Pittsburgh Gazette.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 17.

CITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, No. 55 Fifth street—corrected daily:

	IN SUN.	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	00	30
12 " M.	00	40
6 " P. M.		40
Barometer	29 7	20

Special Meeting of Allegheny City Councils.

Allegheny Councils met, last night, to consider a memorial presented to the Commissioners for the erection of public buildings, in reference to the increase in prices of labor and materials.

Councils having gone into joint meeting to hear and discuss the memorial, Mr. Riddle read the same. Messrs. White & Alexander, the contractors, state that they have about completed the new Market House, under their contract, notwithstanding the very considerable advance in the cost of labor and materials; that to commence and continue to completion the City Hall and weigh scales, under the present inflation of prices, would involve them in ruinous loss. They ask that Councils would either allow an advance in the price of contract, for the unfinished work, or relieve them from the contract entirely.

The question of the equity in the case was fully discussed. Councils seemed pretty unanimously of the opinion that a reasonable and just advance in the contract price, for the unfinished work, should be granted.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the whole matter was referred to the Commissioners, to report to Councils at the next regular meeting.

On motion of Mr. Hutchinson, the Commissioners were authorized to so far modify the plan of the Market House as to build the corner buildings of brick, instead of wood.

On motion of Mr. Atwell, the Commissioners were authorized to have another coat of paint applied to the interior of the roof of the new Market House.

Mr. Riddle moved that the Commissioners be instructed to inquire in regard to the propriety of changing the material for the roof of the new City Hall from tin to slate or gravel. Adopted.

Councils having adjourned to their respective chambers, the above business was concurred in.

Mr. Enox, from the Committee on Police, stated that the owners of the property leased by the city for the use of the Mayor, desired an increase of $100 per annum for the use of the same.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the Committee was authorized to lease suitable rooms for the use of the Mayor and other city officers. Common Council concurred.

On motion, adjourned.

The Storage of Oil in the City.

A meeting of the Committee appointed by the Oil Exchange to confer with the Committee appointed by the City Councils, to report an ordinance to regulate the storage of petroleum within the limits of the city, was held last night in the room of the Water Committee.

Mr. Thurston, Secretary of the Oil Exchange, read a somewhat lengthy, and very able address, setting forth the immense advantages of the oil trade to the city; the efforts that are being made by other cities to attract the trade to their districts; and the harmful effects that would result from restrictive legislation in regard to its landing and storage in this city. (The entire report will be published in a few days, and will be read with interest by all having an interest in the welfare of the city.)

A protracted discussion took place in regard to the proper locality for storing oil, its danger from spontaneous combustion and accidental fire, and other matters relative to its storage—almost every person on both committees setting forth their own peculiar views in regard to the subject. It was pretty generally understood that the most suitable place for the deposit of crude oil was that portion of the Allegheny wharf lying between the St. Clair street bridge and the point.

The meeting adjourned until Friday evening, at which time the Council Committee will meet for the purpose of framing a report to hand in at a meeting of Councils, to be held next Monday evening.

Bench Warrant Case.

Mr. John Lowry was yesterday brought before Judge Stowe, on a bench warrant sued out at the instance of George W. Davidson. The plaintiff alleged that Lowry, who is a resident of St. Louis, was about to remove certain barges from the county of Allegheny, with intent to defraud his creditors—being boatmen whom he had in his employ. An affidavit of defense was filed, setting forth that there was no intent to defraud, by the removal of the barges in question, and upon a hearing the defendant was discharged. John Barton, Esq., appeared for the plaintiff, and John T. Cochran, Esq., for the defendant.

CLEVELAND'S RAILROAD TICKETS.—An order has been issued by President McCullough, of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company, requiring all ministers who desire yearly half fare tickets to make application to the agents of the road nearest their place of residence. A printed form is furnished by the agents, for the applicant to insert his place of residence, name of congregation and denomination, and when his appointment as pastor to the charge expires. Wm. Stewart, Esq., the gentlemanly Agent of this road will attend to all applications made by ministers residing in this city.

THEATER.—The new drama of "Life's Revenge" was produced at the theatre for the first time last evening, and in consequence of the great amount of labor necessary to produce the grand spectacle of the "Seven Sisters," it will be repeated to-night, and the "Sisters" kept in the back ground until to-morrow evening, when they will be made to appear in all their splendor. The entertainment will conclude to-night with the "Secret," in which the comical Sefton personates "Thomas."

BURGLAR SHOT.—A few nights ago a burglarious attempt was made to enter the store of Mrs. Bucher, in Columbia, Pa. The burglar paid dearly for his attempt at robbery, for the proprietor, owing to the numerous attempts at burglary which had been made in that borough of late, had taken the precaution to be prepared for such characters, and received the burglar by discharging a pistol at him, the charge from which inflicted a wound that caused his death in a few hours.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of this institution, the President, Felix R. Brunot, Esq., appointed the following persons to compose the Library Committee for 1863—E. T. Jeffrey, G. J. Townsend, I. B. Laughlin, P. R. Mertz, C. L. Caldwell. Special Committee to canvass the city for new subscribers, donations, etc.: Samuel A. Long, J. T. Brady, H. M. Atwood, F. Kramer, W. M. Curry. George R. Appleton was re-elected Librarian unanimously.

ONION SUGAR CURED HAMS.—Messrs. McDonald & Arbuckles, Liberty street, have now in store a large lot of choice hams, which we can recommend to the public as *prime*. These hams are of their own curing, and (assafras) instead of hickory, has been used in the process of smoking. They have also a large stock of mess pork, shoulders, and prime city lard, to which they invite the attention of dealers.

HARD ON DRESSES.—During the meeting mentioned elsewhere, one gentleman, referring to the practice of storing oil upon the side walks, remarked that on the occasion of a party recently given in one of the lower wards, ladies' dresses valued at two hundred dollars were damaged from coming in contact with oil barrels on the pavements.

COL. SIEWELL, of the 78th Pennsylvania, in a letter to a friend here says: "We have much reason to thank the Pittsburgh Relief Committee for their kindness to our poor wounded soldiers. Our wounded men are doing well."

TOBACCO at auction, this morning at eleven o'clock, at Masonic Hall Auction House, will be sold by order of administrators 1,500 lbs. of tobacco.

SOMEBODY said the other day that a stick thrown at a dog in front of a Washington hotel hit five Brigadier Generals.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

GROVER AND BAKER'S SEWING MACHINE, for family and manufacturing purposes, are the best in use.

A. P. GRATONY, General Agent,
No. 18, Fifth street.

"HOW CAN THEY AFFORD IT?" is the universal exclamation of those who have used the S. T.—1860—X. Plantation Bitters. A beautiful quart bottle, containing the purest St. Croix Rum, to which is added Cailisaya Bark, Dandelion, Camomile, Wintergreen, Lavender, Anise, &c., for one dollar, does at first sight appear strange and unbusiness-like on the part of the owners, as until the appearance of the present article the public hereabouts understood "bitters" to mean only bad whisky and gentian root. But the proprietors of the Plantation, we take it, know what they are about, as the immense success they are everywhere meeting with in the sale of this article will in the end fully justify them for having taken the initiative in producing a *really beneficial medicine*. Our neighbor Johnston, at the corner of Smithfield and Fourth streets, can supply the demand, be it ever so great.

SAMUEL GRAHAM, merchant tailor, is closing out his Fall and Winter stock of goods at extremely low prices. They consist of all the very latest styles of cloths, cassimeres and vestings, of which a large assortment is adapted for the Spring wear. Gentlemen wishing to save money would do well to call early, knowing that you will pay twenty-five per cent. more for goods in the piping than at the present time. Don't fail to call and get a good fitting garment. Samuel Graham, Merchant Tailor, No. 54 Market street, one door from Third.

FASHIONABLE CLOTHING.—Gentlemen can always find a superb supply of ready made clothing for themselves or boys, at the clothing emporium of W. H. M'Gee & Co., corner of Federal street and Diamond Square, Allegheny. Those who prefer having their clothing made to order, are assured that the stock of materials for overcoats, business and dress suits cannot be equalled for variety and quality in this vicinity, while a good fit may be depended upon.

PITTSBURGH THEATER.—In consequence of the immense preparations necessary for the production of the spectacular play of the "Seven Sisters," the management begs leave to inform the public that it will be postponed until Wednesday evening, as he is determined to produce it in splendid style. Seats can be secured during Tuesday for Wednesday evening.

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

CHOICE HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—J. M. Roberts, No. 17 Fifth street, is now opening the most choice stock of fine Gold and Silver Watches, Jewelry, Silver Ware and Fancy Goods ever displayed in this city, and is selling them at remarkably low prices.

NOTICE to the property owners of this city is hereby given, that any repairs needed about their houses will be done promptly, if they leave their order at Outhbert's Carpenter and Joining Shop, on Virgin alley, just above Smithfield street.

OMNIBUS CALLS will be taken at the Omnibus office, No. 405 Liberty street, day or night. All orders left at the above place will be promptly attended to. All calls must be paid in advance. 6m

DIED:

FLOYD—On Sunday, February 15th, JANE F., wife of Henry Floyd, Esq., and daughter of Rev. David McKinney, D. D., aged 37 years.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on TUESDAY, 17th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m., from the residence of her husband, in Oakland. Carriages will leave B. Fairman's, corner of Smithfield and Seventh streets, at 1 o'clock.

MITCHELL—On Monday morning, 16th instant, JAMES MITCHELL, Esq., (late County Commissioner,) in the 52d year of his age.

His funeral will take place on TUESDAY, at 11 o'clock a. m., from his late residence at East Liberty.

HEPBURN—On Saturday evening, February 14th at Philadelphia, Hon. HOPEWELL HEPBURN, formerly of this city, aged 63 years.

BARD—In camp near Fredericksburg, Va., on the 11th inst., ROBERT BARD, aged 25 years.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his father, Fourth Street Road, near East Liberty, on WEDNESDAY, 18th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m. Carriages will leave the corner of Wood and Sixth streets at 1 o'clock. 2t

BULLOCK—On Monday, February 16th, 1863, HOBART F. BULLOCK, of the 12 N. Y. Volunteers, aged 25 years.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on WEDNESDAY, 18th instant, at 10 o'clock a. m., from the residence of his father, Will am Bulock, No. 61 First street. 2t

AVERY STREET, ALLEGHENY.—All persons interested are hereby notified that the statement of Viewers on the opening of AVERY STREET, Fourth Ward, Allegheny, has been filed in the District Court of Allegheny county, this day in the District Court of Allegheny county.
S. SCROGGS, Jr.,
Solicitor for Allegheny.
February 14th, 1863:w

INTERNAL REVENUE STAMPS.—A full assortment constantly kept on hand, at the Office of Internal Revenue for the 23d Collection District, WEBSTER STREET, next door to the City Treasury, Allegheny. fel4

BASKET MAKERS ATTENTION!—WANTED—Fifty to one hundred dozen stout CHARCOAL BASKETS. Apply to
HUSSEY, WELLS & CO.,
Steel Works Fifth Ward.
fe9:1md:wT

YOU CAN BUY YOUR
Boots, Shoes and Gums
At the old prices this month, at
BORLAND'S, 98 Market street.
fe14

GIFT BOOK STORE,
No. 118 Wood Street.
A fresh supply of PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS;
FAMILY, POCKET AND PEW BIBLES,
And HISTORICAL WORKS;
Just received and for sale at *greatly reduced prices.*
A COSTLY GIFT, worth from 50 cents to $10, GIVEN WITH EACH.
118 WOOD STREET.
ja30

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A full assortment of *PITTSBURGH MANUFACTURED FURNITURE* constantly on hand, which we will sell at the lowest prices for CASH.
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Manufacturers of every variety of finished
BRASS WORK, FOR PLUMBERS, STEAM OR GAS-FITTERS, MACHINISTS, AND COPPERSMITHS.
BRASS CASTINGS, of all descriptions, made to order.
STEAMBOAT WORK, STEAM AND GAS-FITTING, and REPAIRING promptly attended to.
GRATES FOR COAL AND CARBON OILS.
ALSO,
Sole Agents for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the sale of MARSH, LAUNDER & CO'S PATENT SYPHON PUMP, the best ever invented. Having no valves, it is not liable to get out of order, and will throw more water than any pump of twice its size. f10 3rd

LARD OIL.—100 bbls. No. 1 Winter strained Cincinnati Oil on hand and for sale by
JAS. DALZELL & SON,
66 and 70 Water street.
fa11

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

Special Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1863.

THE CASE OF GEO. JUSTUS M'KINSTRY.—The order in the case of George Justus McKinstry will be promulgated to-morrow. It is very long. Upon a number of the specifications he is found guilty, and upon others not guilty. The sentence, as announced a fortnight ago exclusively in these dispatches, is that he will be dismissed from the service. Gen. Halleck approves the sentence and findings, but refers the case, under the articles of war, to the President, who, also, approves the sentence, and orders that McKinstry be forthwith dismissed.

EMANCIPATION IN MISSOURI.

The friends of emancipation in Missouri begin to fear that Mr. Henderson's bill, which recently passed the Senate, is virtually killed, by the fact that it was permitted to have embodied in it a direct appropriation, which compels sending it to the Committee of the Whole in the House. As a little over two weeks of the session remain, the fate of any measure engulphed in the Committee of the Whole is exceedingly problematical.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Senate went into the consideration of the Conscription bill, to which some very important amendments, embraced in your regular report, were adopted.

In the Senate debate on the Conscription bill, the most interesting passage concerned the questions whether members of Congress or clergymen should be exempted, and whether foreigners, who have declared their intentions of citizenship, should be liable to military duty. Garrett Davis, in the course of the debate on this topic, said that Napoleon would break the blockade as soon as he could get England to join him. The bill is made to apply to citizens between twenty and forty-five, instead of eighteen and forty-five. It refused to exempt clergymen. Garrett Davis objected to exemptions, and said he would say, all fight, pay or emigrate.

Mr. McDougal thought conscription should have been the rule from the first.

Mr. Rice said there would be a revolution in the North if the law did not exempt those exempt by the State laws.

Mr. McDougal said, now as well as any time. Persons drafted may furnish substitutes or pay the sum fixed by the Secretary of War, not exceeding three hundred dollars. The opposition won't vote solid against the bill—only the copperheads of the bitterest sort. Messrs. McDougal, Garrett Davis and Nesmith assisted to perfect it.

Mr. Richardson admitted its necessity. Most of the copperheads were absent this evening.

The prospects for the admission of the New Orleans members look a little more favorable.

The Ways and Means are said to be four to three on the Bank bill, with one doubtful.

MAJOR GENERAL SHERMAN,

Late of Vicksburg, is here with a certificate signed by the commanders of all our vessels on duty at Charleston, and forwarded to the Navy Department, denouncing the statements of Beauregard and the English and French Consuls about the breaking of the blockade as an unmitigated falsehood. It leaves what reputation for veracity those gentlemen may have hitherto had in an exceedingly precarious position.

The Republicans gained a decided point in the House to-day, by carrying a resolution for night sessions from this time out, but for the passage of such a resolution, the Democrats by dilatory motions could have prevented action on half the important measures of the session.

MR. SEWARD

Was on the floor of the Senate to-day for the first time this session, during the debate on the conscription bill. Indications to-day have been that inkonwarm Republicans wished to aid the Democrats to kill the Conscription bill by amending it to death. Their efforts to get themselves exempted from service by providing that Congressmen should not be subject to draft, signally failed.

FREMONT ASSIGNED A COMMAND.

The President yesterday told Gen. Fremont he should speedily have an important command, and announced this evening that he has already been assigned to duty, but the destination has not yet transpired.

GEN. FOSTER

Has organized in North Carolina a black pioneer corps to accompany each brigade. Those who have served with them, say they are fearless, and do their work in advance with efficiency.

RUMOR CONTRADICTED.

The statement that Gen. Fremont is already assigned to duty, is incorrect. The President is still considering what to give him.

FROM MURFREESBORO.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

MURFREESBORO, Feb. 16.

On Thursday, Col. James Monroe, of the 123d Illinois, Gen. J. J. Reynold's Division, took with him two hundred and thirty men of his own regiment, and two hundred of Stokes' Tennessee Cavalry, and started out to beat up the quarters of the enemy in the direction of Gainsville, four miles from the town. He encountered a body of rebel cavalry, belonging to Morgan's command, five hundred strong. After a sharp conflict, he completely routed them, killing twenty, wounding a large number, and taking six prisoners. He also captured fifty horses, and destroyed nearly three hundred stand of arms.

Col. Monroe returned late last night. During the action three of his men were wounded.

The loyal address by the Ohio officers still continues to meet with the heartiest approval of the troops, and I have not yet heard of a single man who refuses to sanction it. Gen. Rosecrans gave it his warmest approval.

The Pennsylvania boys have been serenading Gens. Rosecrans and Negley with patriotic songs of their own composing.

The letters of the Commanding Generals to the Ohio Legislature, and to the City Council of Cincinnati, are passed about from man to man, increasing the admiration which the soldiers already entertain for their leader. Throughout the army there is an encouraging feeling of enthusiasm and good will.

The weather continues variable—rain one day and sunshine the next.

It is definitely ascertained that John Morgan's command, 3000 strong, are near Gainsville. Approved by GEN. ROSECRANS.

Weather at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 16.—The following is the meteorological register of this city during the past twenty-four hours:

Morning—Barometer, 29.86; thermometer, 37°. Wind, northeast; weather clear.

Evening—Barometer, 29.63; thermometer, 49°. Wind, northeast; weather cloudy, with indications of rain.

A Schooner Wrecked.

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—The British schooner Rouser was totally wrecked off Portsmouth yesterday. Her crew was lost.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 16.—The assertion in the New York papers and in the *National Intelligencer*, of Washington, that arrangements were being made for the formation of a new party, so far as Governor Curtin is concerned, is without the least foundation. We are fully authorized to say that Governor Curtin had no conversation with Mr. Seward or any other person on such a subject. The object of the Governor's recent visit to Washington is well known, and he has no new alliances of political schemes. To judge from his assiduity and the number of hours he devotes daily to his official duties, he could scarcely be expected to have time for other employments.

House.—Messrs. Patton of Greene, Pottiger of Bucks, and Wakefield of Westmoreland, presented petitions from their respective counties against the negroes immigrating to this State.

Messrs. McMann of Northampton, Rex of Montgomery, and Boyer of Clearfield presented petitions from citizens of their respective counties, praying for a National Convention, to secure pacification and reunion.

Messrs. Beck, of Lycoming, and Nelson, of Wayne, presented memorials praying for the passage of a law to carry out the views of the Governor on the subject of the payment of wages to laborers.

The Philadelphia delegation presented numerous petitions from the citizens of Philadelphia, praying for an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars by the Legislature to make the School of Design for Women a State institution.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Gross—A bill relative to the borough of Lawrenceville, Allegheny county. It allows the Common Council to appoint the Street Commissioner.

By Mr. Hutchman—A bill to authorize the Auditor General and State Treasurer to re-examine the account between the Commonwealth and Darragh & Mellon.

By Mr. Shannon—A bill to enable the trustees of the railroad stocks of the city of Pittsburgh to sell or assign said stocks for the purpose of affecting a compromise with the holders of the railroad bonds of said city.

By Mr. Henry—A bill to prevent actions at law or proceedings in equity in certain cases.

By Mr. Vincent—A bill to change the par value of the stock of the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad Company, making it fifty dollars instead of one hundred dollars.

A bill to authorize the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company to issue to the county of Erie the stock of said railroad company, in lieu of the stock of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company.

By Mr. Kaine—A bill to establish a Bureau of Statistics.

By Mr. Cochran—A bill for the suppression and destruction of counterfeit bank notes.

By Mr. Champneys—A resolution inquiring of the Adjutant General the number of militia officers and men who so promptly responded to the call of the Governor by proclamation and order of the 11th of September last; and further, requesting him to report what measures were adopted to obtain payment for their services. Passed.

SENATE.—By Mr. Stein—A petition for a Constitutional Convention.

By Mr. Reilly—A petition against the payment of laborers by orders on store-keepers.

By Mr. Connell—A bill for the relief of the Westmoreland Coal Company. It is for the State to allow the Company credit in the next settlement of their accounts for taxes, for such sum as said Company may have paid into the State Treasury by mistake, in excess of their indebtedness to the State.

Mr. Lowry's joint resolution, instructing the Senators and requesting the representatives in Congress to procure the immediate passage of laws for defining and punishing certain offences of a treasonable character, was passed by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Boughter, Bound, Connell, Fuller, Hamilton, Hiestand, Johnson, Lowry, McCandless, Nichols, Ridgway, Robinson, Serrill, Stutsman, Turrell, White, Wilson, Lawrence—18.

Nays—Messrs. Beeber, Clymer, Donovan, Glatz, Lamberton, McSherry, Mott, Reilly, Smith, Stark, Stein, Wallace—12. R.

Official Dispatches.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 1863.

FLAG SHIP WABASH,
Port Royal Harbor, S. C., Feb. 11.

SIR: In my previous dispatch, No. 70, written just as the mail was closing, I informed the Department I would send a refutation in an official form of the statement made in Gen. Beauregard's proclamation as to the blockade at Charleston, published in the Charleston and Savannah papers, and accompanied by assertions made with the apparent sanction of certain foreign functionaries. The emphatic letter of Capt. Tinner, No. 1, and the clear and decided statement of the officers, No 2, which he forwards, together with the previous inquiries and examination of the log books, made by Capt. Gordon, of the Powhattan, who was the senior officer present, previous to the arrival of the New Ironsides, and which I had dispatched to Charleston the day of the raid, leave me nothing to add save to call the special attention of the Department to the facts thus elicited.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
S. F. DUPONT, Rear Admiral,
Commanding S. A. Blockading Squadron.
Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. FRIGATE NEW IRONSIDES,
Off Charleston, S. C., Feb. 10, 1863.

Rear Admiral S. F. Dupont, Commanding S. A. B. Squadron:

ADMIRAL—I have the honor to forward to you certificates signed by all the commanding officers of the vessels that were lying off Charleston Bar on the morning of the attack of the rams upon the squadron, excepting only three, one of whom is on duty at a distance, and the other two the commanders of the two vessels which were sent to Port Royal to repair damages, and which were the only two that were injured, notwithstanding the report of the enemy in the Charleston papers, as the result of the engagement, that two vessels were sunk, four set on fire, and the remainder driven away. Your personal knowledge of these gentlemen, and your entire confidence in their truth and uprightness of character, will give to their statement the force it is necessary to refute, satisfactorily and effectively, that which has been given to the world by the authorities in Charleston and their sympathizers, as to the facts of this engagement.

It is with unaffected pain that I am called upon to forward a document reflecting so severely but justly upon the functionaries holding the high positions of Consuls, and one of them, if this statement has been made by his authority, the commander of a vessel of war of her Britannic Majesty. Nor can I account for it any other way, than its being a premeditated act on their part, with foregone conclusions to draw up a report that would prejudice our cause in the eyes of the world, or that these events were seen by the distorted optics of prejudiced and partisan witnesses. The facts are so clear, both as to the disposition of the blockading squadron during the day succeeding the engagement, and as to the amount of damage done our vessels in it, that it does not admit of doubt. These gentlemen have given the seal of their high offices to a version to affairs, which could not have been by any possibility, either by inference of personal observation forced upon their convictions as truth.

I have the honor to be very respectfully, your obedient servant. T. TURNER, Captain.

U. S. STEAMER NEW IRONSIDES,
Off Charleston, Feb. 10, 1863.

We, the undersigned officers, commanding various vessels of the blockading squadron of Charleston, have seen the proclamation of General Beauregard and Commodore Ingraham, herewith appended, as also the results of the so-called engagements, viz: Two vessels were sunk, four set on fire and the remainder driven away, and also the statement that the British Consul and the commander of the British war steamer Petrel, had previously gone five miles beyond the usual anchorage of the blockade, and could see nothing of them with their glasses.

We deem it our duty to state that the so-called results are false in every particular. No vessels were sunk, none were set on fire seriously; two vessels alone are injured of any consequence. The Mercedita had her boiler exploded by a shell from the only gun fired at her. When surprised by an attack at night, a thick haze was prevailing, and the Keystone State also had her steam chest injured at the moment of attempting to run down one of the rams. The Keystone State was at once assisted by the Memphis, which vessel exchanged shots with the iron ram as she was withdrawing towards the bar, after having fired at the Keystone State, as did also the Quaker City.

So hasty was the retreat of the rams, that although they may have perceived that the Keystone State had received serious damage, no attempt was ever made to approach her. The Stettin and Ottona, at the extreme end of the line, did not get under way from their position till after the firing had ceased, and the Stettin merely saw the black smoke as the rams disappeared over the bar. The flag was alongside the Mercedita after it seems she had yielded to the ram, supposing herself sinking. The rams withdrew hastily towards the harbor, and on their way were fired at by the Housatonic and Augusta until both had got beyond the reach of their guns. They anchored under the protection of their forts, and remained there. No vessel, iron-clad or any other, passed out over the bar after the return of the rams. The Unadilla was not aware of the attack until the Housatonic had commenced firing, when she moved out towards that vessel for her anchorage. The Housatonic was never beyond the usual line of the blockade. The Quaker City, in the forenoon, picked up her anchor, which she had slipped to repair to the point of firing. The Flag communicated with the senior officer on board the Housatonic that forenoon, soon after the firing ended, and the blockade continued as before, that no vessel ran in or out of port that day, nor was any attempt made to run the blockade. The Keystone State necessarily was ordered to Port Royal for repairs. The Unadilla returned to her usual anchorage after the communication with the senior officer, where she remained during the day.

Throughout the day two small tug boats remained apparently in attendance on the ram, under cover of Forts Moultrie and Beauregard.

The prize steamer Princess Royal, which had been alongside the Housatonic, was dispatched to Port Royal one hour and a half after the ram returned to the cover of the batteries, and the firing ceased about 9:30 a. m. These are the facts, and we do not hesitate to state that no vessel did come out beyond the bar after the return of the rams at between seven and eight o'clock, a. m., to the cover of the forts.

We believe the statement that any vessel came anywhere near the usual anchorage of any of the blockaders, or up to the bar after the withdrawal of the rams, to be a deliberate falsehood. If the statement from the papers now before us has the sanction of the Petrel and the foreign consuls, we can only deplore that foreign officers can lend their official positions to spreading before the world for an unworthy object, untruths patent to every officer of the squadron.

Wm. Rogers Taylor, Captain commanding U. S. steamer Housatonic; J. H. Strong, Commander commanding U. S. steamer Flag; Jas. Madison Frailist, Commander commanding U. S. steamer Quaker City; E. G. Parrott, Commander commanding U. S. steamer Augusta; P. G. Watmough, commanding U. S. Memphis; C. J. Vanalstiner, commanding U. S. steamer Stettin, United States Consulate.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, Jan. 21.—SIR: It is my painful duty to inform the Department of the destruction of the U. S. steamer Hatteras, recently under my command, by the Confederate steamer Alabama on the night of the 11th inst., off the coast of Texas. The circumstances are as follows: Upon the afternoon of the 11th inst., at 3½ o'clock while at anchor, in company with the fleet under Commodore Bell, off Galveston, Texas, I was ordered by a signal from the U. S. flag-ship Brooklyn to chase a sail to the southward and eastward. I got under way, and steamed with all speed in the direction indicated. After some time the strange sail could be seen from the Hatteras, and was ascertained to be a steamer, which fact I communicated to the flag ship by signal. I continued the chase, and rapidly gained upon the vessel. Knowing the slow rate of speed of the Hatteras, I at once suspected that deception was being practiced, and hence ordered the ship to be cleared for action with everything in readiness for a determined attack and a vigorous defence. When about four miles of the vessel I observed she had ceased steam, and was lying broadside and awaiting us.

It was nearly 7 o'clock, and quite dark. I felt assured from the general character of the vessel and her maneuvering that I should soon encounter the rebel steamer Alabama. Being able to work but four guns upon the side of the Hatteras, two short 32-pounders, one 30-pounder rifled parrot gun, and one 20-pounder rifled gun, I concluded to close with her, in order that my guns might be effective if necessary. I came within easy speaking range, about seventy-five yards, and upon asking "what steamer is that?" received answer, "her Britanic Majesty's ship Vixen." I replied that I would send a boat aboard, and gave the order—meantime both vessels were changing their positions, the stranger endeavoring to gain a desirable position for a raking fire. Almost simultaneously, with the piping away of the boat, the strange craft again replied, "we are the Confederate steamer Alabama," with which came a broadside. I at the same moment returned the fire. Being well aware of the many vulnerable points of the Hatteras, I hoped, by closing with the Alabama, to be able to board her, and thus rid the seas of this craft. I steamed directly for her, but she enabled, by great speed and fouliness of bottom of the Hatteras, and consequently her diminished speed, to thwart my attempt. When I had gained the distance of but thirty yards from her, at this range musket and pistol shots were exchanged. The firing was continued with great vigor on both sides. At length a shell entered amidships, in the hold, setting fire to it, and at the same instant, as I can hardly divide the time the shell passed through the sick bay, and exploded in the adjoining compartment, also producing fire. Another entered the cylinder, filling the engine room and deck with steam, and depriving me of any power to manoeuvre the vessel or to work the pumps, upon which the reduction of the fire depended. With the vessel on fire in two places, and beyond human power, a helpless wreck, her engine rendered useless, I still maintained an active fire, with a double hope of disabling the Alabama and attracting the attention of the fleet off Galveston, which was only twenty-eight miles distant. It was soon reported that shells had entered the Hatteras at the water line, tearing off entire sheets of iron, and that water was rushing in, utterly defying every attempt to remedy the evil, and that she was rapidly sinking. Learning this melancholy truth and observing the Alabama on my port bow, entirely beyond range of the guns, doubtless preparing for a raking fire of the deck, I felt I had no right to sacrifice uselessly and without any desirable result, the lives of all under my command. To prevent the blowing up of the Hatteras from the fire, which was making much progress, I ordered the magazine to be flooded, and afterwards the lee gun to be fired. The Alabama then asked if assistance was desired, to which an affirmative answer was given.

The Hatteras is now going down and in order to save the lives of my officers and men, I caused an armament on the port side to be thrown overboard. Had I not done so I am confident the vessel would have gone down with many brave hearts and valuable lives. After considerable delay caused by the report that the steamer seen coming from Galveston was the Alabama. They sent us assistance and I have the pleasure to inform the Department every living being was conveyed safely from the Hatteras to the Alabama.

Ten minutes after leaving the Hatteras she went down, bow first, with her pennant at her mast head, with all her muskets and stores of every character. The enemy was not able, owing to her rapid and sinking condition, to obtain a single weapon. The battery upon the Alabama brought against the Hatteras numbered seven guns, consisting of four long 12-pounders, one 68-pounder and one 24-pounder rifled gun. The great superiority of the Alabama, with a powerful battery, and her machinery under water line must be at once recognized by the Department, who are familiar with the construction of the Hatteras and her total unfitness for a contest with a regularly built war vessel. The distance between the Hatteras and Alabama, during the action, varied from 25 to 100 yards. Nearly fifty shots were fired from the Hatteras, and we presume the greatest number from the Alabama.

From the character of the contest and the amount of damage done to the Alabama, I have, personally no reason to believe that any officer failed in their duty.

To the men of the Hatteras, I cannot give too much praise; their enthusiasm and bravery were of the highest order.

I enclose the report of Assistant Surgeon Matthews, by which you observe five men were wounded and two killed; the missing, it is hoped, reached the fleet at Galveston.

I shall communicate to the Department, in a separate report, the movements of myself and command, from the time of transfer to the Alabama until the departure of the earliest mail from this place to the United States.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. C. BLAKE,
Lieutenant Commander U. S. N.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Kingston, Jan. 21, 1863.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:

I have to report to you the annexed list of casualties as resulting from our recent brilliant but disastrous engagement: John C. Cleary, fireman, killed; Wm. Healy, fireman, killed; E. C. McGowan, fireman, severe wound in thigh; John White, first cabin boy, slight wound in leg; Ed. Matlock, Captain's mate, wounded in hand; Patrick Kane, landsman, slight wound in the leg. Acting Master Partridge and four men missing, all of whom may hope to reach the fleet off Galveston. Although destitute owing to the rapid sinking of the Hatteras, of medicines even of sufficient covering for the wounded. Yet the difficulty was experienced in the proper treatment, and ample supply of medicines and surgical appliances placed at my disposal by the medical officers of the Alabama for the use of the sick and wounded off Hatteras.

I am respectfully your obedient servant,
E. J. MATHEWS, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. N.
Lieut. Commanding H. C. BLAKE, Late Commanding U. S. Steamer Hatteras.

Affairs in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 16.—Yesterday a foraging party, of the 2nd Minnesota Regiment, Steaman's brigade, camped near Nolensville, had a severe skirmish with two companies of Forrest's command. Our men killed five and wounded five (the latter are prisoners. The balance of the rebels escaped.

Twenty-six buildings in this city are used as hospitals for the sick and wounded soldiers.

An immense quantity of coal has arrived. Five barges loaded for the Government. To one house, Conrad, Chandler & Co., was consigned 190,000 bushels.

The railroad to Franklin will be opened this week, but one bridge is said to be destroyed. Our forces are actively engaged in putting it in order.

Immense supplies are constantly being forwarded to the army.

The railroad is heavily guarded along the entire distance to Murfreesboro.

Daily skirmishing occurs between the pickets.

There is twelve feet water on the shoals and rising slowly.

The cars on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad is running regularly on time.

From Boston.

BOSTON, Feb. 16.—There is a large attendance before the Legislative Committee to-day of newspaper proprietors, book publishers, &c., to urge the importance of memorializing Congress against the papermakers' monopoly. It was shown that the cost of school books alone was five millions annually, and the cost of the paper combination was to add 20 per cent. to their cost. They closed their interview by tendering a series of resolutions, declaring that the welfare of the community, as well as the diffusion of education and general intelligence, call for the adoption of some measures for cheapening the cost of paper and preventing wealthy combinations from keeping up the prices. Also, requesting the Senators and Representatives in Congress from Massachusetts vote for a reduction of the paper duty to five per cent.

From Port Royal.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The steamer Matanzas has arrived from Port Royal with dates to the 11th, via Fortress Monroe.

The gunboat Pawnee sailed in company with the Matanzas bound on a cruise towards Charleston. She left at Fortress Monroe the sloop Dewitt Clinton, with troops.

A Railroad Collision.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 16.—The three o'clock Express train, from this city for Washington, came in collision with the locomotive of a fluid train, on the track near Annapolis Junction. The locomotives were much damaged, but no one hurt. The trains were detained two or three hours.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 16.—The iron-clad Monitor battery Sagamon arrived in Hampton Roads at six o'clock last evening.

The Cahawba arrived last night from Hilton Head, and proceeded to Norfolk for coal. She brings no news.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The following is the exhibit of the Bank Statement, issued today: Decrease of loans $1,788,569; increase of specie $182,521; decrease in circulation $23,837; increase in deposits $1,889,010.

Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—Evening.—Cotton dull and lower; 250 bales sold at 90@91c. Flour advanced 5c; 20,000 bbls sold; State, $6,80@7; Ohio, 7,05@7,75; choice, $8,80@9,25; Southern advanced 10c, with sales at $7,00@8. Wheat advanced 1@2c; 175,000 bush sold; Chicago