Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING, FEB. 24, 1862.

CITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

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	38
12 " M.	40	40
6 " P. M.	00	40
Barometer,		29 4-10

Washington's Birthday and the Union Victories--Grand Celebration, Mass Meeting, Illumination, Torchlight Procession, etc.

The celebration of Washington's birthday in connection with the late victories achieved by our army and navy, was of the most patriotic and imposing character, and the occasion will long be remembered by the citizens of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and vicinity.

The day was quite pleasant—the atmosphere being mild and spring-like—but there was enough of mud to render street promenading rather disagreeable, and the lowering clouds kept the weather-wise in constant apprehension of a shower. Notwithstanding, there were everywhere visible the most active preparations for the anticipated celebration, and all seemed determined to do honor to the memory of the "Father of his Country."

THE SCHOOLS.

The public schools of the two cities and vicinity certainly deserve great credit for the spirited and patriotic manner in which they have celebrated the birthday of the immortal Washington. The programme previously agreed upon was carried out fully, and the exercises were everywhere attended by overflowing audiences of children and parents.

The teachers and pupils of the First, Second and Fourth Wards met in the Fourth Ward Public School House, where Washington's Farewell Address was read in a highly pleasing manner by Hon. Wm. F. Johnston, followed by other appropriate exercises.

The teachers and scholars of the Third, Fifth and Ninth Wards, and Central High School, met in the Third Ward School House, at ten o'clock. The place was densely crowded. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Reed, after which Dr. James Prestley read Washington's Address in a clear, full and eloquent voice. Dr. J. Douglas delivered a brief though excellent address on the "Character of Washington," which was well received by the audience. The proceedings were enlivened with patriotic songs, sung by the pupils under the direction of Prof. Sherrett, and the schools were dismissed with the benediction by one of the clergymen.

The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Ward schools met at ten o'clock, in the Sixth Presbyterian church, where the exercises opened with singing by the pupils. The Address was read in a pleasing and masterly manner by Prof. M. F. Eaton, followed with appropriate songs by the children. Prof. Eaton also read the beautiful and patriotic poem of T. Buchanan Read, Esq., entitled "Our Country's Defenders." This poem was read by Mr. Murdoch, on Thursday evening last, and so pleased Prof. Eaton that he requested a copy of it, which was kindly given him by Mr. Murdoch. It has not yet appeared in print, and Mr. Eaton has been induced to read it more than once since he received the copy.

The schools of Allegheny and Manchester met at their respective school houses at nine o'clock, and after forming under the direction of their teachers, marched to the railroad depot on Federal street, concentrating on the spacious platform in overwhelming numbers.

Jas. L. Graham introduced Dr. Pressly, who opened with prayer. Singing, "Hail Columbia," by Prof. Slack and Schools. Hon. Jno. M. Kirkpatrick made a few introductory remarks, and read portions of "Washington's Farewell Address," after which Prof. Slack introduced "Red, White and Bule," followed by music by band, and benediction by Rev. James Robinson, of South Common M. E. church.

We looked in on the celebration and heard the multitudinous voices of youthful singers follow Prof. Slack in the performance of "Hail Columbia." Glancing round the enclosure, we found the platforms and the whole space from thence to the palisade along the South Common, well filled with a crowd of performers and spectators—for as no separation had been attempted, the orchestra was here, there, and everywhere, mingled and blent with the whole assembly. The sloping ground outside the enclosure, extending from the palisades to the opposite houses, and the houses themselves, at every door and window, formed the galleries and boxes, whence eager faces, radiant with patriotic excitement, looked down upon the busy scene below.

And a busy, stirring scene there was:—everybody was making a stir:

"Little feet pattering,
Little tongues clattering,"

till we began to fear that Mr. Kirkpatrick would give up the programme in despair. Not so, however. Whether in hope or despair, he began at length. But though we say he began, and presume that with most distinct articulation and unimpeachable accuracy the Farewell Address of Washington was pronounced—not one syllable of it was audible where we had found standing room. The irrepressible juvenile democracy never once took a listening attitude, however appealed to by Mr. Slack's waving baton! That symbol had doubtless been potent to sway them to the humor of "Yankee Doodle," or even to lift them up to the enthusiasm of grander and graver vocal effort, in "Hail Columbia," or "The Star Spangled Banner,"—but it waved in vain for silence to hear what young hearts could not yet feel, nor young heads well understand—the solemn warnings and wise teachings of the immortal Washington.

With these reflections and recollections of "that bright unclouded, sunny age," which, "twenty golden years ago" realized all the poet's meaning, who says:

"Sweet childish days, that were as long
As twenty days are now!"

we extricated our selves from that jubilant, though not very attentive, audience—too young, for the present, to bear wise heads, disposed to serious nods of grave approval, upon their shoulders.

The Committee of Arrangements, Jas. L. Graham, Hon. Simon Drum, Jas. Park, Jr., and Saml. Riddle, beg to return thanks to P. Ft. W. & C. Railroad Co., through Mr. A. Bradley, for their courtesy in furnishing the free use of their platform.

THE MASS MEETING.

At three o'clock in the afternoon the doors of Concert Hall were thrown open, and the national airs discoursed by a splendid brass band, soon attracted a large audience of ladies and gentlemen. The hall was not "jammed," as no boys were permitted to enter, and it was remarked that the persons present represented the more intelligent and refined classes.

Major Hunter, in a few appropriate remarks, announced the officers of the meeting, as nominated by the Committee of Arrangements, as follows:

President, Wm. P. Johnston; Vice Presidents, Wm. Wilkins, A. W. Loomis, Charles Shaler, Wilson McCandless, B. C. Sawyer, Sr., J. Birmingham, D. N. White, James P. Barr, David Robinson, Samuel McKee, Wm. Bagaley, Ed. H. Stowe, Harvey Childs; Secretaries, W. M. Hartzell, H. H. Smith, Wm. Anderson, D. O'Neill, Wm. H. Moody.

On motion, the nominations were unanimously agreed to.

Ex-Governor Johnston, on taking the chair, delivered a neat and appropriate speech, touching the character of Washington, and alluding to the remarkable admonitions, political and moral, contained in his Farewell Address, which was about to be read in the hearing of the audience.

Hon. Thomas M. Howe, was then introduced by the President, and after stating the time and the occasion of the delivery of the Farewell Address, proceeded to read it in a calm, unimpassioned manner, and in keeping with the gravity and dignity of the subject matter. The delivery was clear and distinct, and the audience (with rare exceptions) listened with close attention until the close, when they manifested their appreciation by hearty applause.

After the band had played a stirring air, Prof. M. F. Eaton read "Our Country's Defenders," an unpublished poem by T. Buchanan Read, Esq., a copy of which he obtained from Mr. Murdoch, the actor. The performance elicited loud applause, and was followed by another soul-stirring tune from the band.

The exercises closed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Page, of the Episcopal Church—and a more appropriate and touching petition could scarcely have been uttered in fewer words. The meeting then adjourned, the band playing "Yankee Doodle" as the large assemblage passed into the street.

THE ILLUMINATION.

The exercises of the day closed with the mass meeting, and from that hour until dark the community was all agog in reference to the illumination and torchlight procession. There was a great demand for flags, torches, candles, fireworks, etc., and when the shades of evening began to close upon the "smoky city," hundreds and thousands of lights were displayed, in every conceivable manner. We might fill a column in particularizing, but suffice it to say that the illumination was general in the business portions of both cities, and reflected credit upon the spirit and patriotism of the people.

The display along Fifth, Wood, Market, St. Clair, Penn, Liberty and Smithfield streets was very brilliant, and in some instances exceedingly attractive.

The Custom House and Post-Office were perhaps the most attractive, owing to the size and character of the building. It was glittering with lights in every story, and on both fronts, and was beautifully decorated with illuminated flags—while from the roof hissing rockets and glaring fire-balls were ever and anon ascending.

The newspaper offices were also worthy of special mention. The *Post* was brilliantly illuminated from cellar to garret, and the counting house window displayed a mammoth motto: *"The Constitution As It Is: The Union As It Was."* The *Dispatch* and *Chronicle* buildings were also handsomely illuminated—and from the former was suspended by the neck an effigy, with the label—*"Floyd, the Gun Thief."* The *Gazette* building was illuminated throughout, and in front was the motto: *"Washington—the Father of his Country."* Red, White and Blue lights were displayed from the roof, where there was also a creditable exhibition of fire works. Indeed, all the offices consumed a "power of powder," and a regular bombardment was kept up between the *Chronicle* and *Dispatch* boys, and those on the *Gazette* and Custom House roofs, which attracted an immense crowd.

Time and space would fail us did we attempt to describe the displays at City Hall, at Concert Hall, the various hotels, business houses, and private residences, in many of which costly gas fixtures had been fitted up specially for this occasion, and the national colors and appropriate mottoes were exhibited in elegant and pleasing variety.

In Allegheny the illumination was highly creditable, particularly on Federal and Ohio streets. The post-office displayed a conspicuous banner, with the names of the various post-offices established in rebeldom by the army of the United States. We would be pleased to note other striking features, but must forbear.

THE PROCESSION.

The torchlight procession, by the firemen, formed a most attractive feature of the evening. At seven o'clock nearly every bell in the city commenced to ring, and for fifteen minutes the merry peals were heard throughout both cities, and was the signal for a "forward movement." We need not describe the assembling of the different companies. The programme was literally adhered to, and after the procession had been formed it began to move over the prescribed route, in the following order:

Columbia Hose Company, Allegheny, as the guest of the Eagle; Eagle, Steamer; Allegheny, hand apparatus; Duquesne, Steamer; Neptune, hand apparatus; Niagara, Steamer; Vigilant, Steamer; Good Intent, Independence and Relief, hand engines.

The companies were under the charge of their several officers, while the procession moved under the direction of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, Dr. A. G. McCandless, and his Assistants, mounted. The firemen wore the regular uniform of the service, and their apparatus were decorated with flags, tri-colored lights, mottoes, etc. The men nearly all carried torches, and all along the route there was a most brilliant and uninterrupted display of fire works. The steamers presented a most beautiful appearance, and on the whole the procession was a grand success. It was noted that the turn out of the members was not so large as in former days, but the lack of numbers was *creditable* to the firemen, since nearly one-half of them have enlisted for the war! It may be proper here to add that when the procession reached the corner of Penn and Wayne streets, the anticipated rain began to fall, and the route was cut short by passing up Penn to Hand, down Hand to Liberty, and down Liberty to the place of beginning.

THE CROWD.

Our report would be imperfect did we not notice the immense crowds of ladies and gentlemen which thronged the principal streets. Fifth street, during the early part of the evening, was absolutely impassible, unless the side-walks were abandoned, and that was no easy task once you got into the jam. Many ludicrous scenes were witnessed, and many ladies were made to occupy less space than was either customary or pleasant. Old ladies and young ladies, fair ladies and unfair ladies were squeezed as they may never be squeezed again—squeezed by white men, squeezed by black men, squeezed by old men, squeezed by young men—and yet the ladies took the squeezing in the most good-natured manner imaginable. They knew the men could'nt help it, and would'nt help it much if they could! Then the mud—what plunging and splattering—what draggling and drabbling! All this, however, was endurable until the rain came on, which happened between eight and nine o'clock. A smart shower caught thousands on thousands without "umbrel," and what regrets about spoiled bonnets and ribbons—what laments over bedraggled dresses and saturated gaiters! Many a chamber, that blessed anniversary night, exhibited a sorry collection of "female fixins" laid aside for "repairs," and for the wash-tub.

GOING HOME IN THE RAIN

Was a very unhappy transition from the heights of pleasure to the depths of discomfort. But "such is life." That it did'nt rain sooner was a subject of universal thanksgiving, and served to mitigate the evil. Nobody was drowned, so far as we could learn, and all reached home with ample cause to recollect the grand celebration of the 22d of February, 1862.

Murderous Assaults.

On Friday night, about twelve o'clock, John Kane, residing in the Fourth Ward, Allegheny, was struck on the left side of the head, near the temple, with a weapon in the hands of John L. Dawes, (as he alleges,) which came near terminating his life. Kane states that he had been fiddling at a ball, and being hungry entered Dawes tavern, on Lesacock street, to get some oysters. He had not been on very good terms with Dawes, and was attacked immediately on entering. He started for home, but lest he would alarm his wife he went several squares further to the house of a friend. He had some difficulty in waking them up, and when they reached him he was lying almost insensible from loss of blood. Dr. Scroggs was summoned, and found that the temporal artery had been severed. He stated also that Kane would have died in a few minutes longer. Dawes was arrested by Mayor Drum's police, and gave bail to answer. He denies having used any weapon on Kane, and states that he simply pushed him out of the door.

On Saturday night a desperate fight occurred at the house of Mrs. Gilman, a low den in Union alley. In the melee Mrs. Gilman struck Mrs. Redgate over the head with a heavy instrument and inflicted injuries which may prove fatal. The injured woman was sent to the hospital, and her assailant was committed to jail.

Destructive Fire on Liberty Street.

Last night, about half past nine o'clock, fire broke out in the rectifying distillery of M. McNickle, on Liberty street, opposite the head of Smithfield. The flames spread rapidly, and the building, with a large stock of liquors, was totally destroyed.

The flames communicated to the grocery and liquor store of L. Purcell, which was also completely destroyed.

The wholesale grocery store of Messrs. Shomaker & Lang was badly damaged in the upper stories, and the stock was seriously injured.

The foundry warehouse of Messrs. Allen, McCormick & Co., was also injured in the upper stories, and the warerooms deluged with water.

The stores of Messrs. Knox & Parker, on the east of these buildings, and Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Co., on the west, were saved after the most determined and vigorous efforts of the firemen, who were present in full force—the four Steamers, aided by the hand apparatus, pouring immense volumes of water on the flames, and preventing a general conflagration.

We are unable to give the losses and insurance correctly in this morning's issue.

DEATH IN THE JAIL.—A colored man named Levi Savage, arrested and committed by Mayor Sawyer, for drunkenness, died in the jail yesterday, of *mania a potu*. He resided in the Sixth ward, and had been drinking terribly for years.

Suicide of Mr. Charles Gipner--A Melancholy Tragedy.

For several days past it has been generally known throughout the city that Mr. Charles Gipner, variety and trimming merchant, of Market street, had attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself through the breast with a revolver, and that he was lying in a critical condition at the St. Charles hotel, where he boarded. The painful circumstances which led to the rash act, and the hope that he would recover from his wound, induced the press not to make the matter public, but he expired at two o'clock on Sunday morning, and with the announcement of his death it is proper that the facts be given.

Mr. Gipner was a young man of fine business qualifications, was succeeding well in life, and was very popular among his acquaintances. He was exceedingly ardent in his temperament, however, and having become attached to a daughter of a well-known business man, residing near the city, he pressed his suit with all the ardor of his nature, and finally gained the promise of her hand. His courtship developed things not at all pleasant to her, such as an exceeding jealousy in regard to other young men of her acquaintance, not growing out of the slightest impropriety or coldness on her part, but from the peculiar formation of his mind, which gradually developed itself in monomania. In this painful situation matters continued for months, until he became rude and threatening towards her, intimating that if he could not have her hand in marriage he would destroy himself. Under these distressing circumstances the young lady naturally hesitated about consummating the marriage, which only served to agitate him the more.

Early last week he procured a pair of horses and a buggy, at a livery stable in this city, and went out to Zelienople, Butler county, where he was raised, and where he has friends residing. Here he acted most strangely, arranging his private papers, and even selecting the spot where he desired to be buried! While returning, he broke the tongue of his buggy, abandoned it on the road, and came to the city riding one of the horses and leading the other. He arrived here on Wednesday, and upon inquiry learned that his intended would be in the city that evening. He visited the Pennsylvania Railroad depot, and upon the arrival of the Accommodation train had an interview with the young lady and her mother, whom he accompanied to the house of a family connection of hers. He was very much excited, and evidently laboring under great mental depression. He was solicited to accompany the lady and her mother to Jas. E. Mr. Murdoch's reading, but declined, and insisted upon their being married then and there, intimating that if she refused he would destroy herself. Of course she shrunk horrified from such a proposition, and escaped from his presence by a subterfuge, fearing violence at his hands.

Mr. Gipner soon after visited his store, and in the presence of his brother and the clerk took off his coat and vest, passed his watch to his brother, remarking, "here is something to remember me by," and going behind the counter deliberately drew a revolver and placed it over his heart. In an instant his hand was struck away from his breast, by the clerk, but the trigger had been pulled, and the ball entered his arm. Determined on self-destruction, he fired again before he could be prevented, the ball entering the left breast near the nipple, and penetrating the lung. He was conveyed to the hotel, where he lingered in great pain until Sunday morning, when he expired.

We need not dwell further upon this terrible tragedy, which has plunged the young lady in deep distress, and has caused intense pain to the friends of both parties. Being entirely guiltless, the unfortunate girl receives the heart-felt sympathy of all, yet she cannot but realise the keenest anguish of mind.

The funeral announcement will be found in another column.

THE DEATH OF GARWOOD.—VERDICT OF THE JURY.—A *post mortem* examination was yesterday held upon the body of C. Garwood, the Indiana drover, who died in the hospital a few days since, having been found at the railroad depot in a dying condition. The physician, Dr. Reiter, ascertained that the man's death was caused by a concretion in the gall-bladder, which produced severe colic. The concretion, or gall-stone, was removed, and was fully as large as a walnut. It prevented the secretion of gall almost entirely. The jury found a verdict of "death from natural causes."

FROM SATURDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Verdict in the Case of Fitzsimmons vs. Wallace.

The case of D. Fitzsimmons and John Fitzsimmons vs. W. P. Baum, Administrator of the estate of Thomas Wallace, deceased, was brought to a close this morning—having been on trial for eight days. The jury received their charge on Friday afternoon.

The following special verdict was rendered:

In this case the jury say that they find for the plaintiff, and assess the amount of the principal and interest of the mortgage debt unpaid, on the hypothesis that the mortgage was not given to secure the payment of a loan of money at a rate of interest exceeding that established by law, at the sum of $42,682 47.

But the jury further find that, in point of fact, the mortgage sued on was given to secure the payment of a loan of money at a rate exceeding that established by law, and that deducting such excess from the said mortgage debt, the amount of the principal and interest of said mortgage debt actually unpaid is the sum of $25,799 24.

And the jury further find that the plaintiffs under the terms and stipulations of the said mortgage, are entitled to the further sum of 5 per centum attorney's commission, on so much of the principal and interest of the mortgage debt as may now be due and unpaid, and 5 per centum on the remaining installments as the same shall become due and payable, if not paid at maturity.

The Court to enter judgment for either of the said amounts found by the jury, viz: for the sum of $42,682 47, first above found as aforesaid, or for the sum of $25,799 24, last above found as aforesaid, as the Court may determine the law to be on the reserved questions, together with 5 per centum attorney's commission thereon, as found by the jury, as aforesaid.

EXPLOSION OF AN OIL TANK.—A large oil tank, attached to the refinery of Messrs. McCormick & Co., at the mouth of Butcher's Run, in Allegheny, exploded at an early hour this morning, with great violence. A portion of it passed through the roof, and a laboring man, whose name we were unable to learn, who was standing near the tank, was severely though not dangerously injured. We were unable to learn the cause of the accident further than that it was caused by an accident.

DEATH FROM APOPLEXY.—Coroner McClung to-day held an inquest upon the body of Charles McMeekin, who died in an apoplectic fit at the warehouse of Wm. McCutcheon, wholesale grocer, Liberty street. The deceased was about twenty-three years of age, was a single man, and had been employed as warehouseman by Mr. McCutcheon. The jury found a verdict in accordance with the facts.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

AN ELEGANT CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT.—One of the best places within the range of our knowledge to purchase clothing, or furnishing goods, is the establishment of Messrs. W. McGee & Co., corner of Federal street and the Diamond, Allegheny. They never fail to render satisfaction to those who favor them with a call, and will sell at very reasonable prices. Remember the locality, corner of Federal street and the Diamond, Allegheny.

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.

WHAT an amount of suffering and disease among the volunteers would be prevented by the free use of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. For wounds, sores and scurvy the Ointment is a certain cure; and for bowel complaints, fevers, small pox, &c., the pills are the best medicine in the world. Only 25 cents per box or pot. 221

WORTHY OF SPECIAL REGARD.—Barker & Co., 59 Market street, continue their great sale of Dry Goods at less than old prices for most kinds, during the progress of alterations. Any one in pursuit of Dry Goods should see their stock, which is very large and choice.

OMNIBUS CALLS will be taken at Hunt's Book Store, Masonic Hall, Fifth street, and at the Omnibus office, No. 456, Liberty street. Day or night, all orders left in either the two places will be promptly attended to.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

LXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1862.

At 12 o'clock the Speaker called the House to order, when the journal of yesterday was read. At the request of the Speaker the members proceeded to occupy seats on the left of the hall, leaving the three front circles for the invited guests.

Mr. Blair, of Mo., made an ineffectual suggestion that ladies in the lobbies be admitted to unoccupied spaces on the floor.

The Speaker requested those in the galleries to preserve order, saying, that if the decorum be violated, it would become his disagreeable duty to have them cleared.

Mr. Crittenden, of Ky., said that the joint resolution relative to the celebration, did not contemplate the presentation of flags, and he therefore moved that this be omitted as a part of the ceremonies.

Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, supposed from the general tenor of Mr. Crittenden's remarks heretofore, that he would not oppose what any military man desired, and this flag presentation had been arranged by the War Department.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., inquired how the flags could be presented if Congress will not take them. He did not propose to magnify the rebel flags in this way, and hoped that they would respectfully decline to receive them.

Mr. Campbell, of Pa., said that these were trophies won by our officers and brave soldiers in hotly contested battles. He would not magnify the flags, but would magnify the deeds of our armies, and trusted that these badges or flags would be received with respect.

Mr. Roscoe Conkling, of New York, remarked that these flags were not trophies, to be treated either with respect, or the consideration of our Government. He submitted that they are badges or tokens carried by armed rebels, men red handed with the murder of soldiers of this country, who are not entitled to possess or carry any flag, and whom we do not recognize in any National aspect. Suppose there had occurred here a riot of formidable dimensions, and the municipal authorities had succeeded in quelling it, and then at the meeting of the Common Councils it should be proposed that a public assemblage be called to receive the flags or tokens of the conspirators, did any one suppose that the could be received with self-respect or public decency? If not, why should Congress accept the presentation of these flags, nothing more than tokens coming simply from rebels of no National standing? He would go as far as any other gentleman in this house, or out, in his respect and admiration for those who have left their homes to sustain, and defend, the life, the existence of this Government—but he wished, on this occasion, to act in a manner consistent with self-respect and official propriety.

Mr. Campbell presuming that his previous remarks had been misunderstood, explained that he would receive the flags and tokens in respect to the bravery of our troops.

Mr. Lovejoy caused to be read the law of 1714 and 1818, to the effect, that the Secretaries of the War and Navy be directed to cause to be collected and transmitted to them, all flags, standards and colors which may have been, or shall be taken hereafter by the army and navy from the enemy, and that all of them, together with those in the possession of those Departments, shall, with all consistent dispatch, be delivered to the President, for the purpose of being displayed in such public places as may be deemed proper.

Mr. Lovejoy said that the law, that by receiving these flags we would recognize the rebel government, was the most absurd idea that ever originated in the brain of man. He would receive every rebel flag, the more the better, in respect to the brave men who captured them.

Mr. Edwards, of N. H., expressed himself in favor of carrying out the arrangement for the presentation of the flags.

Mr. Potter, of Wis., in apparent seriousness, rose to a question of order: It was that the gentleman was speaking with his back to the Chair. [Laughter.]

Mr. Edwards, smiling, said, I did not wish to turn my back to the ladies. (Laughter.) He would receive the flags in honor of our gallant soldiers.

The Speaker appealed to the galleries on an occasion like this to preserve order, to refrain from applause and to observe due propriety.

Mr. Richardson—The galleries are behaving better than the House.

The question was taken on the adoption of Mr. Crittenden's motion, and resulted in yeas 70; nays 61.

Mr. Crittenden moved that the vote be reconsidered and that the motion be laid on the table.

Mr. Hickman moved a call of the House, but while engaged in this proceeding the hour arrived for the ceremonies.

The centre door was thrown open and the Vice President and Secretary of the Senate appeared preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, followed by the senators. These occupied the front seat. Next came the several heads of the departments who were accommodated with chairs on the right of the hall. In the first range were the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and representatives of foreign governments. Lord Lyons was not present. Officers of the army and navy in full uniform were also present. Major-General McClellan was among the officers of the army, and on his entrance there was repeated applause from the galleries. The members of the House remained standing until the guests on the floor were seated. The scene was a most brilliant one.

SENATE.—The Senate met at 12 o'clock. The journal of yesterday was read. The Vice President presented a communication, signed by the members of the Cabinet, recommending that in view of the recent affliction of the President the illumination be omitted.

Mr. Hale, of N. H., offered a resolution requesting the Commissioner of Public Buildings to omit the illumination. Adopted.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., from the Military Committee, reported back the bill for the better organization of a medical staff. Also a bill relating to certain railroads in Missouri.

The Senate then took a recess for half an hour.

When the Senate was again called to order a message was read from the House that they were ready to receive the Senate. The senators then proceeded in a body to the House.

After the proceedings in the House the Senate adjourned until Monday.

Clarksville Occupied by our Naval Forces.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 20.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

We have possession of Clarksville. The citizens being alarmed, two-thirds of them have fled, and having expressed my views and intentions to the Mayor and Hon. Cave Johnson, at their request I have issued a proclamation, assuring all the peaceably disposed persons that they may, with safety, remain in their business avocations, requiring only the military stores and equipments to be given up, and holding the military authorities responsible that this shall be done without reservation.

I left Fort Donelson yesterday with the Conestoga, Lieut. Commanding Phelps and the Cairo Lieut. Commanding Bryant, on a reconnoissance, bringing with me Col. Webster, of the Engineer Corps and Chief of Gen. Grant's Staff, who, with Lieut. Commanding Phelps, took possession of the principal fort, and hoisted the Union flag at Clarksville. A Union sentiment manifested itself as we came up the river.

The rebels have retreated to Nashville, having set fire, against the remonstrances of the citizens, to the splendid railroad bridge across the Cumberland river.

I return to Fort Donelson to-day for another gunboat and six or eight mortar boats, with which I propose to proceed up the Cumberland. The rebels all have a terror of the gunboats. One of them, a short distance above Fort Donelson, had previously fired an iron rolling mill belonging to Hon. John Bell, which had been used by the rebels.

A. H. FOOTE,
Flag Officer Commanding the naval forces on the Western Waters.

From Port Royal.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The steamer Atlantic has arrived from Port Royal, with dates to the 19th instant. She brings 200 bales of cotton. The Atlantic passed the Harriet Lane, bound south, off Hatteras. All was quiet at Port Royal.

There is no further intelligence from the expedition against Savannah.

The gunboats on the right of the line and in Wall's cut, met with and removed several torpedoes placed for their destruction. One on being exploded was supposed to have had thirty pounds of powder in it.

River and Weather at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 23—Evening.—River rising very rapidly, with 16 feet 8 inches in the channel. Weather cloudy. Mercury sixty degrees.

Washington's Birthday--General Rejoicings, etc.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 22.—The celebration to-day was the most extensive, magnificent and imposing ever seen in the west. Business was entirely suspended, and the participation on this occasion was almost universal, and attended with spirit and enthusiasm rarely seen. Flags, banners and emblems of loyalty abounded everywhere. The business houses and residences along the line of procession were profusely and tastifully decorated, and all seemed to strive with each other, to make the finest display. The procession was composed of some 5,000 troops, embracing infantry, artillery and artillery, long lines of citizens in carriages and on horse back, benevolent sects, members of the Union Merchants' Exchange, city officers, Judges of the Courts, representation of the different railroad and express companies, butchers, bakers, draymen, and various mechanical arts, including the printing presses from the *Republican* and *Democrat* offices, which distributed Washington's Farewell Address among the crowd, and hosts of devices, representing almost innumerable ideas. The procession was fully eight miles long, and occupied nearly two hours and a half passing the Planter's House. Upwards of 50,000 persons must have participated in the procession or thronged the streets along its route. The day will close with an oration, reading of Washington's Farewell Address and singing patriotic songs, at Mercantile Library Hall, where Gen. Halleck and staff will be in attendance.

The utmost good order and decorum prevailed throughout the entire day.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—The day opened with a salute from the guns on the fortifications and the ringing of bells. The weather is gloomy but the streets are densely thronged. The procession moved at ten o'clock, which was composed of detachments of infantry, artillery and cavalry from Camp Dennison, and different societies of the city. In the afternoon Washington's Farewell Address was read and patriotic songs was sung at Pike's Opera House, and even a large assembly. To-night there is a grand illumination. Great enthusiasm and good order prevailed throughout.

LEAVENWORTH, Feb. 22.—The day, although quite stormy, was celebrated by the firing of cannon, bonfires, fireworks and a military parade. At the Court House steps Washington's Farewell Address was read by Dr. T. S. Bell, and Hon. James Guthrie made a speech, advocating severe treatment of the leading captured rebels, but a general amnesty for subordinates at the close of the war. The audience was large, and many ladies were present notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.

Cumberland Gap and Russellville, Ky., are in possession of the Federal forces.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 22d.—Twelve hundred Fort Donelson prisoners arrived here this afternoon. Eighteen hundred more will arrive to-morrow, and will be quartered in various parts of the city. Capt. Morton, Gen. Buckner and staff are *en route*. The business was generally suspended to-day. Union meetings were held at all the churches, and at Union Hall this morning, Washington's Farewell Address was read, and the national airs sung. Salutes were fired at daylight and this afternoon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—All the federal and corporation offices are closed, as well as most of the business houses. There was a continuous firing of salutes this morning at all the camps in honor of the day. The hall of the House of Representatives, being the great centre of attraction, as early as half past one o'clock the galleries set aside for the public were densely crowded, while the doors leading thereto were blocked with standing occupants. The portions of the galleries reserved for the families of the Diplomatic Corps, and those of other invited spectators, and of members of Congress, were occupied according to their convenience. Tickets had been issued to them, and in order to avoid confusion, there were many polite door-keepers and ushers to carry out this part of the programme. Additional chairs had been provided on the floor of the hall to seat about 600 persons. Immediately over the Speaker's chair was a large painting of Washington, surmounted by a gilt eagle, &c. Over this a golden starred American flag, while from each of the upper corners of the painting hung banners of a smaller pattern. Crowds continued to penetrate the capitol, and many persons are unable to obtain admission.

The interval between 11 and 1 o'clock was relieved by scenes in the galleries. Some of the door keepers would loudly and imploringly call to others who were coming behind not to precipitate them on the heads of those comfortably and uncheerily seated below them. Occasionally a boy would be lifted over the heads of the spectators to a seat in front, amid the laughter of the spectators; living subjects usurped the various niches designed alone for inanimate statuary. Members of the House occasionally entered the hall and took their seats. Impatient cries continued to be uttered in the galleries for the crowds at the door to fall back, and calls for the police frequently resounded, but met with no response.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 22.—Washington's birthday closed with a splendid illumination, fireworks and general rejoicing. The telegraph office, City Hall, and many of the principal stores and public places, were beautifully decorated with the flag, and the streets were crowded with people.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 22.—The city, in several localities, is quite brilliant with rockets and bonfires. A principal feature was the external decoration of the Galt House with multitudes of national flags.

HUNTINGDON, Pa., Feb. 22.—The National anniversary and the prowess of the Union armies is celebrated here to-day with eclat, by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, bunting flying, &c. The Farewell Address will be read in the town hall. There will be fire works, a grand illumination and a torch light procession to-night.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 22.—The city is gay with flags, and there is a large military display in honor of the day and the victories of our arms. The Washington Monument is decorated with flags and flowers. The streets are thronged with people, salutes are firing from the four quarters of the city, and all the bells of the city were rung at sunrise and at noon.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The celebration of this day is universal, flags are displayed all over the city and salutes were fired at sunrise and at noon. Business is in a great degree suspended; the programme already announced is being carried out.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, *via Baltimore*, Feb. 21.—Three flags of truce were sent out to-day. It is believed in Norfolk that the city of Savannah has been abandoned by its inhabitants, and occupied by our forces. The information is thought to be reliable, although no particulars are ascertained.

Notwithstanding the admissions of the Southern papers that the steamer Merrimac is a failure, the latest information received is that some two hundred men are at work on her, and that considerable quantities of shot and shell are going aboard. The intention of running the blockade has not been given up, and it was thought that she might make her appearance here in a week. Every preparation has been made, and standing orders have been given for her reception.

Another French gunboat arrived last night, and there are now four vessels of that nationality in the Roads.

The crew of the Fingal, which ran the blockade of Savannah, mentioned in yesterday's dispatch, were returned to Craney Island last night. No boat was sent out to receive them, and they were brought back. They were carried over again this morning, and sent to Norfolk.

The schooner Exertion, with ammunition, sailed for Hatteras yesterday.

The steamboat Metamora, of New York, arrived this afternoon. She is to go to Washington.

The new gunboat Pinola arrived and sailed hence yesterday.

The 4th Wisconsin Regiment and 2d Indiana Regiment which arrived here yesterday were conveyed to Newport News to-day. Their destination is unknown, but rumor speaks of an attack by Gen. McLane, who has superseded Gen. Magruder, and of an attack upon Norfolk. Both suppositions are probably correct.

The Fort Donelson Prisoners.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 23.—The *Commercial's* Indianapolis dispatch says that 5,000 of the Fort Donelson prisoners arrived there last night. They are the hardest looking set of men ever collected together—uniformed in rags of all colors, with carpet for blankets. The privates assert that secession has gone up, and that they are better treated and fed than they have been for the past six months. Most of the men are anxious to take the oath. Three of their surgeons have been paroled to attend their sick, which are becoming quite numerous. The officers are not uniformed and do not look much superior to the privates. The prisoners are composed of the 4th and 13th Mississippi, the 8th Kentucky, the 4th Alabama, and the 25th, 54th and 53d Tennessee.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The report furnished to the Associated Press did not purport to be a verbatim report of the proceedings of the Railroad Convention, but was obtained from members after adjournment, no reporters having been admitted. The dispatch obtained from the Secretaries as to the business of the Convention was correct. The remainder of Secretary Stanton's impressive and able speech was not reported, and the brief allusion to his remarks, especially the reference to Gen. McClellan was, it is now ascertained, inaccurate as to the language employed.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 23.—Dispatches have been received from Commodore Dupont, dated Port Royal, Feb. 18, enclosing a report from Commander Rogers, in which he says that while cruising in the Savannah river, a short distance above the mouth of Wright river. He discovered several objects floating upon the surface of the water which appeared at first sight to be empty tin cans, and as such were not regarded by him as worthy of notice. Lieut. Sproton, of the Seneca, shortly after hailed him and told him that he thought the objects alluded to were buoys attached to an infernal machine. Upon closer examination, they saw enough to satisfy them that the suspicions were correct. The buoys, five in number, were placed several yards apart, at right angles to the shore, immediately in the channel leading from Wright river, and visible only at low water. They were connected by a spiral wire, the end of the wire entering an orifice in the upper end of the buoys. They were also secured by wires to what they presumed to be weights at the bottom, but which upon further examination led them to believe were vessels containing explosive matter. An attempt was subsequently made to produce an explosion by pulling the wires, which failed. The wires were then cut, and the outer buoy was brought off in one of the expedition's light boats. In consequence of the delicate nature of the exploding apparatus of the buoy brought on board, it was deemed more prudent to endeavor to sink the remaining buoys rather than to attempt to remove them, so that the enemy would not have the satisfaction of feeling that a single life had been lost by the diabolical invention. They buoys were sunk by firing rifle shots into them, one having exploded the night previous from some cause unknown, and shortly after a launch had passed over the spot where the buoys were placed, having in tow a heavy lighter with guns. It further appears that the torpedo or infernal machine brought on board the Unadilla, was afterwards set upon a bank and a rifle ball fired through it, when it exploded.

Assistant Secretary Fox has received a letter from a friend in New York, saying that the statement of the Richmond papers that 15,000 stand of arms, which arrived at New Orleans on the steamer Victoria, which recently ran the blockade to that point, is not true. A reliable passenger who came out from New Orleans to Havana on the Victoria, says that she was able to obtain there only 150 guns, and these were all the arms she took back on her return. The New Orleans militia are dot yet, therefore, supplied with arms.

The recent paragraph in this correspondence, with regard to recent disclosures, exhonorating Marshal Lamon from certain charges in connection with the jail, had no reference to the testimony given before the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, and which will not be made public until all the evidence shall be taken. The information was derived from other s