Pittsburgh Gazette.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 24, 1861.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, 55 Fifth street,—corrected daily:

	IN SUN	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	00	35
12 " M.	111	34
6 " P. M.	11	30
Barometer,	29	3-10

Republican City Ticket.

FOR MAYOR—B. C. SAWYER, JR.
FOR CONTROLLER—JOHN McCARGO.
FOR TREASURER—WM. EICHBAUM.

FOR SALE.—We have about 2,000 weight of old type, which we will sell for cash. Also, a large lot of brass rule, etc.

The Grand Jury and the County Finances--Important to Tax-Payers.

At the opening of the December term of the Court of Quarter Sessions, yesterday, Judge Mellon delivered a very able charge to the Grand Jury, in which he laid before them a full exhibit of the condition of the County Finances, in hopes that they might be able to devise some plan to lessen the burthen of taxation, especially as regards our railroad liabilities. We would be pleased to lay the document in full before our readers, but a press of matter confines us to an abstract of its most important features:

"The entire assessed value of taxable property of all kinds within the county and the two cities is $27,955,093. This property is all subject to county rates and levies, and is divided as regards the cities and rural district of the county as follows, viz:

Rural district, including all boroughs and villages	$13,615,586
City of Pittsburgh	10,634,703
Allegheny City	3,703,641
Total	$27,955,093

"The next matter for examination is our debts and liabilities. The county debt is as follows:

Proper County Debt	$ 202,547
County Railroad Debt	2,300,000
Interest now due on Railroad Debt	816,380
Costs on Railroad suits	2,124
Total	$3,321,051

"The two cities constitute a little more than half the county in value, and consequently have to bear a proportionate amount of this burden, besides the particular debt of each. The proportionate amount of this indebtedness resting upon the rural districts of the county is $1,617,608. Some of the boroughs and towns in the rural districts, however, have their own separate railroad and other special debts, as well as the cities. The exact amount of the burden, as near as may be, of each city, is as follows, viz:

CITY OF PITTSBURGH.—	
Proper debt	$1,034,620
Proportionate share of county debt	1,265,450
City Railroad debt	1,800,000
Interest now due on city Railroad debt	540,000
Costs on Railroad suits, about	3,000
Total	$4,641,070
ALLEGHENY CITY.—	
Proper city debt	$487,153
Proportionate share of county debt	440,938
City railroad debt	400,000
Interest due on city railroad debt	96,330
Costs on Railroad suits, about	811
Total	$1,423,961

"The aggregate indebtedness of the cities and county is, therefore, as follows:

Rural districts of the county	$1,617,608
City of Pittsburgh	4,641,070
Allegheny city	1,423,694
Total aggregate	$7,682,642

"By comparison of the foregoing valuation and estimates you will perceive that about one-thirteenth part of the county property, and one-third part of the Allegheny city property, and nearly one-half part of the property in the city of Pittsburgh, belongs to our county and municipal creditors."

Judge Mellon then goes on to say that the borough and township "local debts" are not included in the above; neither have the yearly taxes for ordinary expenses, and county and city purposes, entered at all into the calculation. To complete the financial chart, he takes the estimates of the County Controller, Mr. Lambert, upon the basis of a valuation of $27,000,000, and the tax for the ensuing year foots up the *enormous aggregate of 62 mills*. Thus:

For ordinary county purposes for next year	5 mills.
For railroad bond interest now due	33 "
School tax, (average)	8½ "
Poor tax, (average)	1½ "
City taxes, for local and other purposes, averaged as	2 "
State tax proper	2½ "
State tax, special, for $3,000,000 loan	½ "
Relief tax for volunteers, (last year's assessment being uncollected)	4 "
Direct tax, say	3 "
Grand total	62 mills.

In each of the cities an assessment to meet the interest on its own special railroad debt must be added to the foregoing. Interest on all the railroad debt is payable semi-annually, and the principal is due at about twenty years hence. You have seen that to pay the county railroad interest due requires 33 mills, and subsequently, for accruing interest, 6½ mills per annum. Besides this it requires to meet the interest due from the city of Pittsburgh, 50 mills, and 10 mills for the accruing interest afterwards; and for Allegheny city, 30 mills, and 6½ mills afterwards. The aggregate taxes for all purposes next year is therefore as follows:

In the rural districts of the county	62 mills.
In the city of Pittsburgh	112 "
In Allegheny city	92 "

"After the present accrued interest is paid, and this year's two mill relief tax is paid, the aggregate for all purposes will be:

For the rural districts	30½ mills.
City of Pittsburgh	40½ "
Allegheny city	37 "

Judge Mellon, after remarking that next year's taxation will be about double the average income of real estate, refers to our railroad bond suits, by which, in the main, the bonds have been held to be valid. He referred at length to the decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Dimond vs. Lawrence county, in which it is held that, in equity, the bondholders can only recover upon the amount actually paid for the bonds. We quote as follows:

"This, in my humble opinion, affords a very important remedy to this tax-ridden community. In few instances did our bonds bring their par, or their limited value to the respective companies. In most instances they were parted with, as we all know, at ruinous sacrifices. In some, nay many instances, hypothecated and sold at nominal prices; in other instances, purloined or embezzled. One instance has fallen within our knowledge, when two hundred thousand dollars of the Commonwealth bonds netted the company just twenty-nine and one-half cents on the dollar; and some other instances of smaller amounts, where less was obtained.

"As the proceeding necessary to apply this remedy would probably be by bill in the Supreme Court, making the bondholders and railroad company, and city, or county, parties, and enjoining a suspension of all other suits, elsewhere, and a stay of proceedings to levy the tax for the full nominal amount until the real amount is settled and ascertained, the saving in the matter of costs alone would be immense. As it stands now, every bondholder brings his separate suit on his particular coupons—and as in such suit the remedy indicated above can hardly be applied, and whether or not, suits and costs are accumulated to an oppressive extent."

The subject of a compromise is next discussed, and commended to the consideration of the Grand Jury. A Convention of the People is also suggested, to consult in reference to the matter, but above all, speedy action of some kind is urged, as the treasuries are now practically in the hands of the Sheriff or United States Marshal. To show that there is no way of escape, the Judge says:

"Ground rents and first mortgages must stand back till the bondholder's claims are satisfied out of the fund. And if the property does not sell for enough to satisfy his claim in full, it can be sold over again in the hands of the purchaser to satisfy the arrearage, and may be sold over and over again, year after year, as often as interest or principal falls due, until the whole is satisfied. No other incumbrance is endowed with such attributes; and no exemption law protects against its rapacity. The tax gatherer may sell the blanket that protects your sick child from the storm, and then lodge you in a cell in the county jail. Such is the effect of holding such debt, to be estimated and collected as rates and levies for other tax purposes are collected; and here the necessity for prompt action, to obtain the best terms that may be had, or to redeem our liability to its minimum; and there is no occasion for reflections against the bondholder. It is not his fault that we are in such predicament."

Judge Mellon also calls the attention of the Grand Jury to a minor matter, which it might be well for them to investigate—to wit: the reported appropriation of $5,000, out of the county funds, to defray the expenses incurred by a late Board of County Commissioners in resisting the decrees of the Supreme Court. This matter will doubtless be attended to, and the facts given to the public.

We may state, in this connection, that should the present Grand Jury act upon the suggestions of the Court, and file a Bill in Equity in the Supreme Court, the next step will be to stay all proceedings upon railroad bonds, until the bill is finally disposed of. This can be done by an injunction from the United States Circuit Court, and time will thus be given for negotiations tending towards a compromise, should the bondholders choose to treat with their creditors in this matter.

Should a basis of compromise be fixed, however, the Grand Jury could call a Convention of the People, as suggested by Judge Mellon, and have the matter ratified by the public voice. Either alternative must be taken quickly, as our necessities demand prompt action. The Grand Jury is composed of good and prudent men—many of them men of intelligence and great practical ability—and it is hoped that they may be able to do something to relieve us from the railroad incubus.

The Battle at Drainesville---Additional Details.

A Washington correspondent gives some interesting additional details of the battle at Drainesville, which has earned such high praise for our gallant Pennsylvania troops. We quote as follows:

From prisoners taken it was ascertained that the rebels had information the previous night that General Ord's foraging party were coming out in the morning, and the force under Colonel Hunter, of the Tenth Alabama regiment, started from Centreville for the purpose of making the attack. They left Centreville about the same time that General Ord started from his camp.

After the foragers had been set at work, Gen. Ord's command was proceeding along the Leesburg pike to Drainesville, some distance beyond. The advance had already entered the village, and the "Bucktails" were about to do so, when a rebel field battery of six guns was discovered unlimbering upon a road leading from Centreville into the Leesburg pike, a short distance from Drainesville. The position of the battery was about three hundred yards from the pike, and just within the edge of a dense wood, between which and the pike the ground had been cleared, but was covered with rank undergrowth. At the same moment rebel infantry were discovered occupying a grove, of about a quarter of an acre in extent, upon the left of the battery, and about half way between it and the pike. These were subsequently ascertained to be the First Kentucky regiment, commanded by Col. Tom Taylor, of Frankfort. The principal part of this regiment is from Louisville.

The "Bucktail" regiment, under Lieut. Col. Kane, was immediately directed to charge upon this thicket. It was gallantly done. The rebels reserved their fire until the "Bucktails" were within fifty yards; but the Pennsylvanians did not return the fire until they had approached about twenty yards nearer, when they delivered a stunning volley, which completely put to flight the party in the grove.

In the meantime other regiments—the Ninth, Tenth and Sixth Pennsylvania reserves—were formed, skirmishers were thrown out on either side, and a charge was made through the cleared ground towards the wood, which was occupied by the rebel battery, supported by the Eleventh Kentucky and Tenth Alabama regiments and a body of cavalry. At the same moment that the infantry was ordered to form, Captain Easton placed his four guns in position on the right of the pike, immediately opposite the opening of the road from Centreville, and precisely opposite the rebel battery. Captain Easton commenced firing briskly. His first shell struck one of the enemy's caissons and caused an explosion of its contents, by which several of the rebels were killed and wounded. Our four guns were worked with wonderful rapidity and precision. The enemy's balls and shells came thick and fast, but were fired too high. One of them burst immediately over Easton's battery, but most of them passed over and struck in a ploughed field behind. Not a single one of our artillerymen was wounded. The rebels retired before the charge, and Captain Easton moved up two of his guns to the position the rebel battery had originally occupied.

After the battle, a party was detailed to collect the dead and wounded of the enemy. Fifty-seven dead were collected, and twenty-two wounded were brought from the field. Three of them died while they were being removed, and fifteen others of them were mortally wounded. Eight unwounded prisoners were taken. Among the dead was one second lieutenant of the First Kentucky regiment.

From the prisoners it was learned that several officers were killed, but they had been carried from the field. Among them was Colonel Taylor. A number of dead soldiers were also carried away, and all of the wounded who could bear removal. In the grove first occupied by Colonel Taylor's regiment there were found twenty-one dead bodies. In the vicinity of the rebel battery, at which the fire of our artillery was chiefly directed, the bodies were much mangled, some of them with the heads completely shot away.

Our men behaved most gallantly. Early in the action one of the "Buck Tails" had his cheek shot away by a shell, but fought on to the conclusion of the battle. Lieut. Col. Kane was slightly wounded in the cheek by a fragment of a shell.

The rebels were provided with an abundance of provisions in their haversacks, composed of boiled fresh beef and biscuits, such as the soldiers take for themselves. Their clothing was principally cotton cloth. Their overcoats were of gray cotton, lined with heavy Oensburg.

Some hundred yards in the rear of the original position of the rebel battery was found an immense pile of blankets, overcoats, revolvers, haversacks, and other luggage, showing that the rebels had stripped for the fight, and had not time to stop to pick up their traps in their flight.

The Concert.

The grand concert announced for Thursday evening will doubtless concentrate an overflowing audience at Lafayette Hall, and we have every reason to believe that those who attend will enjoy a rich musical treat. The St. Louis *Republican* thus speaks of Md'me. Crivelli and her talented assistants:

"Md'me. Crivelli, we can only briefly say at present, seemed last evening to be a pretty young lady, very nearly hid in a voluminous yellow silk dress, with a voice of much sweetness, and one of that character which develops new beauties upon a more intimate acquaintance. Her 'Home sweet Home,' which she sang in response to an *encore*, gave great satisfaction to the audience, and seemed better calculated to display the richness of her voice than her previous selections from Verdi and Donizetti. Judging from all the circumstances attending this, her first appearance in this city, it is safe to conclude that in the event the intended programme of the management is carried out, Md'me. Crivelli will become highly popular in the estimation of music-loving St. Louisans. Of the other artistes, it is sufficient to say they are all first class. Garalaldi is truly a splendid basso, Ardavani a charming baritone, and Wolowski a great pianist."

Committed for Murder.

We noticed, a few days since, the discovery of the remains of a female in the canal, in Duquesne borough, and the subsequent identification at the cemetery, where the body was about to be interred. The unfortunate woman, it was ascertained, was the wife of a huckster named McGreely, and resided with him at Butcher's Run, near the toll gate. Previous to the identification, an inquest was held by the Coroner, and the conclusion arrived at was that she had accidentally fell into the canal and was drowned. Since that time, however, circumstances have come to light which indicate that the husband knew more about the matter than he was willing to reveal. He was the last person with her on the evening of her death, and it does seem strange that he knew nothing as to her whereabouts, how she got there, or what induced her to go so far out of her way. He was arrested yesterday and committed for a hearing before Mayor Drum, which takes place to-day.

Removal of Mrs. Charlotte Blume--Splendid Instruments.

Any one interested in musical matters will be richly repaid by a call, at this time, at the new and splendidly furnished rooms of Mrs. Charlotte Blume, No. 43 Fifth street, Patterson's new building. The front store has been fitted up expressly as a sales-room for musical instruments, music, books, &c., while the spacious rooms up stairs are richly decorated with pianos just received. The splendid Knabe & Co. pianos are prominent there. We also find a superb Concert Grand Piano, famous for the magnificence of its tone. These instruments are now selling largely, it being difficult to supply the demand. There are also a few splendid Square ones, with all the late and important improvements. What an opportunity to gladden the youthful hearts by a purchase of some of those fine instruments for holiday presents.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Incidents of the Battle of Drainesville.

Lieut. George W. Pierce, of Company C, Thirty-Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, (9th reserves,) has arrived at home on furlough, and having been in the battle at Drainesville, gives some interesting incidents of the engagement.

Col. Kane's "Buck Tail Rifles" were in advance of the foraging expedition, as skirmishers, and first encountered the enemy in the woods. They fell back on Col. Jackson's regiment, which was immediately ordered to take the advance. When the timber was reached, the enemy was discovered only about twenty-five yards distant, but the Thirty-Eighth feared to fire, thinking that the men so closely upon them might be the "Buck Tails," who had been sent to flank the enemy. Capt. Galway (of the Government Guards) demanded the men to show their colors, when a secession flag was displayed, and a volley fired into the Pittsburgh boys, who returned it with vigor, standing in line of battle and firing at will. The enemy fired three volleys, without wounding a man on our side, while our boys did good execution. Then the fight opened.

Private Sexton, of Co. E., (Chartiers Valley Guards) who was killed in the battle, was a resident of Pittsburgh, and the only one killed from this vicinity. The other man killed in this regiment (private Stockdale) was a member of Capt. Dick's company, from Crawford county.

Lieut. Pierce states that Corporal Alex. Smith, of Co. A, (Pittsburgh Rifles) was wounded in the breast, and it is feared he cannot survive. He resided in Allegheny city.

Colonel Jackson, Lieut. Colonel Anderson, Major Snodgrass and Captains Shannon, Dick, Brookbank, Barnes, Galway and Robertson, all distinguished themselves in the action. At the first fire, Lieut. Col. Anderson's horse took fright and threw him; he rose and with commendable coolness led his men forward on foot. Col. Jackson also dismounted and went into the fight on foot, urging on his command nobly, though this was scarcely necessary, as every man seemed "eager for the fray." Major Snodgrass' horse was wounded early in the engagement, and he was obliged to dismount, but never forgot his duties. The men were under circumstances of personal courage and daring, and not a man was seen to flinch. Pennsylvania may well feel proud of the victory gained by her stalwart sons at Drainesville.

Seven privates of Capt. Galway's company were slightly wounded, four of Capt. Dick's, and five of Capt. Shannon's (Co. E, Iron City Guards), viz: Privates Barker, Stewart, Ernest, Logan and McKee, none, however, being seriously injured.

Private Stewart had his haversack string and canteen cut away by a ball, which passed through the wadding of his coat and under his arm (inflicting a slight flesh wound), which was raised in the act of loading his piece. Another member of the same company had his musket bent nearly double by a Minnie ball, which lodged in the barrel while he had his piece in a position to cap. Finding his piece useless he threw it over his shoulder, seized one belonging to the enemy and still took his part in the fight. Lieut. Pierce brought the gun home as a momento of the fight.

Decease of Another Soldier.

Private John Hoffman, of Co. B, Colonel Black's Regiment, died on Monday last, and his body has been sent here for enterment. A correspondent of the *Post* wites as follows, under date of the 17th inst:

"The day has been bright and beautiful, but my thoughts have been gloomy, and my heart is sad. I have just returned from Washington, where I went to send the corpse of Corporal John Hoffman, of Co. B, to his poor mother in Birmingham. He died on Monday morning, at 4 o'clock, after about ten days sickness. The disease at first was typoid fever, but a few hours before his death, hemorrhage of the bowels set in, which carried him off despite the efforts of the surgeon. The sudden 'flow drop' has ceased to sparkle on the wave of time, another "lamb" has gone to enter the fold above, and another brother, so young, scarce twenty years, whom we all loved, has been taken from my own company. No wonder I feel sad. This is thirty men lost out of the regiment by death.

An Extensive and Well-Selected Stock of Books.

We have been much pleased by a visit to the Bookstore of Mr. R. S. DAVIS, Wood street, corner of Diamond Alley. On the counters and along the shelves we find a most extensive and well-selected stock of American and English Books. The editions of both Home and Foreign works are as choice, as the authors are standard and unexceptionable. R. S. Davis has some peculiar facilities by which he is enabled to keep a full stock of imported books, having a direct correspondence with one of the leading London Houses in the Trade, Messrs. Routledge, Warnes & Routledge. Their books, which are amongst the most elegant and popular of the day, are constantly received on publication, in all their varied styles of binding. A most attractive stock of Juvenile Books, both of Home and Foreign production, is here offered to the public, also of Illustrated Editions of standard Authors, from which Good Nature, Liberality, Friendship and Affection may select the Gifts and Offerings which the genial requirements of the season demand.

Embalming Bodies at Washington.

Mr. James Onslow, attached to Col. Black's Regiment, in a late letter to the *Post*, gives the following useful information:

"For the information of those of your readers who may be unfortunate enough to loose friends in the army, and who desire to have their bodies sent home, I would state that the embalming process has been brought to great perfection in Washington, by Dr. Thomas Holmes, who, in connection with Mr. Anthony Buchly, undertaker, will embalm and forward bodies to any part of the Union. I have witnessed the operation, as well as its effects and can testify to the fact of the design being fully accomplished. The corpse retains, for an indefinite period, its natural and life-like appearance, while it is also entirely free from any unpleasant odor. The cost of embalming is now less than formerly, being only fifteen dollars, while a coffin of any style or price desired will be furnished. The Adams Express Company charge twenty-five dollars for transportation from Washington to Pittsburgh.

The Crimtnal Court.

The Court of Quarter Sessions met this morning at ten o'clock, when the Grand Jury for the December term was sworn. J. W. Blackburn was chosen Foreman, after which Judge Mellon delivered an important charge, the substance of which is elsewhere reported. We have already published the names of the gentlemen composing the Grand Jury.

After receiving the returns of such constables as were ready to report, and disposing of the usual business in the Register's Court, the Court adjourned until Tuesday morning.

THE CHRISTMAS STORIES OF CHARLES DICKENS; TWO VOLUMES; HOUSEHOLD EDITION.—Mr. R. S. Davis, Wood street, has laid on our table one of the most beautiful Christmas presents which the season can produce. So exquisite a style of production of so exquisite a series of stories as these, fully justifies us in saying so much in behalf of these volumes. Every story in this series of Christmas Books has already delighted thousands and tens of thousands of readers; but they are as fresh in their interest, as genial in their spirit, as pleasant in their vein of story-telling power, as ever—nor will a reperusal, especially with such luxurious adjuncts of type and paper as this edition presents, be less than a renewing of past delight, to either old or young. We heartily commend the Christmas Stories as one of the most appropriate gift-books of the season.

HARPER FOR JANUARY.—Mr. W. A. Gildenfonney, Fifth street, near Wood, has received the January number of this widely-read and ever interesting magazine. The contents, this month, will be found quite up to the mark, both in point of variety and value. The illustrations, as usual, are an attractive feature in Harper—and some of those in the number before us, are fine specimens of the woodcutter's art.

DEATH OF SOLDIERS.—The following soldiers have died near Washington since our last report: Thomas Harpster, 5th Pennsylvania Reserve Corps; Frederick Knocks, 23d Pennsylvania; Abel Frasier, 46th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Captain L. Hillebrand and Townsend Williams, 23d Pennsylvania; Henry Dunlap, 13th Pennsylvania.

Why our "Big Guns" are not Used.

It has been a matter of surprise to many why the two mammoth guns, made at the Fort Pitt Works, in this city, have never been put to any use. A correspondent, writing from Washington, gives the reason—that "no apparatus has yet been devised for mounting them!" These guns, which are perhaps the largest in the world, are beginning to excite some attention, in view of a war with England. The corresponden t alluded to, says:

"While the report of the board of naval captains upon iron-clad armed steamers says that the latter cannot reduce a well-constructed fort, it is admitted, in the same quarter, that such vessels as the Black Warrior and La Gloire, can safely pass the forts that are erected for defence of our great harbor. In other words, the guns are not of sufficient calibre to destroy the iron shield of said ships, and of others like them. It is a matter of doubt whether the celebrated eleven-inch gun of Capt. Dahlgren would effect such an object, even if rifled, and while it is thought that the fifteen-inch Rodman gun, (throwing a four hundred pound ball,) *might*, if put in position, it is stated that no apparatus has yet been devised for properly mounting and working it. There are two of this class of ordnance at Fortress Monroe. If, then, a war with England is to be precipitated upon us, it will become necessary at once to obstruct the channels to the harbors of the country."

Are these mammoth guns to rust in the sand at Fortress Monroe, for want of the means to use them? Pittsburgh ingenuity will mount the guns, if the Government but speaks the word.

PANORAMA OF THE WAR.—This beautiful panorama, illustrating the fall of Sumter, and all the most prominent battles which have taken place up till quite recently, was exhibited for the first time in this city last evening, at Masonic Hall. It is said to be a very fine work of art, and will doubtless, as it deserves, draw large and appreciative audiences every evening. Those of our readers who wish to spend an evening both profitably and pleasantly, cannot do better than visit Masonic Hall.

A LIGHTENING TRICK PANTOMIME, called the "Night Owl," will so produced at the theatre to-night, after a week's rehearsal, with splendid new dresses, scenery, properties, etc. Mr. Maffit personates the clown, which should satisfy all that it will only be necessary to visit the theatre to enjoy a hearty laugh. "Beauty and the Beast," a musical piece, will also be performed to-night. To-morrow afternoon a performance will be given at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

CHRISTMAS snow has fallen and covers the ground, the weather is gotting very cold; to enjoy a good comfortable fire is a desideratum, but a good warm bed is an article of great necessity. Mr. J. M. Burchfield has received a large assortment of country blankets, all wool, a prime article to be sure, and sells them very cheap for cash. Our readers, having a desire to make themselves comfortable, will give him a call.

ALLITERATION.—The following names belong to one family in Jefferson county. We suppose it is not equaled in alliteration in the State. Six brothers, each with a double name, and each part commencing the letter L! Here are the names: Lucius Lemsom Lockwood, Lewis Leffet Lockwood, Levi Lambert Lockwood, Limon Luther Lockwood, Lester Lafayette Lockwood, Livingston Leroy Lockwood.

THE CASE OF GEN. BENHAM.—A Washington correspondent says: Gen. Benham has returned to Western Virginia, and has called a Court of Inquiry upon the charge of inefficiency in his late pursuit of Gen. Floyd. In army circles Gen. B. is uniformly spoken of as a very capable officer.

GO AT ONCE—DON'T DELAY—IT CAN'T LAST LONG.—If you are wanting, or are likely soon to want Dry Goods, of any kind, go at once to Barker & Co.'s, 69 Market street. They have not yet raised their prices, but the pressure is so great and prices are advancing so rapidly, that they must soon either advance their prices or rest under the imputation of wanting common prudence. Go, then, at once, and do all your buying, both for the present and for the future also, if it is convenient, and our word for it you will make a great saving.

NOW IS THE TIME to purchase winter clothing, and to our readers who desire to do so, we would commend the establishment of Messrs. Wm. H. M'Gee & Co., corner of Federal street and the Diamond, Allegheny City. They have now on hand a full stock of ready-made clothing, and having an experienced cutter and a large selection of suitable goods, they are also prepared to make men's and boy's clothing to order in any desired style, at short notice, and on the most reasonable terms.

PROMOTED.—D. M. Mullen, well known in this vicinity, has been appointed Forage Master of the Springfield Depot, located about 12 miles from Alexandria. Mr. M. is a resident of the Fourth Ward, Allegheny, and his promotion is an evidence of his skill and capacity.

ATTENTION, COMPANY.—Volunteers who expect to retain their health unimpaired during the campaign, must see to it themselves; do not trust to the Army Surgeons; supply yourselves with Holloway's Pills and Ointment. Every English soldier's knapsack contains them. Only 25 cents per box or pot. 212

WM. FORREST, Carpenter and Joiner, Jobbing Shop Virgin alley, between Smithfield street and Cherry alley. All kinds of House Repairing done on short notice and in workmanlike manner. Charges moderate. Leave your orders. All orders promptly attended to.

CROWDED houses at the ten cent store, No. 124 Federal street, Allegheny. Watches for 10 cents that will run 6 hours. Any article of jewelry you may want, for only 10 cents. Now is the time to buy. Merchants and peddlers supplied at prices that can't be beat.

DOCTOR C. BEALS, Water Cure and Homeopathic Physician; also agent for Rainbow's celebrated Truss for Ruptures. Corner of Penn and Wayne streets.

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

DIED:

BOSTON—On Monday, December 23d, at half past 12, a. m., FRANK PIERCE, aged 9 years and 8 months, son of J. and C. S. Boston.

Funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, South Pittsburgh, on TUESDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock.

PIANOS.

GOLD MEDAL PIANOS
FOR THE HOLIDAYS,
Manufactured by
KNABE & CO.

A fine supply of the above superior Instruments just arrived at the splendid
NEW PIANO ROOMS,
No. 43 Fifth street, second door above Wood.
CHARLOTTE BLUME
de23

CHEAP NEW PIANOS.—An elegantly carved new Rosewood Piano, with full iron frame, made by one of the oldest firms in New York, for $200
A new 7 Octave Rosewood, iron frame 170
A new 7 " " " 160
For sale by JOHN H. MELLOR,
no15 81 Wood st., between Diamond and 4th st.

CHICKERING & SONS' PIANOS.—A new, full supply, direct from the Manufactory at Boston, of 6¾ and 7 Octave New Scale CHICKERING PIANOS, in plain and and carved Rosewood furniture, just received and for sale by
JOHN H. MELLOR, 81 Wood street,
no15 between Diamond alley and 4th st.

EDUCATIONAL.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—H. WILLIAMS has opened a NORMAL SCHOOL at No. 27 St. Clair street, Third story.

Testimony of Teachers:

He is the counsellor of the Teachers, the man to whom all of us look for advice and instruction.
JOHN J. WOLCOTT.

I concur most heartily with the above.
LEONARD H. EATON.

I cheerfully concur in the opinion expressed above.
W. R. FREW.

I take pleasure in giving it as my opinion that the foregoing recommendation is fully merited.
A. BURTT.

I know of no one who deserves higher testimony in his favor.
R. N. AVERY.

I fully concur in the above recommendation.
D. DENNISON.

He can prepare pupils for the High School quicker than any other teacher in this city.
A. T. DOUTHETT.

TERMS—$1 per week, in advance. au8:3tawd

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.
XXXVIITH CONGRESS---FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 23.

HOUSE.—Mr. Perry, of N. J., introduced a bill providing for the better organization of the military establishment. Referred.

Mr. Babbitt, a bill for the preservation and improvement of the harbor of Erie, Penn'a. Referred.

Mr. Vallandigham introduced a bill to enforce the writ of habeas corpus, and secure the liberty of citizens. The bill provides that, except when Congress shall have suspended the writ on obedience to necessity for the public safety, any person confined or detained in any jail, dungeon, fortress, or other place of confinement, or in any other way whatsoever deprived of his liberty by any United States officer, civil, military or naval, or by any person under any claim of authority from the United States, shall have the privilege of the writ forthwith, before any court or judge of the United States, the refusal or neglect to allow the issue or obey the writ is punished with a penalty of $1,000 to the party aggrieved, and a fine or imprisonment, or both at the discretion of the court. It forbids, under the same penalties, the recommitment for the same offence of any one once discharged on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and prohibits also the removal of prisoners from one state or district to another.

The 5th section of the bill provides that no officer of the United States, civil, military, or naval, shall, under any pretence of authority whatever, except that of Congress, attempt to suspend the privilege of this writ, under penalty of a fine not exceeding $5,000, and imprisonment not exceeding two years, and gives also a right of action for damages to the party aggrieved.

Section 9, provides that if any officer of the United States, civil, military or naval, shall, except when Congress shall have suspended the writ of habeas corpus, issue any warrant or order of arrest for any person as a prisoner of state or political offender, and shall forthwith deliver any such person to the judicial authorities for trial, such offender shall be fined in any sum from $1,000 to $5,000, or imprisoned from six months to one year, or both, at the discretion of the court, and moreover gives a right of action for damages to the party aggrieved.

The bill provides also the means of enforcing the orders of the Court in the cases which may come before it. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, from the Committee on Ways and Means, asked leave to report a bill to increase the duties on tea, coffee and sugar. It proposes a duty on tea of all kinds of 20s per pound; on coffee 5c; and sugars 2½c, 3c, and 5½c, according to quality. Molasses 6c per gallon.

Mr. Vallandigham objected to the introduction of the bill, but on motion of Mr. Morrill the rules were suspended for that purpose.

Mr. Morrill said that this bill was simply in accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury. It was supposed that the incomes proposed would yield seven or eight millions of dollars, provided the same quantities of the article be imported as in 1860. The bill ought to be passed at once, in order to secure the sugar crop immediately coming into the country, and the tea and coffee soon expected to arrive. The price of these articles have already risen in anticipation of the passage of this bill. So the consumers pay just as if the bill was already a law of the land. The Committee of Ways and Means intend bringing in a supplemental tariff bill for the further increase of the revenue, when the general subject will come up for discussion.

Mr. Vallandigham briefly opposed the bill. By the increase of duties these articles will be absolutely interdicted. Already one-half a million bushels of corn are necessary to buy one pound of coffee. The imports of foreign merchanize are millions less than they were years ago. This subject should be posponed until a proper tariff system should be adopted to meet the necessities of the country and its changed condition. The present tariff law was an incongruous composition of three different systems for levying duties.

Mr. Morrill demanded the previous question.

No quorum voted, and a call of the House was resorted to for the purpose of securing a quorum.

The bill was subsequently passed—yeas, 77; nays, 29.

Mr. Moorhead, of Pa., introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report a bill providing that any person or persons engaged or employed in the present rebellion, be forever rendered incapable of holding any office or trust under the constitution and laws of the United States.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill amendatory of the act to establish the Judicial system. It provides for two circuits instead of one in the north western states, and consolidates the 5th and 9th circuits, consisting of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas into one. It does not charge the number of Judges, but leaves the Supreme Court as it is now. Postponed.

The House adjourned till Thursday.

SENATE.—Mr. Grimes, of Iowa, gave notice that he should introduce a bill to have one of the hospitals in Washington placed under the care of a homeopathic physician.

Mr. Lane, of Indiana, presented the credentials of the Hon. Garret Davis, Senator elect from Kentucky, in place of Breckinridge, expelled. Mr. Davis appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., presented the memorial from citizens of Boston, stating that the freedom of the press had been abridged, and asking for relief.

Mr. Fessenden, of Maine, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill making appropriations for gunboats on the western waters. The bill which appropriates $1,500,000 was passed.

Mr. King, of N. Y., offered a resolution that the President be requested to institute proceedings in the courts of law against persons who may have been arrested by the executive authorities, and who are now remaining in custody, so that a judicial examination may be had in each case to ascertain who are allowed to take the oath of allegiance and who detained. Laid over.

Mr. Simmons, of R. I., offered a resolution that a select committee of three be appointed to consider the expediency of connecting some of the military and naval stations on the coast by submarine telegraph. Adopted.

The bill to increase the number of cadets in the West Point Academy was taken up. The bill increases the number from 170 to 350. The consideration of the bill was postponed till to-morrow.

The bill from the House to increase the duties on tea, coffee and sugar was taken up and passed.

The Senate then adjourned.

Affairs in Kentucky.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—The *Commercial's* Frankfort dispatch says the following members were expelled from the House for aiding in the rebellion: John M. Elliott, Daniel Mathewson, A. R. Boon, G. H. Gilowtooth, G. R. Morrill, G. W. Ewing, J. C. Gilbert and J. A. King.

In the Senate, a Committee recommended the expulsion of J. M. Johnson, for the same cause.

The expedition from Gen. Schoepff's camp, on the 18th, went within two miles of Zollicoffer's camp, and returned. The movement was only a feeler, to find out their locality and view the ground.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 22.—Passengers from below report everything quiet. They confirm recent rumors of the rebels tearing up the railway tracks between Green river and Bowling Green.

The rebels engaged at the late Munfordsville fight were three skeleton, not full regiments, aggregated at fourteen hundred. The Federal force, three hundred and seventy, were led by Lt. Col. Von Frebra, not Von Weber as reported.

Gen. Schoepff is still *in statu quo*, and no immediate engagement is expected.

Execution of a Volunteer.

FREDERICK, Md., Dec. 23.—The finding of the court-martial in the case of John Lanahan, for shooting Maj. Lewis, of the 46th Pennsylvania regiment, sentencing him to be hung, has been approved by Gen. McClellan. The execution has been ordered to take place today, between 1 and 3 o'clock this afternoon, on the Hagerstown road, two miles from this city, in the presence of the whole division. Lanahan appears calm and cheerful.

All is quiet on the Upper Potomac this morning.

Regulars from New Mexico.

SACKET HARBOR, Dec. 22.—One company of the 7th regiment of U. S. Regulars, from New Mexico, under Lieut. Ryan, arrived here on Saturday, for garrison duty at Madison Barracks.

Important from Missouri.

OTTERVILLE, Dec. 23.—Part of the prisoners captured by Gen. Pope at Black Water, last Thursday, passed down last night on a special train. Among those sent down are Col. Magoffin, brother of Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky; Col. Robinson, who had command of the rebel forces at Black Water, and who was in the battles of New Springs, Wilson's Creek and Lexington; Col. Alexander, who says that he fought in all the battles; Lieut. Col. Robinson, Major Harris, Dr. Smith, one of the wealthiest men and largest slaveholders in Missouri, who has done everything in his power to aid and comfort the enemy; McKeown, Sheriff of Benton county, who it is said, by misrepresentation, gained admittance into one of our camps, made a diagram of it, and left, and that night the rebels made an attack and killed 16 or 17 of our men; Dr. Moore, of Syracuse, and many others, who have gained notoriety by their zeal and labors in the secession army.

Many of the prisoners wore a kind of uniform, and have served with Price for several months. They all say that they have been well treated by the Federals, and seem to think that they will soon be released by Price. The wagons, horses and mules were turned over to the Quartermaster at Sedalia.

The troops are again in possession of Lamine. We were absent on this expedition just five days. In this time we marched about 100 miles in a direct line from the place, and scoured the country through which we passed for a distance of 40 or 50 miles on each side of the route, took about 1500 prisoners, 1000 horses and mules, 1000 stands of arms, 100 wagons, and quantities of stores, supplies and clothing.

Gen. Pope has received the following dispatch from Gen. Halleck:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, December 20, 1861.

Gen. John Pope: I congratulate you and your command on the brilliant success of your expedition. I hope it will be the forerunner of still greater success.

[Signed:] H. W. HALLECK,
Major General Commanding.

The prompt appreciation of their labors, and frank acknowledgement of their services by Gen. Halleck has completed the happiness of the officers and men of this command, and they will move off with alacrity when they are ordered out on another expedition, and will do everything in their power to deserve the commend