Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 4.

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	50
12 " M.	00	59
6 " P. M.	00	60
Barometer,		29 7-10

Meeting of Allegheny Councils.

A regular monthly meeting of this body was held last evening, the members generally being in attendance.

In *Select*, the report of the Committee on Water, was presented, with resolution for the payment of sundry bills.

The Committee on Streets presented a report, with resolutions for the opening of the following streets: Buena Vista street, from Taylor avenue to Carroll street; Montgerey street, from Taylor avenue to Carroll street; Rosoca street, from Taylor avenue to Carroll street; and Palo Alto street, from Taylor avenue to Jackson street—and that Wm. Dilworth, John Bissell and James Graham be appointed to assess damages and benefits, as provided by law.

Resolutions were also reported, instructing the Street Commissioners to notify the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway Company to have the bridge over the road at Marshall street built as soon as possible. Also, appropriating $800 for cleaning streets; $400 for repairing streets, and $50 for repairing Irwin avenue and Pasture lane. Report accepted and resolutions adopted.

The Police Committee, to whom was referred the petition of citizens of the Second Ward in reference to the cattle yards, reported that the yards had been visited, and while some were in as good condition as they could well be kept, others were very bad. The offensive smell, and the noise, were very annoying to citizens, and the blocking of the streets by drovers was much complained of. The Committee was of opinion that if a satisfactory arrangement could be made to have all these yards removed outside the limits of the city, it would relieve the citizens of the ward of a great and growing nuisance, and at the same time not result in loss to parties owning property in the ward used for this purpose. The report was accepted.

The Committee on City Property submitted a report, in reference to the erection of the Rope Works on Beale's Island, with a resolution instructing the City Solicitor to sue out an injunction immediately upon any attempt to trespass upon the property known as Nelson's Island, lying below School street. The resolution was adopted.

The Committee on City Farm reported that in consequence of the confused state of the accounts of the Extension of the Poor House, they had ordered the work to be re-measured, which was done by Messrs. Barr & Moser, from whose report it appeared that $365.52 was due James Sloss, contractor, for extra work. This sum has already been paid, except a balance of $55,67, less bills for materials.

Mr. Sample, from whom the city purchased the farm, stipulated that he would refund at the rate of $72 per acre, for every acre short of the amount for which the city paid, upon proper survey. The several surveys made, varied in the aggregate, and showed the lot to be about sixteen acres short, which amounts to $1,152, with interest from date of payment.

Resolutions were adopted, recommending the Directors of the Poor to settle with Mr. Sloss according to the bill of measurement. Also, that Councils designate a Surveyor, who, in conjunction with one who may be appointed by John Sample, shall make a survey of the Poor Farm, and that the corners shall be marked by stone posts, under the direction of the Committee, and that the City Solicitor proceed to collect, the balance which may be due from Mr. Sample, with interest. Report accepted and resolution adopted.

In *Common Council*, the Gas Committee reported a resolution to pay $1,128 to the Gas Company, for lighting the city during the past year. Also, a resolution for the erection of sixteen street lamps, (four in each Ward) to be located by the delegations from the respective Wards. The resolutions were adopted. S. C. concurred in the first, and non-concurred in the last resolution. C. C. recede and concur.

Petitions for the grading of Goodrich street, and for a sewer on Ferry lane, were presented and referred.

The Committee on Wharves and Landings reported a resolution in favor of James Orr, for $58,95, for repairs above the Suspension bridge. Adopted.

The Committee on Engines and Hose reported a resolution for the payment of the quarterly dues to the firemen. Also, for the removal of the Reliance Hose Reel, from Anderson street to the Town House, and the removal of the Columbia Hose Company from its present location to the house occupied by the Reliance. Adopted.

S. C. non-curred in reference to the removal of the Reliance and Columbia Hose Companies, and instructed the Committee to procure a suitable house for the Columbia in the upper part of the Third or fourth ward. C. C. receded and concurred, provided S. C. would pass a resolution for the purchase of a hose reel and five hundred feet of hose to be deposited in the Town House. Not agreed to by S. C.

A resolution was adopted, requiring the Superintendents of Hose Reels, in the different wards, to keep an account of the time of their Assistants. Concurred in.

A resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Gas to confer with the Gas Company in reference to a reduction in the price of gas furnished the city—it having been reduced twenty cents per thousand feet to private consumers. Concurred in.

After transacting some business of minor importance, Councils adjourned.

The Criminal Court.

This Court was mainly occupied yesterday afternoon in the trial of a case of alleged horse stealing, in which John Grossman was defendant and Christian Geib prosecutor. The animal in controversy had been seized in execution, and the case was considerably mixed up. There was considerable doubt as to the felonious intent, and the jury found a verdict of not guilty. The parties reside in Allegheny.

The next case taken up was that of the Commonwealth vs. George Thompson, indicted under the penal code for indecent exposure. Our readers have hear I quite enough of the brutality of this man, and we need not refer to the nature of the testimony. Three respectable ladies appeared and gave their evidence against him, each fully and positively identifying him. Court adjourned before any evidence had been adduced for the defense.

THEATRE—HELLER'S BENEFIT.—This magical celebrity has a benefit this evening, upon which occasion he will present a programme consisting of the choicest necromantic and musical morceaux in his *repertoire*. The success of Mr. Heller has been most signal, for from the first his audiences have been large, and composed of the *elite* of the city. We do not think that Heller will lose in comparison with any master of the "occult science" living, while his "second sight" is the most mysterious and inexplicable exhibition that has ever been presented in this city. The extraordinarily large audiences nightly in attendance, combine yet another element which we are happy to say is largely in the increase. We mean the worshipers of the "divine art," and with whom Heller's exquisite piano forte interludes is more than a *quid pro quo* for the price of admission. To-morrow night will positively be his last night, as his engagement in Wheeling will not admit of a longer postponement.

STOLEN HAMS.—A vagrant named Ellen Burns was picked up on the Hand street bridge yesterday, very drunk, and having in her possession two fine hams, which are supposed to have been stolen. She was taken to the Allegheny Mayor's office, where she represented herself as a resident of the Third Ward, and stated that she had a child lying sick with the measles. The Mayor discharged her, but soon after saw her passing along the street with a pint of whisky in a little bucket. She was arrested a second time, and committed to jail as a vagrant.

MILL BURNT.—McNeeley's Mill, at the village of Marthasville, Green county, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last. The Mill and contents (some $800 worth of grain,) are a total loss. It is not known how the fire originated.

Ladies' Bible Society of Allegheny.

The thirty-second annual meeting of the Ladies' Bible Society of Allegheny, was held in Dr. Swift's church, March 31st—Rev. Elliott Swift presiding.

The annual report of the Board of Managers was read and accepted.

The report of the Secretary was as follows:

"Since your last annual meeting, the Board has held regular quarterly meetings, all of which were well attended. Some three hundred Testaments have been donated to soldiers, and fifteen Bibles and twenty Testaments distributed gratuitously within the limits of the city. We have also contributed a considerable amount of funds to the Parent Society. For more definite information on this point, we refer you to the report of the Treasurer. You will thus see the Board has not been wholly idle. Some little good we hope has been done, although we have great cause to lament our shortcomings. When we realize the facts—that the Bible is the product of Infinite Wisdom—a copy of God's gracious heart to us, his erring children—that it unfolds the only plan of the sinner's salvation and of God's providential government—that it is sealed by the blood of his own dear Son, and that it has been, and will continue to be the means of salvation to millions of the human family—should we not all be stimulated to a greater degree of zeal for, and activity and diligence in the distribution of that precious Book? M. H."

The following officers and Managers were elected for the coming year:

President—Mrs. Swift.
Vice President—Mrs. Irwin.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Hays.
Recording Secretary—Miss Mary Herron.
Treasurer—Mrs. Gibson.
Librarian—Mrs. Patterson.
Managers—Mrs. Cochrane, Mrs. Burnot, Mrs. Jemison, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Breading, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Spratt, Mrs. Preston, Mrs. McMillin, Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Haft. Miss Slater, Miss Porterfield, Miss Blackstock, Miss Sproull, Miss Tassey, Miss Pressly, Miss Whitten, Miss Thompson, Miss Wright, Miss Fleming, Miss Annan, and Miss Trevor.

The report of Mrs. James Gibson, Treasurer, for 1861, is as follows:

Cash received at Annual Sermon and for subscriptions and donations		
Balance on hand at annual meeting	$265 54	
Bibles and Testaments sold	32 85	
Total		$301 40
By cash remitted American Bible Society, New York	$190 00	
For discounts and drafts	3 12	
For Bibles and Testaments	55 65	
Total		248 77
Balance in hands		$52 63

The Manchester Passenger Railway.

Passenger cars was on the Rebecca street line of this road are constantly delayed by the drivers of oil teams to and from the refineries at Wood' run, who take possession of the track, and take their own time in getting out of the way. This is an outrage on passengers, as well as on infringement of the corporate rights of the company, and subjects the offenders to a sharp fine. If the evil is not speedily abated, a few examples will be made, although the company is very reluctant to prosecute. The law is clear, and we give notice that it will be enforced, so that the parties may not be taken by surprise.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—A lad aged about seven years, son of Mr. Thomas Conway, residing on Tunnel street, near Wylie, met with a most distressing accident last evening, which, it is feared, will prove fatal. The boy was knocked down and severely injured by a hoise, while in the act of crossing the street. It is said the accident was owing wholly to the recklessness of the rider, and could easily have been avoided. The injuries are principally about the head, and it was thought the skull had been fractured. Dr. McGrath was summoned and dressed the wound.

BROKE JAIL.—Three persons confined in the Mercer county jail, escaped on Thursday night week by digging a hole through the jail yard wall. One of the party, named Swagger, was subsequently captured, but the other two are still at large.

PROF. ANDERSON still continues his wonderful and inexplicable exhibitions at Concert Hall. His engagement will positively close to-morrow evening. Go and see him.

Allegheny County Institute.

McKEESPORT, April 3, 1862.

EDITORS GAZETTE: The Allegheny County Teachers' Institute convened at this place yesterday, and is now in session. Mr. A. T. Douthet, County Superintendent, was called to preside over the deliberations, and on taking the chair, gave quite a neat address, setting forth the necessity for such associations of teachers; showing how much more can be done to advance the cause of education and to elevate the teacher's profession by united than by individual effort.

After appointing a Committee, electing the other officers, and arranging other matters incident to the organization of the Institute, the meeting adjourned till seven o'clock last evening, when quite a large and respectable audience met to hear Dep't State Sup't, S. P. Bates, deliver a lecture on Physical Education. The gentleman spoke about an hour on this important but much neglected subject, showing the importance of more systematic physical training in our schools. He said that we are a nation of consumptives, pale faces and weak physical nations; that the school, unable to adopt a defective system of physical education, to badly arranged and ill adapted school furniture, to ignorance of the laws of health on the part of both teachers and parents.

A lively and interesting discussion followed the gentleman's remarks, after which the meeting adjourned to meet this morning at nine o'clock. PEDAGOGUE.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

THE time has come to buy Spring Cloaks and Mantles, and Silks and Dress Goods; and being desirous of doing all the good we can to our readers, we advise them, in all earnestness, not to spend a copper until they have seen Barker & Co.'s stock. It is not only the largest, but the most beautiful and the cheapest ever exhibited in our city. Again, we say, don't buy till you have been there. The No. is 59, Market street.

MESSRS. W. H. MCGEE & Co., Clothiers, corner of Diamond and Federal streets, are receiving their spring goods. The stock just purchased consists of the most fashionable patterns, and any one desiring to buy spring clothing of the newest style should call at their store and examine the goods, and we are sure they will not purchase elsewhere. They are ready to sell at prices to suit the times.

SAMUEL GRAHAM, Merchant Tailor, would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, that he has removed to No. 54, Market street, one door from 3d street, where he is now opening a large and well selected stock of spring and summer goods, direct from New York. Having purchased for cash, is prepared to offer inducements in both price and quality to all who may favor him with their patronage.

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.

IS IT POSSIBLE that any soldier can be so foolish as to leave the city without a supply of Holloway's Ointment and Pills? Whoever does so will deeply regret it. These medicines are the only certain cure for Bowel Complaints, Fevers, Sores and Scurvy. Only 25 cents per box or pot. 223

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. ‡

ADJOURNED SALE of Furniture, Bedding, Carpets, &c., at the Girard House, on Friday, April 4th, at 10 o'clock, continuing every day, until all are sold. E. W. Lynd, auctioneer.

WE would call attention to the advertisement headed "Country Residence for Rent." The place is very desirable, and the rent low.

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

DENTISTRY.—Dr. C. Sill, No. 245 Penn st., attends to all branches of the Dental profession.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Squatter Sovereignty in Pittsburgh Fifty Years Ago--Now in Allegheny.

It will be remembered by the more advanced in age of the citizens of this vicinity, that something like a half century ago, certain individuals of Pittsburgh purchased of the heirs of Wm. Penn all the land lying on the south side of the city, between Water street and the Monongahela river. The "Penns" claiming that Water street, as laid out by them, was some fifty feet wide, or thereabout, and that they, therefore, still owned all land between that line and the river. A patent was made for this land, by the request of the "Penns," to the parties referred to above, who congratulated themselves on the attainment of a great speculation by their purchase. As soon as the fact of the sale to these persons became known, it aroused a prodigious excitement, not only on the part of property owners on Water street, but the sympathies of the whole population of Pittsburgh became interested in the maintenance of an open street to the river. Suits were forthwith instituted in the United States Court, in the city of Philadelphia, there being then but one district over the whole State, from the Delaware to the Ohio. The ablest counsel was employed by the contestants on either side, and after being tried in the Courts below, was carried to Washington for final adjudication, resulting in establishing Water street as it exists to this day.

It seems that a similar speculation is being now attempted in the city of Allegheny by a party of speculators, to seize and appropriate all the low ground on the Allegheny, in the First Ward, in front of the private property in that ward. It is a well known fact that all this property, as patented by the Commonwealth, calls for *Bank Line* as it follows the meanders of the river. There can, therefore, by no fiction of law, be any unappropriated ground between the property held by individuals and the river. Bank Lane, calling for the river, is Bank Lane still, whether it embraces a width of 100 feet or 500 feet, it being just as well established a principle of law, that whatever a street gains by the receding of the river accrues to the street as it would to an individual however far the river may recede, and however much more land may be gained thereby, than is called for by his patent. The cases rest on precisely the same legal decisions, and wherever properly tested by judicial investigation will be so determined. The case is clear beyond a doubt, and the proof that that ward can be no more shut out from the river by any private appropriation of their front on the river, than could the owners of lots on the public Commons of Allegheny, and it is clearly the duty of the public authority to remove any structure erecting on Bank Lane in front of the property referred to, as it would be to remove like ones from the Commons in front of private lots. Why this affair has been permitted to commence at all is really remarkable; or, are the authorities of the city unaware of its just rights, and allow a set of blustering speculators to squat down on what is really as much of a street as any other street, lane or ally in the city, by their empty clamor, that "they have a patent for the ground?" Their patent, whatever it may be, is not worth a cent. The State could not, and unless surreptitiously obtained, would issue no such title; and if it did, was utterly worthless in view of the rights of the city over its streets, lanes and alleys.

But they say that theirs is a patent for an island. We say no such island, in the proper sense of the term, ever existed. Their whole survey was and is part of the main land of Allegheny, except in times of high water. In fact, a rise of 7 or 8 feet would cover every inch of their survey, and can such be called an island? Nelson's Island, and perhaps obtained a patent, but his calling it an island no more constituted it such than his patent, if he obtained one, would give him a title to it. We all recollect what was called Beal's Island. A few speculators undertook to set up a claim, under a grant from the State, and brought ejectment to oust Mr. John Irwin from a portion of his property, covered by a patent issued by the Executive Council of Pennsylvania for only 35, which calls for the Allegheny river as its southern boundary, and embracing nearly one half more ground than the patent claims, for the simple and legal reason that it called for the river as its boundary. The suit lost as much an island as Nelson's Island, so called, has its chances. For high water it was cut off by the "levee" from the main land.

No island but Killbuck or Smoky Island ever existed in the mouth of the Allegheny river, as an examination of the original survey of the river tract will plainly demonstrate.

With this brief history of the real merits of this impudent seizure of a public street for private gain, and the great obstruction of the property on the bank of the river, if it could be carried out, it is hoped that the authorities of the city will at once step in to the protection of their constituency in the First ward, and put a stopper on this game of Grab.

City Mortality.

The number of deaths in this city, from March 24th to April 1st, as reported by Dr. A. G. McCandless, physician to the Board of Health, is as follows:

Males.....20 | Adults.....7 | Total.....28
Females.....8 | Children...19

Of the children, ten were under two years of age, and nine between two and five years. The list was—Measles, 2; Meningitis, 2; Stillborn, 2; Mysteria, Congestion of Brain, Consumption, Catarrh Fever, Typhoid Fever, Diptheria, Congestion of Lungs, Spasms, Small Pox, Croup, Whooping-cough, Pneumonia, and unknown, 1 each.

Of the adults—Consumption, 3; Apoplexy, Diptheria, Enervation of the Stomach, and old age, 1 each.

WHY IT IS SO.—The reason why the ladies prefer doing their shopping at Barker & Co's., 59 Market street, is, they keep the greatest rarity, the most desirable styles, have but one price and sell the cheapest. Go and see.

THE EYE.—Dr. Sterrett, oculist, gives special attention to all affections of the Eye; removes Cataracts by a new operation, causing but slight pain or risk to the Eye. Residence, 277 Penn street.

E. EDMUNDSON & CO.,
96 AND 98 THIRD STREET,
Have just received an immense stock of
WALL PAPER, BORDERS, &c.;
UPHOLSTERING GOODS,
SATIN DE LAINES,
DAMASKS,
LACE CURTAINS,
BEDDING, &c.
And every other article in the line which we are offering at exceedingly low figures.
☞Remember, 96 and 98 THIRD STREET, opposite J. W. WOODWELL'S. mh31

LINNEANS RHUBARB ROOTS,
IN ALL RESPECTS THE VERY BEST.
At $1 per dozen; $5 per hundred.
J. KNOX,
No. 29 Fifth Street.
ap3:1tdawF

HAVING THIS DAY DISCONTINUED the use of John Adams' name in carrying on the Glass Business, I hereby give notice that he is no longer authorized to contract any debts on my account. And also that the trade will be conducted from this date under the name and style of KING & CO., at the old stand, at the corner of Wood and Fourth streets. ALEXANDER KING
Pittsburgh, April 1st, 1862—ap2:1w

REMOVAL.
THE MERCANTILE AGENCY,
R. G. DUN & CO.,
Corner of Wood and Fifth streets,
Will remove their office on the 5th of April next to the Rooms above S. JONES & CO., Bankers, corner of Wood and Fourth streets. Entrance on Fourth street. mh29:1w

REMOVAL.—I have removed my Intelligence Office to No. 127 Fourth street, corner of Smithfield street, opposite Johnston's Drug Store. ap1 M. K. NOLAN.

REMOVAL.—B. McLAIN & Co., have removed their office to No. 102 Fourth street, four doors above Wood street. ap2

POTATOES.—150 bush. Pinkeye Potatoes just received and for sale by
JAMES A. FETZER,
ap3 corner Market and First streets.

SNUFF.—15 barrels Garret's Scotch Snuff, just received and for sale by
ap3 REYMER & BROS.

BEANS.—6 bbls. Small White just received and for sale by R. DALZELL & CO.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

Important from Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—The following are the rebel troops that occupied Loudon county, Va., during the summer, fall and winter, and until the time of the evacuation:

The 4th South Carolina regiment, Colonel Blanding; 13th, 17th, 18th and 21st Mississippi, Colonels Barksdale, Featherstone, Burke, Kelly and Humphrey's, and the 8th Virginia, commanded by Col. E. Hunter, of Prince William. Lieut. Col. C. B. Tebbs, of Loudon, and Major Norman, of Berkley. The latter regiment was moved some days after the Ball's Bluff fight to Centreville; after that fight a Louisiana regiment was sent to Loudon, but remained only a few days.

It is now conceded among the rebels that the Virginia troops are equal if not superior to any in the rebel army. Notwithstanding the brag of the chivalry of South Carolina, it is charged upon them that they were the first to break ranks and run at the battle of Bull Run.

A large number of desertions from the Virginia and North Carolina regiments are reported to have taken place lately.

The time of the Loudon troops expires on the 22d of April.

The steamer King Phillip arrived from the lower Potomac last night, bringing up four refugees from Richmond and Westmoreland counties, Va., who came off from Kinsale, on Saturday last. They state that the rebels are pressing every male between the ages of 18 and 45 into the service, and that they had been closely hunted by the press gangs for a week or two.

The rebels have mostly left the neighborhood, but a few squads of cavalry roam through the country, impressing into the service all who are able to bear arms.

These refugees are natives of that section, one being an old farmer named Gurdy, and the others young men engaged in business near home. One of the young men has been acting as the rebel postmaster, at Kinsale. The refugees give the following, as the ruling prices lately in that vicinity: Coffee, $1,25 per pound; sugar, 40 cents; fine salt $6 per sack; salt put up in half gallon sacks $1,25; boots, to be had only in Fredericksburg, at $12 per pair.

They say that the late rebel papers state that the loss of the United States troops in the recent conflict with the Merrimac was 1,500 men. Also, that on Friday's shot had no more effect on the sides of the Merrimac than hailstones.

The Government, having returned to their respective owners all the boats in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the trade has already begun to revive. Eighteen barrels of flour are among the first receipts.

Capt. A. H. Harwood, of the Bureau of Ordnance, and Hydrography, in reply to letters of representative Sedgewick, says:

"Under the present system of appointment, hardly fifty per centum of the naval cadets graduate. This is because no care is taken in selecting, at first, pupils who have the rudiments of education either intellectual or moral, and because ungovernable, ignorant, idle boys, expelled, or permitted to resign, are sent to Annapolis nominated by members of Congress." Captain Harwood expressed a hope that the power of re-appointment, after the nomination has once been rejected for cause, will be taken away. The naval academy board, in concluding their review of cadets, suggestions, say a permanent locality of the institution is of great importance, and also attaching another frigate for naval practice. The latter has for some time been contemplated by the Navy Department.

The Commission on State prisoners will commence their sessions at Fifth Avenue Hotel next Monday. After completing their business, they will proceed to Boston.

The bill which passed the Senate to-day for the emancipation of slavery in the District of Columbia, was introduced by Senator Wilson on the 16th December; and reported back from the Committee for the District, on the 13th February, with amendments, which, however, do not affect the principles or plan of emancipation, as embodied in the original bill.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, have agreed to report a bill to secure the speedy transportation of the mails, in accordance with the recommendation of Postmaster General. It requires all railroad companies to contract with the Department for this purpose, and, in case of failure, to agree upon the price. The Court of Claims is to be the arbiter, whose decision shall be final on both parties.

It is not probable that the House will finally act on the tax bill till Monday, and in the meantime the many amendments made in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union will be printed.

The steamer Union ran into the Wycomico creek, a few days since, and brought out a rebel schooner called the Isabel. She is in good order and can be very usefully employed by our own government.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 3.—The weather to-day is clear and pleasant, and everything is progressing in the most satisfactory manner.

The rebels fired several shots from Sewell's Point, last night, on the transports in the harbor, some of the shells falling within fifty feet of a vessel loaded with horses.

A reconnoissance was made from Newport News, yesterday, to Watt's creek, a distance of nine miles. The enemy appeared, 3,000 strong, and opened with cannon on our forces, but the balls passed entirely over them. Our battery were immediately got in position and opened on them, when the entire rebel force broke and fled, fording the creek in great confusion, and keeping out of range.

The object of the reconnoissance being accomplished, the troops returned. The whole country through which they passed, formerly the garden spot of Virginia, has been devastated, and but one house left standing. The houses, fences, and trees have been burned by the retreating rebels.

There are no signs of the approach of the Merrimac yet, and, from the long delay, the opinion is gaining ground that she will not come again. She has a free field to operate in, if she should triumph over the Monitor, and if she waits to come now it is thought she is afraid to run the risks.

An officer of the Seminole says that he read a Savannah paper, of the 23d ult., which acknowledged a terrible rebel defeat at Pea Ridge, and admitted there was no use to conceal the fact.

The English steamer Racer arrived here this morning, and saluted the flag, which was responded to by the fort, and the same compliment passed between the French vessels, and the Racer, occasioning quite a cannonade. A second reconnoissance was also made yesterday to Big Bethel, when the enemy was found to have returned and occupied the earthworks in force. On seeing our scouts, the rebels threw shells into the woods occupied by them on the previous advance, but as they were aimed at no damage was done. It not being the purpose of the advance to engage the enemy, no response was made to their guns.

A flag of truce to-day brought down the officer of the French steamer from Norfolk.

The steamboats conveying troops to Newport News were repeatedly fired into from Sewell's Point and a rebel gunboat, this afternoon. No damage was done as far as we could learn.

News from Memphis.

LOUISVILLE, April 3.—An intelligent gentleman who left Memphis a week ago, reports Gen. A. Sidney Johnston to have said that the federals could not flank them in any position that they might take, and therefore fortifications were useless. Johnston says the only chance for the rebels is open fight in the field. Our informant thinks Corinth, Miss., is their chosen place. He further says that the rebels had about 50,000 troops on the line between Memphis and Huntsville, Alabama, which were being reinforced and are supposed now to number from sixty to sixty-five thousand. The rebels are prepared with tar and rosin to burn Memphis when they are compelled to evacuate it. Most of the prominent citizens of Memphis say they would yield forthwith if they were assured of their safety and security of their property from confiscation by the Federal Government.

Destructive Fire at Iowa Hill, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 31.—Every business house in the town of Iowa Hill, Placer county, was burnt on the 26th. Loss about $70,000.

The ships Radiant, from Boston, and Jas. Pesbody, from Hong Kong, arrived on the 29th, and the ship Lookout and barks Albertine, Hamburg and Dumna, from Boston, on the 29th.

Election in Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, April 3.—At the municipal election yesterday, Horace Chase, Democrat, was elected Mayor, and nearly all the Democratic ticket elected.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamship Niagara.

HALIFAX, April 3.—The Royal mail steamship Niagara, from Liverpool, via Queenstown on the 23d ult., arrived at this port this evening for Boston.

The steamship Etna, from New York, had arrived at Liverpool.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The proceedings of the Parliament, on the 20th, were unimportant.

In the House of Commons, on the 20th, Mr. Baxter opposed the expenditure for fortifications in the colonies, except at great naval stations.

Sir G. C. Serris thought the defences of the colonies was partly a colonial, and partly a military question. At the present moment, there were two great nations, which had subject to their rule as large a portion of the globe as they could govern, viz: Great Britain and the United States. America had adopted the principle of centralization. England took a different course. It was assumed that England received great benefit from her colonies, and if that was the case she was bound to protect them. He thought it impossible to draw any general rule, and urged the House to be very cautious after further debate. Mr. Baxter withdrew his proposition.

The London *Times*, in another editorial on Mr. Lincoln's emancipation message, says it can hardly be looked upon as anything more than an invitation to discuss the subject in Congress. It is clear that if slavery is to cease even in the Border States, the change must be accomplised by other means than those at which he points, which means, it is certain, are totally inapplicable to the whole Union.

The *Times* learns that the proposed utophia of compromise will be difficult of access, nor does it believe that it will shake the resolution of the Senate. As a proposition, however, which may possibly lead to the cessation of the frightful conflict.

The *Times* thinks it worthy of discussion. The President truly says that the expenses of the war would buy up the slaves in any given State. If this has any meaning it is, that the money now devoted to keeping up the armies of the North, might be more advantageously devoted to the extinction of slavery in those regions which are incontestibly in his power. If they are content to keep the slave States which have not seceded and to try the plan of emancipation and compensation on them, they may, if really in earnest, after a time, accomplish a great work, but with the expenditure of two millions a day, and with nothing but shinplasters for money, the plan of attacking the war-crying slave owners by compromise, must follow the fate of other attempts at compromise. The *Daily News* thinks the proposition fair, moderate and magnanimous. It says the scheme at least affords a good basis for a comprehensive, practicable and amicable debate. Only the public, by whom it has to be discussed, is scarcely capable of the order needed for real deliberation and decision.

Liverpool, March 22.—The cotton market closed firm and buoyant to-day, Saturday. The advices from Manchester continue favorable. Breadstuffs are dull. The usual authorities quote flour dull with a downward tendency; sales of American at 28s@29s. Wheat dull with a decline of 2d on all descriptions. Red western, 10s 6d@11s 0d; red southern, 11s 8d@11s 10d; white western, 12s 6d; white southern, 12s 8d@12s 10d. Corn quiet but steady at 28s 9d@29s for mixed.

The bullion in the Bank of England has increased £52,600 during the week.

There is a fair business doing in American securities, but the quotations are nominal.

New York Central, 72@74; Erie Railroad, 23¾.

Storm at Cairo.

CAIRO, April 2.—Gen. John A. Logan left to-day to join his brigade up the Tennessee river. His wound is not entirely healed.

The most terrific tornado that has visited this locality for several years, passed over Cairo, from the south-west, at 5 o'clock this morning. The tornado was accompanied with rain, hail, thunder and lightning. A large number of transports and steam tugs were torn from their moorings, on the Ohio levee, and blown across the river.

The slate roof of the St. Charles Hotel was torn off, and completely demolished several rows of unoccupied barracks and leveled them to the ground.

The Cairo and Columbus wharf-boat was blown across the river, and now lies high and dry on the Kentucky shore.

The steamer Illinois had both chimneys and upper cabins torn away, in the falling of which four or five lives were lost.

Several barges, which were used as store houses, broke loose and floated down the river.

Large piles of government lumber, on the Ohio levee, was blown into the river.

The wooden barracks at Bird's Point and Fort Holt were demolished. No loss of life.

Much anxiety is felt for the fleet at Island No. 10. Steamers were sent down early this morning to ascertain what damage has been done.

The steamer Philadelphia, with a lot of ice barges in tow, drifted down the river and sunk a mile below Bird's Point. Three men were drowned.

Capt. Carrol, of the steamer Callie Wood, had his leg broken.

So far as ascertained, from the transports at the levee, five men were blown overboard and drowned, and several had their legs and arms broken.

The boat, John Jois, used as a hospital, at Mound City, was severely injured.

CHICAGO, April 3.—A special dispatch to the *Tribune*, says: A small craft, tied to the levee, in front of the St. Charles Hotel, occupied by a poor man and his family—five persons—parted her mooring during the gale, yesterday, and all on board were drowned.

The wharf-boat of the Ohio and Mobile Railroad was blown across the river, and is now entangled in the bushes on the Kentucky shore.

At Paducah, the storm was very severe, unroofing thirty houses, including the Marine hospital, and a large warehouse adjoining the wharf-boat.

The damage done to steamers and property along the river is immense.

The Evansville packet Courier, barely escaped destruction.

The storm was exceedingly violent in the vicinity of the Cumberland river, but we are without particulars.

The steamer Universe has just returned from a successful search of the steamer Philadelphia, reported sunk. She was found one mile this side of Columbus. Her crew were taken off, excepting three men, who left the Philadelphia in a skiff, not being heard from since.

Nothing of interest has been received from New Madrid.

10:30 P. M.—The Pike has just arrived from the Island with intelligence to 1 o'clock p. m. The damage to the fleet is less than was anticipated. The gunboats and mortars are uninjured. Two transports—the Pike and Swallow—are damaged considerably. The bombardment is carried on vigorously, but the result is unknown.

CHICAGO, April 3.—A special dispatch to the *Journal*, from Cairo, says: In the gale yesterday morning eight persons were blown overboard from the steamboat Americus and drowned.

A flat boat, occupied by a poor family as a residence, was blown away and sunk, the family escaping upon a coal barge as it floated past.

The Cairo wharf boat was towed back last night from Columbus, not much damaged.

Affairs at Woodstock, Va.

WILLOW GLENS, near Woodstock, Va., April 3.—All was quiet on our outposts last night. We fired a few guns this morning to disperse some of the enemy's scouts on the heights beyond Edinburg.

While attempting to cross the north fork of the Shenandoh, this morning, Sergeant Morgan Richards and private John Cannon, both of Co. C, 46th Pennsylvania regiment, were drowned.

Injured by Falling Trees.

CHICAGO, April 3.—A special dispatch from Cairo to the *Tribune*, says that the storm on Wednesday morning was very severe at Point Pleasant. Lieut. Moore, one private of the 7th Illinois cavalry, Capt. Webster, and several privates of the same company, were injured by falling trees.

Election in Wheeling.

WHEELING, April 3.—The vote of this city, to-day, gives six hundred and forty-six of a majority for the new constitution, and a majority of five hundred and eighty-eight in favor of gradual emancipation. The interior, as far as heard from, give the same ratio.

Parson Brownlow.

On Tuesday, the Mayors and Committees from Chicago, Springfield, Chillicothe, and three other cities, called upon Parson Brownlow, and tendered him the freedom of their respective cities, and begged him to visit them.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, April 3, 1862.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Spaulding, the President was requested, if in his opinion it was not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate any information which may be received at the Department of State, showing the system of revenue or finance now existing in any foreign country.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and took up the tax bill.

The following amendment was adopted in relation to the marine, inland and fire insurance:

Where the amount insured does not exceed $1,000, a duty of 25 cents; more than $1,000 and not exceeding $5,000, 60 cents; exceeding $5,000, $1.

Also as to mortages, where the amount does not exceed $5,000, a duty of 50 cents; exceeding $5,000, $1.

In regard to both of the above it was agreed that where the value or consideration insured does not exceed $100, or the mortgage does not exceed the same amount, there shall be no stamp duty imposed.

The following proviso was rejected:

That any such mortgage given to secure the payment of purchase money for real estate shall be exempt from any such charge.

An amendment was adopted placing a stamp duty of 25 cents on any note, check, marine and other specific protests.

An amendment was offered, debated and rejected, imposing a tax of $1 on each passenger travelling on a railroad without the limits of the United States.

A proviso was adopted that the stamp duties on manifests, bills of lading and passengers tickets, provided in schedule B, shall not apply to steamboats plying between ports in the United States, and between these and ports of British North America.

An amendment was adopted that no writ, summons or other process, issued by a Justice of the Peace, in any criminal or equity suit commenced by the United States, or any State, shall be subject to the payment of stamp duty.

The medicine schedule was altered so as to provide that medicines, cosmetics, perfumeries, by whatever name the same have been, now are, or shall hereafter be called or distinguised, shall pay, when valued or sold at 25 cents, 1 cent; not exceeding 50 cents, 2 cents; not exceeding seventy-five cents, 3 cents; not exceeding $1, 4 cents; and for every 50 cents, or fractional part thereof over and above $1, 2 cents. Playing cards shall pay 20 cents per pack.

The consideration of the income sections, which was passed over yesterday, was now resumed.

An amendment was adopted including gas, telegraph and express companies or corporations under the income duty. It was provided that the nett gains, profits and incomes only shall be estimated, and that the duties on incomes shall be payable on or before the 30th of June, 1865, and on each year thereafter until and including the year 1866, and no longer.

Among other amendments adopted was one that fuze of all descriptions, when made up, shall be charged 3 per centum, ad valorem.

All the sections were acted upon excepting the two relating to appropriation and allowance and drawbacks.

The Committee then rose and the House adjourned.

SENATE.—Mr. Wilmot, of Pa., presented the resolution of the Legislature of Virginia relative to the defences of the Delaware river and bay, recommending the construction of gunboats and tendering the credit of the State to the amount of a million of dollars for that purpose. Referred.

Mr. Hale, N. H., from the Naval Committee, reported the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to test the plans and materials to render floating batteries invulnerable, with an amendment reducing the appropriation from $50,000 to $25,000. The bill as amended was passed.

Also, from the same Committee, a bill for the relief of the widows of the offices and seamen of the ships Cumberland and Congress. The bill gives twelve months extra pay to the widow, children or nearest relative. Passed.

Mr. Doolittle, of Wis., presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Wisconsin against imposing a stamp tax on newspapers or any interdiction on their free exchange with each other. Referred.

Mr. Kennedy, of Md., presented a memorial from the tobacco planters of Maryland against the proposed tax on leaf tobacco.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., offered a resolution that the Military Committee be instructed to report whether further legislation is necessary to prevent persons employed in the military service of the United States from aiding in the return or control over pers