Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 7.

CITY AFFAIRS.

THE 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	30
12 " M.	42	32
6 " P. M.	00	34
Barometer,	29 2-20	

Meeting of Allegheny Councils.

A regular monthly meeting of Allegheny Councils was held last evening—members generally present.

In *Select*, Mr. Kirkpatrick presented a petition from residents and property holders of the Second Ward, representing that the cattle yards have become an intolerable nuisance, and asking Councils to take such steps as will relieve the petitioners. The petition was numerously signed, and was referred to a Committee consisting of the members of Council from the Second Ward. C. C. non-concurred, and referred to the Committee on Police, in conjunction with the City Solicitor. S. C. recede and concur.

Mr. Atwell presented a petition from John Irwin & Co., setting forth that the petitioners are about erecting rope works on Nelson's Island, and asking the permission of erecting wooden buildings in connection with other buildings, for that purpose. These works will stand in front of South Avenue, on the bank of the Allegheny river, and the main portion of them will be thirty feet high—the frame shed will be twelve hundred feet long, and stilted up above high water mark.

The petition was debated and referred to the Committee on City Property, in connection with the City Solicitor.

Mr. Atwell presented the bill of John McDonald, for $130 58, for making counters, desk, etc., for City Treasurer's office. The contract price was $55, but some extra work had been done. The extra work was so much in excess of the contract price, that the bill was referred to Councils for their action.

Referred to Finance Committee, with instructions to pay the contract price, and ascertain the amount of extra work done.

Mr. Walker presented the report of the Water Committee, with resolutions for the payment of sundry bills.

Mr. Lewis presented the report of the Committee on City Property, stating that the work of removing the bodies from the old grave yard had progressed very satisfactorily, and was nearly completed. A resolution was adopted to pay the contractors $300 on account.

A resolution was also adopted authorising the Committee to lease the triangular lot south of the railroad, and east of Marion avenue, in the First Ward. C. C. non-concur. S. C. adhered, and a Committee of Conference reported that they failed to agree.

Mr. Kirkpatrick presented the report of the Police Committee, setting forth the horrible condition of the lock up, with resolutions authorising its removal to the first floor of the room now occupied as a Mayor's office, and the removal of the Mayor's office to the building next door. The resolutions were adopted.

Mr. Atwell presented a resolution requesting the members of the Auditing Committee for 1860, now in Council, to settle the accounts of the tax collectors for 1860. Adopted.

Mr. Riddle offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Fire Engines be instructed to confer with the Columbia Hose Company in reference to procuring for them a proper location for their apparatus, and remunerating them for the wear and tear of the same—and report to the next meeting of Councils. C. C. concurred.

In *Common Council*, petitions were presented for the erection of a public lamp on Robinson street, at the intersection above Anderson, and on Federal street, at the railroad crossing. Referred.

The Committe on Fire Engines and Hose submitted a report, with resolutions—1st, authorising the Committee to sell or otherwise dispose of the old hand engines; 2d, to appropriate $1000 for the purpose of erecting a house in the upper part of the Fourth Ward, for the use of the Columbia Hose Company; 3d, authorising the Committee to inquire into the cost and expediency of procuring a hose reel and hose, to be located in the Town House, or in some other place convenient to the Diamond. The first resolution was adopted, but the second and third were defeated.

A resolution was adopted in acknowledgement of the services rendered by the Columbia Hose Company, and appropriating $100 for the use of said company—to be paid quarterly. S. C. non-concurred. C. C. adhered, and a Committee of Conference was asked, but no further action was taken in S. C.—so the matter fell.

After transacting some minor business, Councils adjourned.

Shocking Accident--Boy Killed.

Last evening, about four o'clock, a lad named Connor, son of John G. Connor, plasterer, residing on Liberty street, opposite the old flouring mill, in the Fifth Ward, was run over by a train of cars and instantly killed. It is said that the boy was returning from school, and was in the act of crossing Liberty street at the time the express train was backing down to the railroad depot. He cleared the car, but was struck by the steps and knocked down, and before the train could be stopped several of the cars passed over him, mutilating the body in a shocking manner. He was picked up immediately and carried to the residence of his parents, but life was extinct. It is also said that the bell-man was on the platform of the forward car (the rear of the backing train) ringing the alarm bell at the time the accident happened.

Coroner McClung was at once notified of the affair, but as some of the witnesses were obliged to leave with the train, the investigation was postponed until to-day, when all the facts will be ascertained.

Oil Meeting.

WHEREAS, By the telegraphic synopsis of the excise bill, reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, it appears that a tax of *five cents* a gallon on crude oil and *ten cents* a gallon on refined oil is proposed,—

Therefore, the oil refiners and dealers are respectfully invited to meet at the Merchants' Exchange, on Fourth street, Pittsburgh, at 3 o'clock on Friday, March 7th, 1862, to take into consideration action in relation to the matter.

Brewer, Sill & Co.,	Brewer, Watson & Co.,
G. G. Childs,	W. W. Wallace,
S. M. Kier & Co.,	McCormick & Co.,
T. Bell & Co.,	Warden & Brooks,
Lotz, Miller & Co.,	Robinson, Hill & Co.,
Lockhart & Frew,	C. H. Israel.

City Mortality.

Dr. A. G. McCandless, physician to the Board of Health, reports the following interments for the week ending March 1st:

Males..... 15 | Children.... 12 } Total..... 29
Females.... 14 | Adults..... 17 }

The diseases were as follows: Adult—consumption, 3; cancer, varioloid, apoplexy, burns, typhoid fever, gout, asthma, erysipelas, and injury of spine, 1 each. Children—whooping-cough, 2; still born, 2; unknown, 2; convulsions, diptheria, burns, maligna angina, typhoid fever, mumps, worms, spasms, scarlet fever and fabes mesentica, 1 each.

COMPROMISED.—The Thomas Will Case, the trial of which commenced in the Washington County Common Pleas Court on Tuesday of last week, was abruptly brought to a close, about nine o'clock Friday night, by a compromise. The case excited a great deal of interest. Some $20,000 were involved in it. About a hundred witnesses were summoned, and some of the ablest lawyers of the bar were engaged on both sides. The compromise, it is said, made an equal division of the costs and the money in controversy.

AN UNFORTUNATE OLD MAN.—One of the most unfortunate old men that we have ever heard of is William Jones, Sr., of Washington county. He has had one daughter and a son-in-law (Charlotte and Henry Fife) hung for murder. A son (Bill) was once convicted of murder; but on a second trial acquitted. He has two sons (Bill and Madison) and a son-in-law now in the penitentiary—the former of whom is serving his second term. Another son-in-law has also served a term in the penitentiary.

THE SUCCEEDING STAR.—The eminent tragedian, Mr. Neafie, succeeds the comedian, Mr. Bass, on Monday night, at the theatre.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Trophies from the Battle Field at Fort Donelson--Extracts from Secesh Letters.

Capt. C. W. Batchelor, Collector of Customs, has just received a number of trophies from the battle field at Fort Donelson. They were picked up there, by his brother, Mr. Stanton Bachelor, Clerk of the Emma Duncan, and forwarded here by express. Mr. B. spent three days at the fort, and was all over the battle ground.

A TEXAN TOOTH PICK.

The most conspicuous of the trophies was a huge knife, called a "tooth pick," and forming part of the equipments of the Texan Rangers. It was picked up on the battle field, with belt and scabbard complete. The belt is much stained with blood, but the knife does not appear to have been used. The weapon is formidable—nay, frightful looking—but of very rude workmanship. The blade is sixteen inches in length, sharply pointed, very heavy, and (in the hands of a *brave* man) an arm or a head could be lopped off at a single blow. The scabbard is of leather, doubled over and fastened with rivets. The handle is of hard wood, and protected on the lower side by a steel guard. The workmanship is very rough throughout.

A SWORD OF THE OLDEN TIME.

The most valuable article picked up by Mr. Batchelor was an old sword which has every appearance of having been used in the Revolutionary war. The blade has been elaborately ornamented, the eagle being conspicuous thereon, and the handle being surmounted with the head of an eagle. There are no initials upon it, but it evidently has an interesting history.

A REBEL'S COAT.

Mr. Batchelor also sends a coat taken from the body of a rebel found dead on the battlefield. It is of very coarse grey home-spun, trimmed with blue. Nothing is known of the unfortunate man who wore it.

A SCORE OF CAMP LETTERS.

Among the articles found on the battle field was an immense number of letters, from "friends at home." A score or more of these have been sent to Capt. Batchelor. They are generally written in miserable style, upon poor paper, and relate mainly to family affairs. We append a few extracts:

A HIGH-STRUNG SOUTHERN MISS.

An "affectionate sister" writes a long and spicy letter to her "dear brother Joe," from which we take the following:

"Brother Joe, I do wish you could see 'Sweet'—she is the sweetest child in the Confederacy almost. I'll not couple her with any of the little Northern toads, as you know even the *little* Confederacy will not allow it. I was amused at Emma and Charlie the other evening at the supper table. They got into a dialogue about something, and finally got mift with each other. Emma called Charlie a Yankee, which seemed to insult him grossly, and he told her that she should not call him a plagued Yankee, or if she did he would throw a fork at her."

The writer is a school teacher, of a poetical turn of mind, as will appear from the following, with which she winds up her letter to Joe:

In Christ's salvation is our hope,
And in the name of Israel's God
Our troops shall lift their banners up,
Our navies spread their flags abroad.

Oh may the men'ry of His name
Inspire our armies for the fight!
Our foes shall fall and die with shame,
Or quit the field with shameful flight!

[The italics are her own—but her predictions have failed. The "shameful flight" was on the other side.]

AN ANXIOUS FATHER.

L. D. Akin, of Fayettoville, Tenn., writes to his "dear son" in a strain of parental tenderness, exhibiting the most anxious solicitude for his welfare. We quote a few sentences:

"While I write, the children are all asleep. O, how I wish you were with us here! I hope you will put your trust in your Redeemer, who is able to save you from all danger. Mollie had a good cry about you the other night. They all talk about you often, and you are in my thoughts day and night. I often wake in the night and think of my poor boy. We did not forget your birth day (January 30th) at all. Ah, my son, when I look back to other days, I feel sad indeed. I often think of your childish glee—but I must not say more, I am giving way to my feelings."

THE PRICE OF SLAVES.

Mary O. Todd, writing from Fayottoville, Feb. 4th, to her husband, W. M. Todd, Russellville, Kentucky, among other things, says:

"I have hired Ellen out to John Steel for forty-five dollars and her clothes and doctor bill and taxes. That is better than keeping her at home. Clothing is so high, and every other expense so high. Mr. Cowen was here to take the taxes the other day, and he just valued the negroes $100 less than he did last year."

A SOLDIER'S WIFE IN A FIX—BUT HOPEFUL!

A scrap of paper, without date, reads as follows:

"John, pap is drunk as he can be. Jack went home to-night and he run him back hear—he said that some of the children was in the wood, and they did not no whar. John i tell you it is awful and it rather live on bred and water as to live so. John I live a lonesome life i no, but i never will leave my home to go no whar—I hope it will not be long till we will meat and live a long and happy life—do the best you can and I will do the best I can my dearest love."

We might multiply extracts, exhibiting every phase of life, and every condition of mind and intellect, but the above will suffice.

The Board of Trade and the Connellsville Railroad Extension.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trade, held in reference to the completion of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad to Cumberland, a Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Wm. M. Shinn, James Park, Jr., and Wm. Means, who reported the following:

WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company has caused to be prepared and presented to Congress a memorial, asking aid for the completion of their road to Cumberland, which memorial and the maps and papers explanatory of the routes of said railroad and its connections with other systems of internal improvements and natural highways, centering at Pittsburgh, have been brought to the attention of the Board of Trade of the City of Pittsburgh and received due consideration, Therefore,

Resolved, That the speedy completion of the connecting link between Connellsville and Cumberland, a distance of ninety miles, uniting the Potomac with the Ohio, by a shorter and in every way more advantageous route than any now existing, is an object of natural importance, both in a commercial and military aspect.

Resolved, That the Board of Trade of the city of Pittsburgh earnestly recommend the memorial of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company to the favorable consideration of Congress.

Resolved, That our immediate representation in Congress be urgently requested to give the said memorial their careful attention and hearty support.

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary of this Board, be forwarded to the Hon. Edgar A. Cowan, Hon. J. K. Moorhead and Hon. Robt. McKnight, with a request that the subject be immediately brought to the notice of Congress.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted.

Death of Capt. Chapman and Quartermaster Lysle.

A dispatch, received in this city yesterday, conveys the sad news of the death of Capt. C. W. Chapman and Quartermaster James M. Lysle, of Col. Alex. Hays (Sixty-third) regiment. It appears that both these young officers were killed in a skirmish with the rebels, near Occoquan creek, while on picket duty, but the particulars are not given. Captain Chapman was about twenty-four years of age, and leaves an aged father and mother, who reside in Lawrenceville. He served in the City Guards, with the three months men. Quartermaster Lysle was a son of Mr. George Lysle, coal dealer, of McKeesport, and both are represented as very worthy and promising young officers.

SUICIDE.—Mrs. Amanda Robinson committed suicide at her residence in Mentor, Ohio, a few days ago, by hanging. She went into a chamber, adjusted the rope, then standing on a box tied it to a rafter and then pushed the box from under her feet. She leaves four children. It is said she had been laboring under aberration of mind for some time, and undoubtedly committed the rash act in that state.

LETTER FROM HARRISBURG.

[Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HARRISBURG, March 6, 1862.

The House spent half the morning in discussing a resolution embracing the powers of the Committee to investigate the military expenditures of the Commonwealth. When appointed, the Committee was limited to the expenditure of $500. By the action of the House to-day, the Committee is authorized to row over all custom, and expend as much money as it pleases. It is true, the House may control the matter in a small degree when the Committee comes to ask for the payment of its bids. So far, it is understood that this Committee has only examined two witnesses, both from your city, to wit: Swartzwelder and Murphy, on the Frowenfeld fraud. I understand Mr. S., in his testimony, declares that the failure of justice in your Quarter Sessions, was owing to the unwarrantable interference of Chief Justice Lowrie in removing the case to free himself for trial.

I do not believe that any good will be done by this investigation—all the facts are fully known. Some ill-advised expenditure of money has undoubtedly been made. But our State military fund has been far more honestly and wisely expended, than that of any other State. In this age of the world, it seems impossible to expend any considerable sum of money without cormorants fattening on the spoil, and stealing from 10 to 100 per cent. of the sum. We can congratulate ourselves that the old Keystone State has gotten off with the smaller amount, while New York has bled to the 100 per cent.

The Committee this morning reported Mr. Bigham's bill, in regard to your county affairs. The features of this bill are generally understood at home, and are designed to perfect the act of 1861. A bill read in place by Mr. Hutchman, modifying to some extent the act of 1861, in regard to Allegheny City, was also reported. This new act gives the appointment of a new man to opening streets to the District Court, and also relieves the farmers from the penalty of a fine, in case they sell hay without having it weighed on the public scales.

Mr. Bigham offered a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to examine into the constitutionality of an act of last session, shortening the time of sentences of convicts in the Penitentiary in case of their good behaviour. The inspectors of both the Eastern and Western Penitentiaries decided that this act is of very doubtful constitutionality that they have not attempted to enforce it.

The Senate, to-day, acted on a large number of public and private bills. The Committee on Federal Relations also reported affirmatively, on Mr. Irish's resolutions in favor of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. These resolutions will come up in a day or two, and call out all the speaking members of the Senate on the relations the African race holds to our National Union.

The House, this afternoon, took up and passed by a large majority a bill extending the mechanics lien laws to repairs and alterations made to buildings when the same exceed $20 in value. The bill, however, provides that the interest of the landlord shall not be bound by any such lien, unless he assents in writing to the change.

The bill to repeal the tonnage tax bill of 1861 came up, and was discussed for nearly two hours. No vote was taken, and nothing to change my heretofore expressed opinions that this bill will pass the House.

The Allegheny delegation met to-day, and after an interchange of opinion recommended to the Governor E. A. Montooth as Notary Public, instead of Mr. Logan, lately deceased. The delegation had a dozen of names before them, all of whom were fully competent and deserving of the office. FORT PITT.

Anti-Tax Meeting.

In pursuance of a public call, a very large meeting of tax-payers of Elizabeth township was held in the public hall of Elizabeth borough, on Saturday, March 1st. The meeting was organized by calling E. Caldwell, Esq., to the chair, and appointing H. McClure Secretary. After an interchange of opinion was had the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we consider the proposed tax on railroad bonds iniquitous, unjust and oppressive; that the bonds were issued without consent of the tax-payers of Allegheny county; that they were sold at a ruinous discount, and that we will resist the collection of said taxes, if imposed.

Resolved, That our fellow citizens, tax-payers of Allegheny county, are requested to meet at their various places of holding public meetings throughout the county, at the earliest possible period, and express their opinion and determination relative to the imposition of a tax to pay railroad bonds.

Resolved, That the growing expenses of our county are becoming a very serious and oppressive burden, and should admonish our County Commissioners to retrench, in every possible manner, our expenditures; let the strictest economy be observed; let no money be spent that can be avoided.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers of the city of Pittsburgh.

On motion, adjourned.

From Col. Coulter's Regiment.

A soldier in the 11th Regiment, writing from Annapolis, says:

"Our regiment, with a few exceptions, continued to be healthy. On the 17th of February, Lieut. McCutcheon, of Company F, died of diptheria, and on the 18th his remains were followed by the regiment to the Railroad Depot. Some time previous to this Noah Piper, a very excellent young man, died of the spotted fever. Many unfavorable reports with respect to the physical condition of our regiment, have been refuted by two of the Medical Staff of the army of the Potomac. Only nineteen have been discharged on account of disability.

"On the 17th and 28th ultimo, our regiment received four months pay. An account was kept, and as nearly as could be ascertained, it was estimated that about $37,000 out of $47,000 was sent home from the entire regiment.

"Rev. W. H. Locke, the Chaplain, recently presented Col. Coulter, on behalf of the officers, with a beautiful and valuable sword."

YOUNG MAN MISSING.—A young man named James F. M'Henry, whose parents reside on Beaver street, Allegheny, disappeared from his boarding house on the 22d ult., and has not since been heard of. He was employed at Fulton's foundry, and on the day of the illumination, having been unusually busy, did not leave the foundry until nine o'clock at night. He was seen crossing the bridge about eleven o'clock, and afterwards in a house in the lower part of Allegheny. Since that time no trace of him has been discovered. M'Henry was about twenty-one years of age and married.

Our Book Table.

Treasure Trove; or, Accounts of Irish Heirs; L. S. D. By Samuel Lover, Esq., author of "Handy Andy," "Rory O'More," etc., etc. Illustrated. New York: Dick & Fitzgerald. 1862. Pittsburgh: Mr. Henry Miner, Fifth street.

This is one of the best of Lover's novels,—and for humor, raciness, and power of interesting, few of the Irish novelists excel Samuel Lover. The edition before us is neatly printed, and the price is only 50 cents.

SUICIDE.—O. K. Miller, a well-known citizen of Erie, committed suicide, on Tuesday last, by hanging himself in the stable connected with his residence. He had but recently been taken home from the Insane Asylum here, in an apparently improved state. The rash act was committed in a returning fit of insanity.

INFORMATION WANTED.—Officer Hague, on Wednesday, received by mail a description and photograph of a merchant named Frederick A. Beitenman, aged forty-seven years, who has been missing from Shartleville, Berks county, since the 24th ult. Fifty dollars reward is offered for information concerning him.

BENEFIT OF MR. CHARLES BASS.—This evening being Mr. Bass' benefit night, he will appear in two characters—Sir John Falstaff, in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," and as Geoffry Dale, in the beautiful drama of the "Last Man."

POTATOES—2 car loads Peach Blows and Sandy Lakes.
HOMINY—20 bushels Flint.
DRIED APPLES—10 bbls. and 20 sacks.
BUTTER—10 half bbls. and 10 boxes, in cloths.
CHEESE—300 boxes W. R. Cutting Cheese.
All the above in store and for sale by
JOHN B. CANFIELD,
mr5 First street, near Wood.

TRANSPARENT GREEN OIL CLOTH—1,250 yards just received from factory at the Oil Cloth Warerooms, 26 and 28 St. Clair street.
fe15 J. & H. PHILLIPS.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Message from the President.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The President to-day transmitted to Congress the following message:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:

Resolved, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country there is the end; but if it does command such approval I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it. The Federal government would find its highest interest in such a measure, as one of the most efficient means of self preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the slave States north of such parts will then say: "The Union for which we have struggled being already gone we now choose to go with the southern section." To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it as to all States initiating it. The point is not that all the States colerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation, but that, while the offer is equally made to all the more northern, shall, by such initiation, make it certain to the more southern that, in no event, will the former ever join the latter in the proposed confederacy. I say initiation because, in my judgment, gradual, and not sudden emancipation is better for all. In the mere financial or pecuniary view, any member of Congress, with the caucus, tables, and treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of this war would purchase, at a fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State. Such a proposition, on the part of the general Government, sets up no claim of a right, by Federal authority, to interfere with slavery in the absolute control of the subject, in each case, to the State and its people immediately interested. It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them. In the annual message, last December, I thought fit to say the Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. I said this not hastily, but deliberately.

War has been made and continues to be an indispensable means to this end. A practical recknowledgment of the National authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease. If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend and all the ruin which may follow it. Such as may seem indispensable, or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come. The proposition now made is an offer only.

I hope it may be esteemed no offense to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States, and private persons and property in it, in the present aspect of affairs? While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiative, and not within itself a practical measure, it is recommended in the hope that it would soon lead to important practical results.

In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

[Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Gen. Banks' Command--Success of the Upper Potomac Movement--Gen. Shields.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 6.—Last night a squadron of the First Michigan cavalry advanced as far as Perrysville, on the Winchester turnpike, and ambushed and surprised a party of rebel cavalry, putting three of them *hors du combat*, and routing them. The Michigan party returned with nine rebel cavalry horses, fully equipped, as trophies, among them the celebrated black stallion rode by Col. Ashley. Not a man was lost.

The amount of forage and provisions captured by our right wing since the advance into Virginia is estimated to be worth twenty thousand dollars. This includes four thousand pounds of bacon, stored for the use of the rebel army, at Leetown and Lovettsville, now held by the Union army.

The success of the movement on the Upper Potomac has been complete.

Gen. Shields passed through Charlestown, on his way west, last night.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 6.—Reliable intelligence states that the enemy is in full force at Winchester, and have completed formidable earthworks on this side, mounted with sixty guns, including the field batteries.

Nothing of special importance transpired yesterday.

The work on the railroad progresses rapidly, and every point is strongly protected, from Cumberland to Harper's Ferry, and every facility is being afforded to the company. A large force is employed on the bridge and iron trestle work at the Ferry. The work has been found in better condition than was at first supposed by the engineer, and ten days is fixed as the time at which a through connection will be made.

All the commands of this division are in the best condition, and anxious for an attack on the enemy.

Bunker Hill was occupied by our forces yesterday, as the extreme outpost on the west.

There is some movement of troops to-day.

A scouting party of cavalry reports that Ashley's rebel cavalry last night attempted to cut them off when near Perrysville, but were foiled in the attempt.

Four regiments of rebels, with a four gun battery, attempted, on the 3d inst., to flank Col. Geary, near Lovettsville, but were driven off without a battle.

Saturday several deserters were brought into town by our cavalry. Among them was Lieut. Arthur Markell, of the Third Virginia volunteers.

A squad of Van Allen's cavalry to-day captured five rebel pickets, near Bunker Hill. They belonged to the 2d Virginia infantry, and were carried before the Division Provost Marshal, Lieut. Col. Andrews, of the Massachusetts 2d, for examination.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 6.—Smithfield, seven miles north-west of this place, was occupied to-day by a strong force. Gen. Banks has issued a General Order forbidding all kinds of depredations or marauding upon the property of citizens. Any one officer or soldier shall disturb in any manner the ordinary business of the country. He has appointed Major S. H. D. Crane, of the 3d Missouri regiment, as the officer in charge of all seizures of property for the use of the army. Country supplies which, on our arrival were out off, are now coming in more freely. The public sentiment in regard to our presence is gradually undergoing a favorable change.

Michigan Democratic Convention.

DETROIT, March 6.—The Democratic State Convention met in this city yesterday, and organized by electing H. H. Riley, of St. Joseph county, permanent President.

The attendance was very large, fully five hundred delegates were present, and the proceedings harmonious throughout.

It was deemed inexpedient to nominate candidates for State offices at this time.

Resolutions were passed expressive of the position of the Democracy of Michigan in the present crisis, promising support to the Government in all constitutional means to suppress the rebellion, and opposing the termination of the war until all resistance to the Government under the Constitution everywhere cease.

Abolitionism is strongly denounced as equally guilty with Southern secessionism, and the speedy extinguishment of both is hoped for—approving the modification of Fremont's proclamation and Secretary Cameron's report, and the appointment of the present Secretary of War, as an indication by the President to adhere to the Constitution; denouncing corruption and extravagance, and demanding honesty and economy in the administration of the Government.

Railroad Accident.

ST. LOUIS, March 6.—A serious accident occurred on the Pacific Railroad yesterday afternoon, one mile from Mermac station. An extra train which left this city with soldiers, government horses, &c., collided with the regular freight train from the west. The locomotives of both trains were smashed, and a number of cars destroyed. Several soldiers were severely injured, and a number of horses killed.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, March 6.

SENATE.—Mr. Harris, of N. Y., presented a petition in favor of conferring the rank of Major General on General Wool. Also a petition in favor of emancipation.

Mr. Harlan and Mr. Collamer also presented petitions in favor of emancipation.

Mr. Fessenden, of Me., from the Committee on Finance, reported back the Post Office Appropriation bill without amendment.

Mr. Collamer, of Vt., from the Post Office Committee, reported back the postal money order bill.

Mr. Halo, of N. H., from the Naval Committee, reported a joint resolution tendering thanks to Congress, to Capt. Goldsborough and the officers and seamen under him, for their gallant conduct at Roanoke Island. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, the bill relating to the pay of members of Congress was taken up.

An amendment was adopted making the mileage of members 20c. per mile; the bill as reported allowed only 10c. After some discussion, at 1 o'clock the Senate went into executive session.

On the doors being re-opened, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Buffinton, Conn., introduced a bill authorising the appointment of two deputy Inspector Generals. Referred to the Committee on military affairs.

Mr. Aldrich, Minn., reported a bill to increase the medical efficiency of the army.

The House concurred in the report of the Committee of Conference in the disagreeing amendments to the Joint resolution, providing for the payment of the awards of the commission appointed to investigate the claims growing out of the military operations of the Western Department. The House took up the Senate bill providing for the organization of the staff attached to the divisions of the united regular and volunteer forces.

Mr. Blair, Mo., explained that the bill proposed no increase of the army, but allowed certain officers to be detailed to staff duty, and the passage of the measure was deemed essential by military officers.

Mr. McPherson, of Pa., opposed the bill on the ground that it would increase the staff of every division, and proportionately the expense. Under the present circumstances the President can increase the staff of any division when a special emergency requires.

Mr. Dunn, of Ind., advocated the bill, arguing that the necessary means and agencies should be furnished to those charged with the conduct of the war.

After further debate, the bill was amended and passed.

The Speaker laid before the House a message from the President suggesting the passage of a joint resolution co-operating with any State for the abolition of slavery, with pecuniary compensation therefore. He proposes this as an initiative, predicting important practical results from it.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, of Pa., the message was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. Stevens, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill authorizing the purchase of coin. Its consideration was postponed till to-morrow.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union on the bill to regulate the franking privilege.

Mr. Perry, of N. J., spoke in opposition to the extreme anti-slavery measures which have been proposed. This was a time for the exhibition of patriotism and the defence of the Union. He was at a loss to see how it was necessary to set the slaves free now as an ally in the suppression of the rebellion. This was not a war for the destruction of the South, but for the restoration of the authority of the Government. Behind the dark clouds of rebellion the sky of the Union was clear and bright, and the stars of all the States were sparkling in all their beauty, and soon it would be that this dark cloud would pass away, and one by one the stars would re-appear in all their glory, and the people would thank God they were all there.

Mr. Davis, of Pa., reviewed the various shades of politics, and the purposes of political organizations. He discussed also peculiarities and dignity of labor, and in the course of his remarks said, never again would slavery become the controlling power of the government. Let it be known that while we have heretofore been true to the compromises of the Constitution, we now feel ourselves absolved therefrom by the acts of the armed slave holders.

Mr. Kelly, of Pa., rose to ask the House to repair, as far as it could, a wrong done to a friend and and constituent of his; a gentleman of character and integrity; one, who from his early life to his present age, has managed a large public business, a leading newspaper, and has received the public respect by his integrity, and who has literally fulfilled all his engagements to his fellow men. He asked that a statement from Col. Alexander Cummings, which he had done him the honor to address to him, be read in reply to a certain part of the report of the Committee on Government Contracts.

Mr. Wickliffe, of Ky., referred to the report, quoting certain articles that had been purchased by Mr. Cummings, such as codfish, cheese, ale, straw hats, etc., and inquired whether Mr. Kelly intended to defend this Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Kelly replied that Mr. Cummings had been charged by the Committee with having $140,000, for which vouches had not been furnished, and as this statement had been given to the press, and commented upon by the committee, it was but fair that Mr. Cummings should be heard in his own vindication. Adjourned.

General Order from Gen. Halleck.

ST. LOUIS, March 6.—A general order issued this evening, states that surveyors and other custom house officers and agents in this Department, as well as those on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, are expected to respect the permits issued by the surveyors of either of the ports of the Ohio river, and bearing his official signature and seal. Military officers commanding ports where there are no custom house officers, or acting in concert with such officers, will in like manner respect those permits. Sealed baggage, while the seal remains unbroken, will also be respected by officers. Goods, wares or merchandize in transit thus covered by permits, and baggage thus sealed, will be allowed to go forward to their places of destination, unless there is good and satisfactory reasons for their detention, on information obtained from reliable sources, until further orders. The trasportation of this Department is not open to munitions of war, except under special regulations with the military authorities. Whiskey, for the time being, is prohibited in the resumed commerce of the Cumberland and Tennessee.

By command of MAJ. GEN. HALLECK.

Important from the South.

CHICAGO, March 6.—A special dispatch to the *Tribune* from Cairo, says that the Federal pickets at Columbus were driven in, yesterday, by the rebel cavalry in the woods in the vicinity. The town was shelled by the gunboats. The rebels fled. It is reported that heavy cannonading was heard at Columbus at four o'clock this morning in the direction of New Madrid. The rebel army at that point numbers 40,000, it having been largely reinforced from Columbus and Memphis. They have also tight wooden gunboats.

From rebel papers we glean the following: "The steamer Cambridge was sunk, on the 23d, near Grand Glaize, Arkansas. Forty-two lives were lost."

The machinery from the various workshops in Nashville was removed, previous to the evacuation of that place, to Chattanooga.

The people of the South are warmly urging and demanding that Jeff. Davis take the field.

A bitter contest is going on in Memphis as to whether the town be burned on the approach of the Federal gunboats.

Latest from Ship Island--A Rebel Steamer Captured, &c.

BOSTON, March 6.—The United States gunboat Saxon has arrived from Ship Island, with dates to the 22d. She reports seeing a vessel supposed to be the steamer Kensington, which towed the supply ship, Vermont, from here, on Sunday last, off Hatteras.

The health of the troops at Ship Island was good. All the oyster boats in the vicinity had been captured, with 36 prisoners, thus cutting off the supply of oysters for New Orleans.

The United States sloop-of-war, Hartford, arrived at Ship Island from Havana, on the 22d ult., and joined in the celebration of Washington's birth-day.

The steam gunboat Saxon reports that the steamer South Carolina has captured the rebel steamer Magnolia, while running the blockade off Mobile, with 400 bales of cotton. The engineer attempted to blow her up, but only succeeded in killing himself. The Magnolia is a large side-wheel steamer.

Rubber Factory Destroyed.

BOSTON, March 6.—The Beverly Rubber Factory was burned last night. Loss $100,000. Insured for $70,000. The Company had a contract for the manufacture of 70,000 rubber blankets for the army.

Important from Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The bill reported from the Committee on Ways and Means to-day, authorizing the purchase of coin, and for other purposes, provides that the Secretary of the Treasury may dispose of any bonds or notes bearing interest, authorized by law, for coin at such rates and upon such terms as may be deemed most advantageous to the public interest, and may issue, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, certificated of indebtedness, such as were authorized by the act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue certificates of indebtedness to public creditors, approved March 1st, 1862, to such creditors as may desire to receive the same in discharge of checks drawn by disbursing officers upon sums placed to their credit upon the books of the Treasurer, upon requisitions of the proper Department, as well as in discharge of audited and settled accounts, as provided by said act. It is further provided that the demand notes authorised by act of July 17th, 1861, and by the act of February 12th, 1862, shall be receivable and shall be lawful money and a legal tender in like manner and to the same purposes and to the same extent as the notes authorized by the act to authorize the issue of United States notes, and for the redemption or funding thereof, and for the funding of the floating debt of the United States, approved 28th of last month.

Charles Henry Foster has returned to Washington, and again presented his petition for a seat as member from the 2d Congressional district of North Carolina. The case is before the Committee on Elections.

Army and Navy Promotions.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 6.—The President in addition to other officers promoted for gallant conduct, has nominated Brigadier General Thomas a Major General. Also Col. Harvey Brown to be a Brigadier General; by brevet, Major Arnold, Lieutenant Colonel; by brevet, Capt. Hillot, Major; by brevet, Major Tower, Lieutenant Colonel; by brevet, Captains Allen, Chaffe, Clesson, Robertson, Blunt, Dugen and Langdon, Majors; by brevet, 1st Lieutenants McFarland, Shipley, Jackson, Pennington Seeley, Frank E. Taylor and Todd, to be Captains for good conduct at Santa Rosa Island.

Capts. Bell, McKean, Dupont, Goldsborough and Fanagut were to-day confirmed by the Senate as flag officers of the Navy.

From California and South America.

NEW YORK, March 6.—The steamer Northern Light, from Aspinwall, has arrived, with California passengers and about one million in gold.

The Panama papers of the 25th ult. contain the following: Washington's birthday was celebrated at Panama with much spirit.

The United States steamer Wyoming arrived on the 18th.

Business in Chili was reviving, and the harvest was abundant.

Peace has been re-established in Bolivia.

Revolutionary attempts to agitate Peru are in progress. It is stated that Bishops and other clergy are endeavoring to create public opinion in favor of annexation to Spain.

Funeral of Gen. Lander.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The military display attendant on the funeral of Brigadier-General Lander this afternoon was large and impressive. A number of the most distinguished gentlemen connected with the army and navy, and in civil positions, were present, and the flags were every where at half mast.

The Fort Donelson Rebel Officers at Fort Warren.

BOSTON, March 6.—Forty-nine rebel officers, including all the Colonels, Majors, and other commissioned officers, captured at Fort Donelson, have taken up their residence in the classic shades of Fort Warren.

Kansas Legislature.

LEAVENWORTH, March 6.—The Kansas Legislature has adopted a resolution nearly unanimously, instructing the Kansas Senators and requesting the representatives in Congress to aid in the passage of the Rollins, and the ratification of a treaty with the Pottowattomie Indians.

Reception to Col. Lee.

BOSTON, March 6.—Col. Lee had a formal reception from the citizens of Roxbury last