly everything in the board yard was destroyed. The planing mill and sash and door factory belonging to Messrs. Kelly & Glass is located on Seventh street, in another part of the city, and hence their loss is confined to the lumber yard alone. They have been compelled to close their mill for the present, owing to the fact that they have not sufficient stock left to operate it.

We have been requested by Messrs. K. & G. to state that they are prepared to fill all the orders they have on hand, and that they would be happy to see new ones coming in.

The fire was the result of carelessness or ignorance on the part of the watchman employed in the roofing and refining establishment of Messrs. Johnston & Co. He had been warned not to carry a candle about the refinery, as the gas arising from the oil would ignite and destroy the works. Despite this plain injunction, he approached the apparatus with a lighted candle, about three o'clock, for the purpose of examining the stream which flowed from the still, and while placing a block under one of the pipes, the gas ignited, and he found himself surrounded by flame. He fled from the place, and after sounding the alarm, secured a mule which was in the stable near by, which he rescued with great difficulty. The entire loss of Messrs. Johnston & Co. will not exceed $1,000. They had just commenced the business of refining oil, and had but a small stock on hand. The loss connected with their roofing business is included in the above amount. They have no insurance.

We cannot close without commending the firemen for the unflagging energy which they exhibited from the commencement of the fire until it ceased to be dangerous. There was much valuable property in the immediate vicinity of the fire, and had it not been for their exertions a general conflagration might have been the result.

The extensive rolling mill of Messrs. Bailey, Brown & Co. is located immediately east of the board yard, on Duquesne Way, and the intensity of the heat arising from the burning lumber, together with the burning fragments cast into the air, greatly jeopardized the mill. It was fortunately saved without injury.

The large plow factory of J. C. Bidwell also stood in proximity to the fire, but the wind was driving in an opposite direction, and the danger was not so imminent. Mr. Bidwell had a stable destroyed, together with two piles of lumber—one of oak scantling, for plow beams, and another of ash, also used in the manufacture of plows. His loss will reach $500.

The barrel factory of Messrs. McKee & Phillips (John McKee and J. R. Phillips) was in danger for a time, but escaped without injury. A lot of staves, in the rear of their works, caught fire and were destroyed, but the loss was not very heavy.

The Niagara and the Eagle steam fire engines were both on the ground, and put into service, but after working effectively for some time they were both disabled, by the breaking of parts of the machinery. This was a serious loss, and threw a heavier burden upon the hand engines.

INCENDIARISM IN ALLEGHENY.

While the firemen were hard at work in endeavoring to extinguish the fire above reported, another alarm was sounded in Allegheny, which called the Columbia hose from the side of the river to their own city. The coal and lime office of Mr. J. McClurg, located on the corner of Anderson street and the canal, had been forced open by thieves, as is supposed, and then fired. The office was a one story brick building, supported by posts underneath, which was a depot for coal and lime. The office contained a quantity of soap, two chests of tea, several barrels of Paris plaster, and other articles of value. The stables were built apart from the office, and the wagons, horses, gearing, etc., were uninjured. Mr. McClurg's loss will be about $1,500, upon which there is no insurance. Most of the books were saved by a gentleman who jumped through an open window and pitched the books out, before the fire had reached that part of the building. This place had been more than once entered by thieves, and it is supposed to have been fired for the purpose of exciting attention from other places where the thieves wished to operate, or to aid them in plundering in the vicinity of the fire.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY AND ARSON.

Just before the last mentioned fire broke out, an attempt was made to fire the dry goods store of Mr. N. Whiting, on the corner of Federal street and the South Common, Allegheny. The scoundrels had made an unsuccessful attempt to force open the shutters of one of the windows opening of the Common, but failing in this they had entered the cellar and set fire to a lot of old bags which were lying there. The smoke was discovered by the watchman at the Federal street railroad depot, who gave the alarm, and on rushing to the store extinguished the fire with the assistance of several others. The building is a fine one, recently erected by Mr. Robert Patterson, and if the fire had not been discovered almost immediately after it was communicated, much valuable property would have been destroyed.

INCENDIARISM AT THE POINT.

During the progress of the fires above mentioned an alarm was raised near the Point, by the discovery of fire in an old building between Penn street and the Allegheny River. It had been fired maliciously, but was fortunately extinguished before it had attained any headway.

We heard of several other attempts being made to fire buildings—one at the head of Wylie street in this city, and another in the upper end of Allegheny.

A Pittsburgher Tomahawked by an Indian.—Mr. James Wilson, hatter, of this city, lately received information to the effect that his son, who has for some time past resided near Fort Randall, in Nebraska, had been dangerously wounded by a blow on the head, inflicted with a tomahawk in the hands of an Indian. It appears that the Indian came to the house of young Mr. Wilson, and offered a bottle of syrup for sale, which Mr. Wilson believing to be stolen, would not buy, but took it from him and allowed the Indian to lodge with him that night. When he was about to leave next day the Indian offered to [illegible] a horse, and said he would bring it [illegible]. At night, he came again without the horse, saying his squaw would bring it. He was given a place to sleep then, as before—and in the night inflicted a severe wound with his tomahawk upon the head of his host, and fled, undoubtedly supposing he had killed him. Mr. Wilson, however, soon after managed to rise and make his way to a neighbor's, where he told what had happened. A party of settlers near there gave chase to the Indian, caught him, brought him back, tried him and condemned him to undergo fifty lashes. But the tribe to which the rascal belonged interfered, and, after some negotiation, agreed to give Mr. Wilson the horse as indemnity for the injury he had sustained, and to smoke the pipe of peace. Fearing that his neighbors and himself would be massacred, if they did not consent to this arrangement, Mr. Wilson and friends acceded thereto. Young Wilson, at last accounts, was lying in a critical condition in the hospital at Fort Randall.

Incendiarism at New Wilmington—Destruction of Westminster College.—The following letter has just been received in this city, by Prof. D. H. A. M'Lean, from Prof. Vincent, by which it will be seen that the large college building, located at New Wilmington, Lawrence county, has been entirely destroyed by fire:

NEW WILMINGTON, Feb. 27, 1861.—At three o'clock this morning Westminster College edifice was discovered to be on fire, and at five o'clock it was a mass of ruins. The fire commenced in the basement, at the North west corner of the building; and from the fact that no fire, nor any place for it is that part of the house, it is thought to have been the work of an incendiary.

Some of our citizens and students hazarded their lives in attempting to save the property of the Adelphic Hall, and succeeded so far as to save the library. The greater part of the College library too was saved. With these exceptions the whole property is an entire loss—from $12,000 to $15,000. Provision will be made for carrying on the Institution, and it is hoped that the Board of Trustees will arrange for rebuilding at an early day.

G. C. VINCENT.

We are authorized to state, by Prof. M'Lean, that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be called immediately, when it is sincerely hoped that the friends of the college will enable them to adopt measures for rebuilding without delay.

BURGLARY.—The residence of Mr. Paxton, corner of Locust and Morgan streets, Allegheny, was entered by burglars Friday morning about four o'clock, who ransacked the house from the kitchen to the garret. Whether they got any thing for their trouble or not, has not yet been ascertained, as the family is at present absent from the city. [illegible]

FOR THE DRY REGIONS.—The Vintage, which left for Franklin yesterday, took up six thousand bushels of coal, eight hundred empty barrels, and [illegible]

[For the Pittsburgh Daily Gazette.]

County Reform.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I am surprised that any astonishment was manifested by you, or any other intelligent man, at the so-called "Egregious inconsistencies couched in the attempt to show" [illegible]. There has no one ever the public expenditures it is calculated to reduce change any one system; [illegible] will put yourself to the trouble, you will not propose to expenses of the county—except you will put yourparatively—are fixed by law, ever receive that the could not possibly exercise any pre-eminent commission.

The appointing power is a beautiful fact—controller individual has *it all fixed now*, in a certain and a near relative of his is to be a clerk in the controller's office—if report be true.

The whole thing is a very weak effort at reform. That there is abundant room for reform, no one denies. The old inquiry is again revived concerning the ten mills tax.

I notice a statement over the signatures of the County Commissioners, published in connection with the Auditor's report for A. D. 1859, which will afford you light on the subject. All should know that interest to the amount of one hundred and seven thousand dollars was paid in 1856 and '57, on bonds of the Steubenville and Allegheny Valley railroads; that the money was borrowed to pay the same; that no provision was ever made to redeem the said loans until the year 1860; and it is also well known that a heavy indebtedness existed before, any interest was paid on railroad bonds.

Fifty-four bonds of $1,000 each are now due in New York, constituting a loan which was obtained for the purpose of redeeming county scrip; and even the ground on which the Court House stands has not been paid for, as the reports of the Auditors for each year since the purchase of said ground clearly show, to wit: "Ann Aspinwall, Cr., $23,000.00, and Harriet Livingston $20,000.00 (making in the aggregate forty-three thousand dollars), being heirs of the late James Ross, from whom said ground was purchased, all of which is due."

I might go on to enumerate item after item, but why trouble the public with these things so often. Politicians always endeavor to render the atmosphere as cloudy as possible, to prevent the public from penetrating through their rotten schemes. A few hints for the present may satisfy the public whom the finances benefit.

In 1860, the Jail fees and prisoners' allowance, amounted to $22,115 15; House of Refuge, $11,371 41; Mayor's Fees, Pittsburgh, $4,629 65; do. Allegheny, $474 53; Western Penitentiary, $1,780.53; Clerk Court Quarter Sessions, $11,956 00; Alderman's Fees, $1,455 72; making in the aggregate the sum of fifty-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-four twenty-eight-hundredth dollars, ($59,774 28;) yet, all these are provided for by law, and beyond the control of the commissioners. This is leaving out Jurors' Fees, Election Expenses, Assessors' pay, all provided for by law, and which will amount to *something* for another occasion.

I observe that Mr. Thomas Steel, our worthy assistant Controller, speaks out. Does Mr. Steel remember how the owners of property have to bleed in the shape of paying tax? and our business man for business tax? Yet all this *reform* is claimed to have been brought about by a Controller. When plenty of means is furnished 'tis easy to pay—it is all done by taxation, and whether paid by a Controller or otherwise, the result is the same.

In conclusion, will Mr. Steel please inform the citizens of Pittsburgh, whether the city is paying now as formerly, interest on bonds issued by a former City Treasurer, without authority of law, and for his (said Treasurer's) own benefit? This article is much longer than I intended, and still there is a great deal left untold. SPECTATOR.

A Gang of Incendiaries—Terrible State of Affairs.

The events of Friday night, as narrated in to-day's paper, indicate conclusively that there was a concerted plan to fire the city in several places, so remote from each other that the fire department would prove unequal to the task of extinguishing the fires. It happened most unfortunately that an accidental fire in this city had engaged the fire apparatus just before these attempts were made; and it is not unlikely that the breaking out of the first fire induced the incendiaries to make the attempts which they did, at so late an hour in the night. In Allegheny, the diabolical wretches succeeded in destroying one building, but were happily frustrated in other attempts.

The people exhibited no little alarm and indignation at these outrages, and the formation of a Vigilance Committee, or Secret Detective Committee, is seriously contemplated. The lives and property of the citizens are in constant jeopardy while such murderous miscreants are to be found in the community, and a strong force of men should patrol the streets nightly until the villains are driven out or apprehended.

Mayor Drum has his police vigorously at work, and it is to be hoped that speedy justice will overtake the perpetrators of these infamous crimes.

Lease of Smith's Ferry Oil Land.

We learn that Andrew McMaster, Esq. recently consummated a lease of fifty acres of oil land at Smith's ferry. The lessees are J. W. Barker, J. Meskimen, Robert Dickson, and C. Cheney. The lease runs for fifty years, and embraces nothing but the oil privilege. The lessees pay $3,000—$1,000 bonus and $2,000 upon obtaining oil in paying quantities. Mr. McMaster reserves one-fourth of the oil, in barrels, and they intend to commence operations forthwith. Mr. Master retained but three oil sites, two of which he has just disposed of, reserving one-third of the oil, not in barrels.

Court of Common Pleas.

Before Judges Mellon, Adams and Parke.

Catharine M'Farland vs. A. Hecker; action to recover the rent of a farm. Verdict for plaintiff for $48.

S. W. Bean vs. J. Creesy; action to recover for services as agent in the sale of a farm. On trial.

John Thompson and wife vs. John Chadwick; action for damages for injury done to plaintiff's property by waste water. On trial.

CHILD BURNT TO DEATH.—On Friday evening week, about 6 o'clock, a little daughter of Edward Jones, of Greenfield, Washington county was so seriously burnt by her clothes taking fire, that she died on Sunday morning about four o'clock. A short time before the accident occurred, a fire had been kindled by one of the children in a bed room up stairs, and while the mother was out milking the cow, the unfortunate child ran up stairs, and by some means unknown her clothes took fire. Her breast, neck, face and arms were horribly crisped, and she suffered on until Sunday morning, when death, kindly relieved her of pain forever.

MASONIC HALL CONCERT ROOM.—The undersigned would respectfully represent to the community, that they have associated themselves for the purpose of presenting to the public a series of chaste and amusing performances; and in presenting to the fun-loving people, they promise their patrons the most unique and fascinating representations for comparatively a small remuneration. To be sure times are hard, but we have placed our prices of admittance at so moderate an amount as cannot fail to suit every body. Come one, come all, and we will do you good.

J. MATHEWS & CO.

LARCENY OF HIDES.—Mr. Chas. Spangler, butcher, residing in Reserve tp., made information before Mayor Drum yesterday, charging Robert Buck with the larceny of some hides valued at $25, and which he stated he had reason to believe Buck had concealed about his house. A search warrant was issued, and placed in the hands of the police, but whether they were successful in recovering the stolen plunder we are unable to say. Buck is a colored man and does not bear a very good character for honesty.

FOR KANSAS.—Mayor Wilson acknowledges the following additional sums, in aid of the Kansas sufferers:

Sabbath School, Fifth U. P. church	$18 66
Economy tp., Beaver co.	43.15
F. Becker	2.00
A. W. Buckanan	1.00
Cash	5.00

INQUISITION.—A jury was empanneled yesterday afternoon, before Judge Adams, to inquire into the case of John Montgomery, of the borough of Manchester, who was alleged to be an habitual drunkard, incapable of managing his business properly. After a careful hearing, the jury decided that he was not such an habitual drunkard as is contemplated in the Act of Assembly, under which the case was tried.

ATTEMPT TO BREAK JAIL.—A prisoner named Mathew Hixon, confined in Fayette county jail, made an attempt to escape a few nights since. He succeeded, after patient and persevering efforts, in rubbing off a link of his chain with a little stone; but the vigilance of the Sheriff presented greater obstacles than the chain, and Mathew was placed in secure quarters.

TRUE.—The reported "secession" of three Southern students from the Western Theological Seminary, Allegheny turns out to be true. They left for home on the steamer Dacotah. Two of them resided in Memphis, and one in New Orleans. They gave as a reason for leaving "the want of conservative sentiment in Allegheny county."

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Thursday last a boy about 13 years of age, a son of Mr. Harvey Henderson, of Dunbar township, Fayette county, had one of his feet so badly crushed by a threshing machine, that he died in a few hours thereafter.

POLICE APPOINTMENT.—Thomas Maxwell, a well-known police officer, has been appointed on Mayor Wilson's corps, to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Job G. Patterson to the Chieftaincy.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.—Messrs. McCandless and Yeager, Directors of the House of Refuge, are in Harrisburg, urging upon the Legislature to make an appropriation of $17,000 to that institution.

DOCTOR C. BAXLY, Water Cure and Homoeopathic Physician; also agent for Rainbow's celebrated Truss for Ruptures. No. 125 Smithfield St.

DENTISTRY.—Dr. C. Sill, No. 246 Penn street, attends to all branches of the Dental profession.

ALL should not fail to read the advertisement of Prof. Wood, in to-day's paper.

BLOOD FOOD.—Attention is called to this most remarkable and scientific preparation, advertised in another column. [illegible]

[illegible] Messrs. Church & Dupont, of New York, are the sole agents [illegible]

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY TELEGRAPH.

RECEIVED AT THE DAILY GAZETTE OFFICE.

[illegible]

WASHINGTON CITY, March 1.

The programme of the Cabinet appointments is completed, but invitations have not been formally issued. It is as follows:

Secretary of State—Wm. H. Seward, of New York.

Secretary of Treasury—Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio.

Secretary of War—Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania.

Secretary [illegible]

Postmaster [illegible]—Montgomery Blair, of Maryland.

Secretary of Interior—Caleb B. Smith, of Indiana.

[illegible] Welles, of Connecticut.

Attorney General—Edward Bates, of Missouri.

The arrangement is regarded as perfectly satisfactory, and may be reconstructed from motives of Democratic antecedents.

Seward has not been consulted concerning the Cabinet. His action on the report of the Peace Conference yesterday has significance as to Lincoln's policy, which will be declared in his inaugural.

Judge Black's nomination will be hung up unless pressed to a vote, and then rejection is certain.

The omission of Gilmer from the Cabinet excites remark, as a tender was authorized two months ago. He then made acceptance conditional on the action of North Carolina.

Mrs. Lincoln visited Miss Lane yesterday the first time.

Mr. Bates arrived yesterday.

XXXVIth Congress—Second Session.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 1.

HOUSE.—Mr. Phelps, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill which was passed regulating the value of the new silver florin of Austria in the Custom House, the computation being placed at 46 19.100 cents.

Mr. Washburne, of Ill., moved to postpone the report of the Committee of Thirty-three, till the 4th of July.

The Speaker said the subject would not come up for an hour.

Mr. Ely, of N. Y., unsuccessfully asked for action on the bill, extending the contract with Mr. Sibley, for the building of the Pacific Telegraph line till December 1863, for the completion of the same.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the Senate amendments to the army bill.

The Speaker announced that the business in order was the report of the committee of thirty-three.

The pending proposition was read, namely, an act for the admission of New Mexico into the Union States of America.

Mr. Corwin, deeming explanation unnecessary, demanded the previous question, on the third reading and engrossment of the bill.

Mr. Hickman, of Pa., moved to lay it on the table; carried—yeas, 114; nays, 71.

The House next considered the amendment to the act for the rendition of fugitives from labor, which was passed—yeas 92, nays 82.

The Speaker asked leave to present the proceedings of the Peace Congress.

Objections were made by Messrs. Washburne, of Illinois, and others.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, said he did not want to hear John Tyler's communication read.

Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, moved to suspend the rules.

There was great confusion during the proceedings. Some of the members said they wanted more important business considered.

Mr. Boteler, of Virginia, in a loud tone of voice, asked what could be more important than the peace of the country?

Mr. Grow contended that the territorial business had been set apart for Mr. Corwin's report. That had been disposed of, and the former now came up.

The Speaker overruled the point.

Mr. Grow appealed from the decision of the chair.

A motion was made to lay the appeal on the table.

Mr. Burnett, of Ky., said as the effect of the vote was to prevent a vote on the peace proposition, he demanded the yeas and nays.

Mr. Howard moved an adjournment.

At this point, it being 2 o'clock the Speaker declared the House to recess till 7 o'clock, in accordance with a previous order.

Evening Session.—An attempt to suspend the rules to take up the Peace Conference resolutions failed to receive a two-thirds vote.

The territorial bills relative to Nevada and Dacotah were passed.

SENATE.—Mr. Crittenden, of Ky., presented petitions from citizens of several States asking for the adoption of measures of peace and the preservation of the Union. Several private bills were passed.

Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, asked that the resolution from the House be taken up.

Also agreed to.

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, said they ought to be sent to the committee, so as to make them intelligible.

Objection was made to taking up the resolutions.

Mr. Seward, of New York, offered his joint resolution as a substitute.

Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, moved to strike out the first article of the Peace Congress proposition, and insert the first article of the Crittenden resolution; Mr. Crittenden contending that the propositions of the Convention were for the security of the rights of the South.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Bragg, Mason, Crittenden, Polk, Pugh, and Baker, at great length.

Without action, the Senate adjourned.

Latest from California.

FT. KEARNEY, March 1.—The Pony Express passed here at half past 3 o'clock, a. m., being several hours ahead of time by the time schedule. By this arrival we have San Francisco dates to February 16th.

C. L. Wilson, the principal builder of the Sacramento Valley Railroad was attached on the 14th by Alsop & Co., for $110,000. It is not known yet whether this will have any effect on the progress or extension of the road. The annual report on the condition of that portion of the Valley road completed, shows a surplus of receipts over expenditures of $100,000 against $90,000 surplus last year.

Eight or nine different companies are endeavoring to get bills through the Legislature, authorizing street railroads in San Francisco.

Abernethy, Clark & Co., extensive lumber merchants, recently reported as having failed, have resumed payment.

The Lady Franklin sailed yesterday for British Columbia.

The Pony Express, with Atlantic telegraphic dates via Fort Kearney, to Feb. 2d, arrived at Carson Valley yesterday, whence the news of the passage of the Pacific Railroad bill by the Senate, was telegraphed to San Francisco. The intelligence is joyfully received, as is also the more favorable prospect of an early settlement, by compromise, of the disunion question.

A telegraphic dispatch from Los Angelos last evening, announces the arrival of the incoming overland stage, two days behind time, without any mail. The latter bags have been kept at Tucson, Arizona, on account of Indian troubles on the route.

Troops from Fort Buchanan are reported to have proceeded into the Apache country, with a prospect of protecting the mail route, so that the next stage may be expected in due time with all the delayed mail matter.

The news from the Sandwich Islands is to the 21st of January, one month later. Business at the Islands was dull, the rainy season and the absence of whalers preventing activity.

Three remarkable passages from San Francisco to Honolulu are recorded, by the Norwester and Comet, both inside of ten days, and the Fairwind, in eight days and seventeen hours, the latter being the quickest passage ever made.

The commercial statistics of the kingdom for 1860, prepared by the Collector General, are published in nearly every item. A large falling off is shown from the tables of the previous years. The causes of this decline are attributed mainly to the decrease in foreign whale ships visiting the Islands, but in part to the new tariff of 10 per cent. on merchandise of all kinds, which went into force in June 1860.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb 28.—The election for Delegates to the State Convention, and on the question whether such Convention shall be held or not, came before the people of North Carolina to-day, and returns are now coming slowly. In this city the vote stands as follows: For Union ticket 712; for Secession ticket 81; for a Convention 220; against Convention 540.

Partial reports from other precincts show similar results. In Wilmington, New Hanover county, three precincts give the convention ticket 61 majority; other precincts will largely increase this majority. The secession candidates in this city will be elected by about 1000 majority. Brunswick county is undoubtedly for a convention, and secession delegates are elected. Dublin county, three precincts gives 420 votes for the convention, and only 3 votes against it. Wayne county gives 1,000 majority for secession. Wake county, including Raleigh, gives 1,000 majority for the Union, and the majority against the holding of a convention is large.

ST. LOUIS, March 1.—Dispatches to the *Democrat* say that the State Convention met at Jefferson city, at eleven o'clock this morning. Judge Orr called the Convention to order. Judge Hamilton R. Gamble, of St. Louis, was elected temporary Chairman, J. K. Minor, of Cole, Secretary. Committees on Credentials and permanent organizations were appointed, when it being found that only seventy-five members were present, the Convention adjourned till ten o'clock. To-morrow afternoon a permanent organization will be effected. The Convention will probably adjourn to St. Louis, the Mercantile Library Hall being tendered for that purpose.

News of the adjournment of the Peace Conference, and the passage of Corwin's proposition produced a pleasant effect upon the members. Ex Gov. Sterling Price will probably be permanent President.

SACK HARBOR, March 1.—The dry goods establishment of Nelson, Harsh & Co., was destroyed by fire last night. Loss $14,000; insured for $7,000.

Speech of Mr. Lincoln at Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Mr. Lincoln was serenaded last night. He said: "My friends I suppose I may take this as a compliment paid me, and as such please accept my thanks for it. I have reached this city, Washington, under circumstances considerably differing from those under which any other man has ever reached it. I have reached it for the purpose of taking an official position amongst the people, almost all of whom were opposed to me, and are yet opposed to me, as I suppose. [Several voices, No, No.] I propose no lengthy address to you now; I only propose to say as I did on yesterday, when your worthy Mayor and Board of Aldermen called upon me, that I thought much of the ill feelings that have existed between you and the people of your surroundings, and that people from amongst whom I come, has depended and now depends, upon a misunderstanding. [Several voices that's so, and applause.] I hope that if all things shall go along as prosperously as I believe we all desire they may, I may have it in my power to remove something of this misunderstanding; [Cries of Good! Good! and loud applause,] that I may be enabled to convince you and the people of your section of the country that we regard you as in all things being our equals; in all things entitled to the same respect, and to the same treatment that we claim for ourselves; [Cries of Good! and applause,] that we are in no sense disposed, if it were in our power, to oppress you or deprive you of any of your rights, under the Constitution of the United States, or even narrowly to split hairs with you in regard to these rights. [Loud and prolonged cheering.] But we are determined to give you, so far as lies in our hands, your rights under the Constitution; not grudgingly, but fairly and fairly. [Loud cries of good, and applause.] I hope that by thus dealing with you we will become better acquainted and be better friends. [Cries of good, and applause.] And now, my friends, with these very few remarks I again return my thanks for this compliment, and expressing my desire to hear a little more of your good music, I bid you good night."

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 28.—Ex President Tyler and Mr. Seddon, delegates to the Peace Conference, were serenaded to-night on their return. Both gentlemen replied to the compliment. Mr. Tyler denounced the result of the conference as a worthless affair, and said he was satisfied that the South had nothing to hope from the Republicans. Mr. Seddon said the result of the Conference was a delusion and a sham. He considered its action as an insult and offence to the South. Lieut. Governor Montague is now making a secession speech. The secession sentiment is increasing among the people, and if any measure of secession is adopted by the North, Virginia may secede at once. The Peace Conference is generally condemned.

WILMINGTON, N. C., March 1.—The following are latest returns from the election held yesterday: Union majorities—Wake county, 1200; Rowan, 400; Davidson, 1[illegible]; Guilford, 200. In Alamance, Wayne, and Johnson counties, the majorities are large; Montgomery and Caswell counties have also given Union majorities. Returns from Brunswick, New Hanover, Wayne, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Edgecomb, Sampson, Duplin and Craven counties indicate that they have gone in favor of secession candidates, but the majorities have not been ascertained. The results for and against the Convention are indefinite.

FORT KEARNEY, March 1.—The western stage, with the U. S. mail, Buckley's express and 7 passengers passed here at 3 o'clock P. M.

Denver, Feb. 25th.—The weather is very fine. There is a great deal of building going on in this city, more than at any one time before. The Platte canon mines are making considerable stir. Many miners are leaving for the Blue, Arkansas and Platte mines, and in and beyond the South Parks.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., March 1.—Mr. Stevenson, President of the Southern Pacific Railroad, requests all stockholders to meet him at Louisville on March 14th, or at New Orleans on the 25th, as business of importance will be transacted.

FORT SMITH, March 1.—Another overland mail, which passed to-day, confirms the report of interruption at Apache Pass, by the Indians. The route is strictly guarded by troops, and no interruption is anticipated in future.

LOUISVILLE, March 1—*Evening.*—River stationary, with 8 feet 5 inches water in the canal. Weather clear and very warm all day. The thermometer now indicates 63 degrees.

DETROIT, March 1.—Gen. Cass arrived here this evening, and was received by a large concourse of friends and neighbors, who welcomed him to his old home in a hearty and gratifying manner.

IRON CITY COLLEGE, corner of Penn and St. Clair streets, [illegible] students enter at any time, and receive private instruction in all branches of study.

Professional advice given to [illegible] their books, charged to [illegible] pertaining to the subject of [illegible]

COMMERCIAL RECORD.

COMMITTEE OF ARBITRATION FOR MARCH AND APRIL.

WM. MCCREERY, V. P.

R. CAMPBELL, ISAIAH DICKEY,

R. PRESTON, S. R. McKELVY,

WM. HEARN.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

[*Reported especially for the Pittsburgh Gazette.*]

PITTSBURGH: FRIDAY, March 1, 1861.

There was but little activity manifested in the general market to-day, with no new or important feature to notice. The transactions were limited, and the few sales that were effected, were principally restricted to small lots.

FLOUR—continues quiet but firm with no essential change in rates. Sales were:

	Super.	Extra.	Ex. Fam.	Fancy
50 bbls from store			5 75	
40 " w w do		4 85	5 25 @ 5 40	
100 do w w do			5 30 @ 5 75	6 25
60 " w w do		5 25	5 75	
40 " w w do			5 75	

GROCERIES—Sugar in fair request but unchanged. Sale of 8 hhds at 7c; 3 do do at 6¾c; 6 do do at 7c. Molasses is fair local demand, while prices are irregular. Sale of 150 bbls at 35c; 10 do do at 33c—cash; 5 do do at 35@37c, 15 do do at 34c. Coffee unchanged. Sale of 20 bags at 14@14½c; 25 do do at 15¼c.

DRIED FRUIT—unchanged with a fair request. Sale of 50 bush prime Peaches at $2.20; and 50 do Apples at 80c.

BUTTER & EGGS—There is a moderate inquiry for prime Butter, and for such prices are firm: Sale of 15 boxes prime Roll at 14@15c; 1 bbl dont 14c, and 5 bbls common at 11½c ⅌ lb. Eggs—Sale of 2 bbls at 12½c.

GREEN APPLES—in good request at advanced rates. The supply in market is light. Sale of 60 bbls at $2@2.10; 10 do do at $2.

SEEDS—Clover is dull with a fair stock in market. Sale of 132 bush at $4.15 do do, very prime, at $4.25, and 5 bush Timothy at $2.

OATS—continue dull but rates are unchanged. Sale of 250 bush from depot at 25c.

WHISKEY—Sale of 2 bbls Rectified at 15c ⅌ gall.

LARD—Sale of 25 kegs country at 9c ⅌ lb.

BEANS—Sale of 20 bush White at 70c ⅌ bush.

OIL—No 1 Lard has declined 1@2c ⅌ gall. Sale of 5 bbls at 67c.

CHEESE—unchanged. Sale of 65 bxs W R at 10c.

HOMINY—Sales of 5 bbls Pearl at $5 per bbl.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

NEW ORLEANS MARKET, Feb 25.—Flour dull and prices declining; small sales of superfine at $5.25. Mess Pork is in fair demand and the market steady at $18. Lard remains dull at 10½ and 11c for bbl and keg. Bacon in good demand, and prices of Sides higher, closing at 7½c and 10¼c for shoulders and Sides. Bulk Pork is in fair demand and the market steady at 6¼ and 8¼c for shoulders and Sides. Rice—[illegible] lower, closing heavy at 21½c for 15½c for prime. Sugar is in fair demand and the market steady at rather easier; fair, fair to choice 5¼@6¾c. Molasses steady at 30c. Corn dull and prices declining; 14,000 bags sold at 52c for mixed. Sight Exchange on New York ¾ discount.

NEW YORK, Feb 27.—The money market is active, in consequence of the payments on account of the new loan. The receipts to-day at the Sub-Treasury were $1,229,449. In paper there is very little doing; the rate of call loans was 6@7 cent.

Foreign exchange closed rather firm—rates being 1 ¼ @ 108 for bankers', and 104½@106½ for mercantile bills. Francs moved at 5 33@5 37½.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES AT NEW ORLEANS, February 22d.—SUGAR—The receipts have been to a fair extent, with a moderate demand and an accumulating stock, prices have declined ¼c; fair to fully fair closing to-day at 4¾@5¼c against 4¾@5¼c on last Friday. The sales of the week have amounted to about 5500 hhds, including some to-day. We now quote as follows:

Inferior and Refining	[illegible]
Common to Good Common	3¾@4
Fair to Fully Fair	4¾@5
Prime to Choice	5¼@6
Centrifugal and Clarified	6¼@6¾

The sales for the corresponding week last year embraced about 8,00 hhds, and we quoted fair to fully fair at 6¾@7¼c.

Week's receipts 8190 hhds against 8100 for the corresponding week last year. Total receipts since the 1st of Sept., 115,599 hhds against 112,219 to the same date last year. The exports of the week have been 113 hhds.

MOLASSES—The receipts have been on a liberal scale, and with a moderate demand prices have declined 2@3c ⅌ gallon, the market opening at the commencement of the week at 29@31c for prime, to choice and closing to-day at 26@28c. Inferior selling at 18@20c, and common and fermenting at 21@23c. Half bbls ranged to-day at 29@30c. The sales up to last evening embraced some 9,000 barrels and a few hundred half bbls. To-day nothing was reported of any moment.

Week's receipts 13,560 bbls against 8,960 for the corresponding week last year. Total receipts since the 1st of September, 231,114 bbls against 223,160 to the same date last year.

The exports of the week embrace 1145 bbls.

MILWAUKEE, Feb 25.—Exchange was firm to-day at 1 ⅌ cent prem, the banks selling at all they could spare at this rate, and buying at ⅛@¼. Nothing new in money. First class paper can be negotiated readily enough, but although there is no scarcity of currency, the regular houses strictly limit their discounts to the offerings of that description of paper.

To-day's transactions do not exhibit any important change in the aspect of the wheat market. Buyers insist on maintaining a difference of 8c between the two standard grades of spring wheat, offering 71c for No 1 and 83c for No 2. Spring in store. As was the case yesterday, receivers were rather disposed to hold their wheat, and the sales reported at these figures do not, change, did not exceed 9,000 bushels. The decreased receipts give millers an opportunity to buy to supply their demands, as they are buying very little, and consequently the better quality wheat was selling at relatively lower prices than the standard grades, Club and Milwaukee bringing only 3@4c.... Flour was firmer in consequence of the decline in railroad freights, but there was not much on the market, and we could hear of only a couple of small lots at $4.10 for fair country extra.

CHICAGO PRODUCE AND PROVISION TRADE.—The receipts and shipments of Flour, Grain, Live Stock, Provisions &c. by all the Railroads leading out of the city during the past week were as follows:

	Received.	Shipped.
Flour, bbls	22,806	13,853
Wheat, bu	103,618	9,673
Corn, bu	114,601	4,573
Oats, bu	31,0 3	10,326
Rye, bu	6,118	
Barley, bu	[illegible]	
Pork, bbls	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cut Meats, lbs	1,179	9,483
Lard, lbs	408,485	1,651,852
Tallow, lbs	270,017	393,602
Live Hogs, No	3,049	1,980
Dressed Hogs, No	2,489	443
Beef Cattle, No	4,153	631
Hides, lbs	1,677	1,360

The receipts for the last week, as compared with the previous, show a decrease of 10,000 bushels of flour, 30,000 bushels of corn, 12,000 bbls pork, 100,000 lbs cut meats, 120,000 lbs lard, 1,600 hogs, and 200 beef cattle; with an increase of 20,000 bushels wheat, 14,000 bushels oats, 3,500 bushels barley and 11,000 lbs seeds.

The following table shows the receipts of flour, grain, &c since the 1st of January last as compared with those of the two years previous:

	1861.	1860.	1859.
Flour, bbls	112,441	60,481	47,473
Wheat, bu	913,473	412,678	154,261
Corn, bu	1,223,121	1,066,161	243,876
Oats, bu	67,176	151,760	67,199
Rye, bu	11,644	27,362	9,657
Barley, bu	53,554	65,153	42,807
Dressed Hogs, No	108,107	43,153	26,696

Imports by River.

WHEELING—per 8 Caker—25 bbls apples, H J Burchfield; 25 kgs lard, W A Reid; 3341 feet lumber, [illegible] 1 bbl eggs, A 1 keg wool, M J. Lynch; 38 bbls oil, Forsyth & Bro; 14 half bbls, Spencer & Garrard; 1 bag wool, Fleming & Torrens; 8 bales hops, H. W. Smith; 89 bbls apples, D Montgomery; 103 skcs corn, Theo Ball & co; 9 bgs rags; 22 bbls whisky, etc. [illegible]

NEW ORLEANS—per Prima Donna—[illegible] 180 bars, 2 bales, 10 pcs copper, [illegible] W H Kirkpatrick & co; [illegible] 35 do do, 40 bbls molasses, [illegible] & co; [illegible] P H Miller; 14 hhds sugar, [illegible] molasses, Heed & Metzgar; 10 bbls sugar, Shriver & Dilworth; 180 drg hides, Hair & Davidson; 181 do do, [illegible] & co; 55 do hides and sundries, Wm H Bays & co; 1 bale batting, 2 hx hardware, Clark & co; 27 sks fruit, [illegible] de feathers, 1 bdl sheep skins, 1 Dickey & co; 3 bead mules M Devitt.

RIVER NEWS.

The weather yesterday was cloudy, sultry and warm, with strong indications last evening of rain. The river remains stationary with 9 feet by the pier mark. Business on the landing, for the sport, [illegible] however, appeared to be in excess of the receipts. The R. C. Baker from Wheeling and Prima Donna from New Orleans were the only arrivals, while beyond the regular packets there was not a solitary departure. The Prima Donna had a moderate freight list, consisting principally of sugar and molasses.

The MUSKETT is the regular packet for Wheeling to-day. She leaves at 10 A. M. The HASTINGS, Capt. Robinson, is filling up rapidly and will be ready to clear for Memphis this evening. The ST. LOUIS, Capt. Reno, will get off for Nashville to-day. Persons intending to visit the South [illegible] will consult their own interest by taking passage on this boat.

CHICAGO MARKET, Feb. 27.—Eastern Exchange continues firm at ¾@1 ⅌ cent prem. Currency in good supply and limited demand. Gold quiet. Discredited Illinois currency 25 ⅌ cent discount. Bank Exchange and Arctic Bank, Wis., 13 ⅌ cent discount.

The Wheat market opened buoyant with a good speculative demand, and prices advanced ⅛@¼c, but towards the close buyers were less anxious, and the market was quiet at 75c for No 2 spring in store. There was a fair inquiry for Flour, and the market was active at yesterday's quotations. Corn quiet and unchanged. Oats nominal at 17c. Rye and Barley unchanged.

Dressed Hogs scarce and advanced 5c. Provisions dull. Timothy Seed firm and active. Cloverseed dull.

TELEGRAPHIC MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Cotton quiet; sales of 400 bales; prices nominal. Flour heavy; 8500 bbls sold at $5 70@5 15 for State, $5 40@5 60 for Western, and $5 60@5 65 for southern. Wheat quiet; 20,000 bush sold at $1 50 for red western, and $1 60 for white. Corn quiet; 20,000 bush sold at 69@70c for old, and 64@66c for new.

CINCINNATI, March 1.—Flour dull and lower; sales of 800 bbls. There is no change in Grain. Whisky steady; Provisions firm; the prices of Pork and Bacon are tending upward. Mess Pork at $17. There is a good demand for bulk pork. Lard dull. Groceries firm at full prices. Coffee at 13@14c. Molasses quiet and unchanged.

PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—Flour is firm; sales of superfine at $5 37, and extra family at $5 75@$6, to trade the range being $5 25@5 62 for common and extra, and $5 75@6 25 for extra family, and $6 37 for fancy. Wheat is unchanged; sales of red at $1 30@1 35, and white at $1 40@1 45. Corn in better demand; [illegible] Provisions dull. Mess pork sells at $17 50. Whiskey steady at 18@18½c.

BALTIMORE, March 1.—Flour firm; Ohio and Howard street held at $5 50. Wheat firm; red at $1 25, and white at $1 40. Corn active at 56@60c for yellow, and 56@60c for white. Provisions steady. Mess pork sells at $17. Lard firm at 10¼c. Whisky firm at 18½c.

WOODSIDE & PARRY, REFINERS AND DEALERS IN CARBON OIL, No. [illegible] MINA STREET, between Grant and Water St. [illegible] PITTSBURGH, PA.

SAPONIFIER! Important to Families! Save Time, Trouble, and Expense. THE BEST ARTICLE IN THE MARKET FOR MAKING SOFT SOAP! One pound equal to six pounds POTASH!! For Sale at Wholesale by Penn'a. Salt Manufact'g. Co. PITTSBURGH, PA. And by all Druggists & Grocers in the United States.

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINE! No. 27 FIFTH STREET, PITTSBURGH. FAIRS OF 1860! WHEELER & WILSON Awarded the First Premium at the United States Fair; Ohio State Fair; Illinois State Fair; Wisconsin State Fair; Iowa State Fair; Kentucky State Fair; Tennessee State Fair; New Jersey State Fair; Vermont State Fair; Chicago Mechanics' Institute; Louisville Mechanics' Institute; Cincinnati Mechanics' Institute; Allegheny County Fair, Pittsburgh, and other County Fairs, too numerous to mention. We offer to the public WHEELER & WILSON'S IMPROVED SEWING MACHINE, AT REDUCED PRICES, with increased confidence in its merits as the best and most reliable Family Sewing Machine now in use. [illegible] WM. SUMNER.

IRON BATHS, Copper Baths, Lead Baths, Wooden Baths, Iron Sinks, Copper Sink. Iron Portable Wash Stands, Marble-Top Wash Stands, Lead Pipe, Block Tin Pipe, Iron Hydrants, Pumps, Hydraulic Rams, Garden Engines, Chandeliers, Pendants, Fancy Portables, Glass and Paper Shades, &c. For sale by BAILEY, FARRELL & CO., No. 123 Fourth street, near Smithfield.

HENRY ERBEN, ORGAN MANUFACTURER, KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND CHURCH AND PARLOR ORGANS, OF EVERY SIZE AND DESCRIPTION. [illegible] The above dimensions are for Grecian cases; if Gothic cases, they will be somewhat higher. For further information, apply to HENRY ERBEN, New York, or JOHN H. MELLOR, 81 Wood st.

ARCHITECTURAL. JAMES H. BALPH, late assistant to Chas. Bartberger, Esq., prepares PLANS, DRAWINGS and SPECIFICATIONS for all kinds of buildings [illegible] OFFICE ON ANDERSON STREET, between Lacock and Robinson streets, ALLEGHENY.

CRANBERRIES—12 bbls. in prime order, for sale by HENRY H. COLLINS.

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RICHARDSON'S IRISH LINENS, DAMASKS, DIAPERS, &C. CONSUMERS OF RICHARDSON'S LINENS, and those desirous of obtaining the GENUINE GOODS, should see that the articles they purchase are sealed with the full name of the firm, J. N. RICHARDSON, SONS & OWDEN, as a guarantee of the soundness and durability of the Goods. This caution is rendered essentially necessary, as large quantities of inferior and defective Linens are prepared, season after season, and sealed with the name of RICHARDSON, by Irish Houses, who, regardless of the injury thus inflicted alike on the American consumer and the manufacturers of the genuine Goods, will not readily abandon a business so profitable, while purchasers can be imposed on with Goods of a worthless character. J. BULLOCKE & J. S. LOCKE, Agents, 36 Reade Street, New York.

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ANOTHER CURE BY DR. SCHENCK.—I called on Dr. Schenck some time ago in one of his visits to Pittsburgh, at the office of Dr. Keyser, No. 140 Wood st. He was examining patients with lung disease. One of my lungs and the bronchial tubes were found to be badly diseased. Oftentimes when I coughed I expectorated blood and matter in large quantities. [illegible] MARTIN KOCH. [illegible]

I, WILLIAM W. ALEXANDER, residing on Ann street, Allegheny city, do hereby certify that I have been a sufferer from severe cough and pain in the breast for about eight years. [illegible] DR. GEORGE H. KEYSER, 140 Wood st.

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SOFT-FINISH SHIRTING MUSLINS. [illegible] Soft-Finish Bleached Muslins, and Irish Linens [illegible]

FOR KEOKUK.—The steamer DIADEM, Captain T. Rogers, will leave as above on WEDNESDAY, March 6th, at 4 o'clock p. m. FLACK, BARNES & CO., Agents.

FOR CAIRO AND MEMPHIS.—The steamer ANGLO SAXON, Captain Dalzell, will leave as above on WEDNESDAY, March 6th, at 4 o'clock p. m. FLACK, BARNES & CO., Agts.

FOR CAIRO, HICKMAN AND MEMPHIS.—The splendid passenger steamer HASTINGS, R. Robinson, Master. Andrew Cleary, Clerk, will leave for the above and all intermediate ports on SATURDAY, 2nd inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M. For freight or passage apply on board or to FLACK, BARNES & CO., Agents.

FOR NASHVILLE.—The fast running Passenger Steamer ST. LOUIS, Captain J. Reno, Clerk Cooley, leaves on SATURDAY, the 2nd inst. For freight or passage apply on board, or to FLACK, BARNES & CO., Agts.

Regular Weekly Packet. For Wheeling, Marietta, Parkersburg, Pomeroy, Point Pleasant, Gallipolis, Gyandotte, Catlettsburgh, Ironton and Portsmouth. THE new and elegant steamer, BALLIE [illegible], Capt. J. Thurston Russell, will leave Pittsburgh [illegible] WEDNESDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock. [illegible] FLACK, BARNES & CO., Agts.

REGULAR TUESDAY PACKET FOR ZANESVILLE.—The steamer EMMA GRAHAM, Capt. [illegible] FLACK, BARNES & CO.

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UDOLPHO WOLFE'S PURE MADEIRA WINE, Imported and bottled by himself, [illegible] This wine is [illegible]

UDOLPHO WOLFE'S PURE JAMAICA RUM, ST. CROIX RUM, SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKY. All the above imported and [illegible] TO THE PUBLIC. I will stake my reputation as a man, my standing as a merchant of thirty years' residence [illegible] UDOLPHO WOLFE. Sole Manufacturer and Importer of the Schiedam Schnapps. 18, 20 and 22 Beaver Street, New York. For sale by [illegible]

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COAL, NUT COAL, SLACK, [illegible] HAVING purchased the [illegible]