Pittsburgh Gazette.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 28.

CITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

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

	IN SUN.	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock A. M.	60	48
12 " M.	60	50
6 " P. M.		47
Barometer		29 4-20

Operations of the Subsistence Committee.

Messrs. W. P. Weyman, Joseph Albree, and H. M. Atwood, Executive Committee, make the following monthly report of the operations of the Subsistence Committee:

For the five weeks ending February 28th, the Committee have fed 1,484 soldiers, who have passed through our city. Of these, 1,106 were furnished a good, warm, home-like dinner, at the Soldiers' Rest, No. 347 Liberty street, which was opened January 28th, and has had an average of thirty-one soldiers every day for dinner, most of whom were sick or wounded—some in the very last stages of life; some traveling home on furloughs; others discharged, and some being transferred to hospitals of their own State. As it is the intention of the Committee to continue this work, so long as the necessity for it continues, this room will be open every day at noon, on the arrival of the Eastern trains. Contributions of meats, vegetables, fruits, and eatables of any kind, are respectfully solicited.

The Committee have furnished transportation to sixteen discharged soldiers, who had been left in our city without the means for reaching their homes. The amount of good accomplished by assisting soldiers destitute of means is very great. Many of them have been in the service but for a few months, and part of this time in a hospital. Having drawn clothing to last them for a year, when a settlement is made with them, the amount they have over drawn must come out of their back pay, which often leaves but little coming to them. So they are left. The Government has fulfilled its contract with them. With what little means they have, and the help extended to them by rockets in other cities they reach here. Here they are away from home, and without means to get there. Some of them, very sick or broken down, are in the most painful mental anxiety. It is not food or clothing they want—only that they might be enabled to reach home, and some of the most grateful man have been those to whom we have furnished tickets.

The Committee has forwarded to the different hospitals of our armies the following articles, most of which has been sent to our Western and Southwestern armies:

Twelve comforts, 32 sheets, 462 muslin shirts, 347 flannel shirts, 398 pairs drawers, 177 pillows, 109 pillow cases, 257 towels, 49 pads and rings, 240 bundles lint, 466 rolls of bandages, 194 pairs socks, 24 pairs mittens, 64 pairs slippers, 573 handkerchiefs, 297 cans fruit, 120 pound butter, 40 dozen eggs, 60 bushels potatoes, 300 heads of cabbage, 1,080 books, 320 quarts of wines and whisky.

At no time has the demand for hospital stores been greater than at present, and especially for our armies in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The following articles are very much needed at present: Muslin shirts and drawers, flannel shirts, fruit and wines. Contributions of cash will be very acceptable.

Contributions can be left at Messrs. Albree, Son & Co., Wood street, or Weyman & Son, Smithfield street.

Interesting School Exercises--Presentation, etc.

The teachers and pupils of the Sandusky street public schools, Fourth Ward, Allegheny, had an interesting meeting on Friday, on the occasion of the retirement of the Principal, Thomas E. Wakeham, Esq., who relinquishes his profession for the purpose of engaging in business.

The entire day was spent in the examination of the High School Department, under the immediate care of the Principal, and the exercises were of an unusually interesting and highly satisfactory character. The forenoon session was mainly occupied in class exercises, but in the afternoon the programme was more varied and entertaining, embracing music, essays, dialogue, declamation, etc. The pupils acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner, evincing a thorough training in every branch of education taught in this school.

After the exercises were concluded, R. B. Francis, Esq., a member of the Board of Directors, presented to Mr. Wakeham, on behalf of the teachers, a beautiful, massive silver pitcher, with salver and goblets. In handing over this elegant present, Mr. Francis took occasion to compliment Mr. Wakeham for his energy, industry and fidelity in the discharge of his duties, and expressed regret on parting with one whose services had been so acceptable to the Board, and so valuable to the cause of education.

The gift is a most elegant one, and is creditable to the taste and liberality of the donors. The pitcher contains the following inscription: "To Thomas E. Wakeham, Esq. A Testimonial of Regard from his Associate Teachers, Sandusky street Schools, Feb. 27th, 1863."

Mr. Wakeham responded in a felicitous speech, thanking the donors for their handsome present, and complimenting them for the satisfactory manner in which they had discharged their duties as teachers. It was to their earnest support and hearty co-operation that he owed much of his success as Principal, and he hoped that they might enjoy in the future the same pleasant relations which had characterized the past.

Mr. John McCance, one of the pupils, then presented Mr. Wakeham with an elegant arm chair, as a testimonial from the scholars, which was gratefully acknowledged.

Josiah King, Esq., an ex-Director, made a few appropriate remarks, and was followed by the Principal elect, Mr. H. G. Squires, who expressed himself highly pleased with the exercises, and remarked that he would strive to attain the confidence of the pupils and parents, and the aid and operation of the teachers, in the same degree as enjoyed by his talented predecessor.

The meeting was dismissed with prayer by Rev. D. M. B. McLean.

Mr. Wakeham, we understand, relinquishes his position, which he has filled with great acceptance for four years past, to engage in the book and stationery business, on Federal street, Allegheny.

The Stock Bedding Case Again.

Our readers will all remember the trial that has for some time past been engaging the attention of Alderman Taylor in regard to the right of certain parties to bed stock on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad. The decision has not yet been given, and again warrants are issued for the arrest of the offending parties. It appears in the complaint that Messrs. Clark & Robb still continued in pursuit of their legitimate business, the feeding and bedding of stock, and that Mr. A. J. Woolslayer, one of the parties in the former suit, and Mr. A. C. Brant being as fully determined that no one but themselves should feed and bed stock passing over the road, with threats of violence drove Mr. Clark from the cars and threw the bedding already in the cars out on the ground. It does appear to us to be a strange kind of monopoly, that one man shall have the exclusive right to the profits arising from feeding and bedding all stock passing over that or any other road. As well might a person renting a warehouse of the company claim the right to store all freight carried by the road, or a hotel keeper leasing a building of the company, claim the exclusive right to feed all the passengers irrespective of their own rights, and desires in regard to the matter. We are under the impression that if Mr. Woolslayer, or any other man assumes to dictate to the drovers where they shall buy their feed and bedding, he will find that he will have the largest kind of a flea in his ear. A more monstrous idea than that of a man attempting to monopolize a certain branch of business, merely because he leases property from persons having the ultimate transportation of property pertaining to that branch of business can hardly be conceived. Should Mr. Woolslayer be sustained in his present course, we do not doubt but that the drovers will take some action in regard to the matter that will in the end secure to them their rights. The case will probably come up before Alderman Taylor today for a hearing.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE.—Those desiring to invest in real estate, are directed to the advertisement of a desirable house and lot for sale, on Federal street, in this city.

A Serious Practical Joke.

A few days ago, a trunk belonging to a woman residing on Pennsylvania avenue, was broken open and robbed of one hundred and thirty dollars—eighty dollars of which were in gold, twenty-five in silver, and twenty-five in paper. The woman is a widow, and earns a livelihood principally by washing. The money was accumulated by years of toil, and was doubly prized. It was taken while she was absent at work—the house having been left in charge of her daughter, a young woman. Suspicion at once fell upon a young man who visited the daughter in the character of a suitor, he having been at the house that day. A warrant was accordingly issued for his arrest, but the daughter was willing to testify that he had not been in her mother's room at all. She was positive on this point, and her testimony would have acquitted him. There had been another man at the house that day, but as he was a relative, he was not suspected of so serious and mean a crime. The woman, however, determined to see him, and when she broached the subject he began to smile, and produced the missing money—remarking that he had taken it to prove to her the necessity of keeping her treasure in a more secure place! The lock had been forced and the money abstracted, although some jewelry and other valuable articles had not been touched. The fact was at once communicated to the Alderman before whom the information had been made, and the young man was thus relieved from the infamous suspicion which the circumstances had thrown around him. The motive of the man in taking the money was doubtless good, and the lesson will not be forgotten by the woman, but the joke (if such it may be called) was highly improper, not to say criminal. It caused the arrest of an innocent man, on one of the most serious and infamous crimes known to the law, and the result should teach the gentleman not to play such tricks in the future.

The Impure Meat Case.

We mentioned, a few days ago, the circumstances attending the prosecution of William Montgomery, market constable, and others, for trespass, in seizing a quarter of beef which Stewart Hamilton had sold to Mrs. Margaret Davis. The allegation is that the beef was not impure, and Mrs. Davis corroborates this view. The Mayor had fined Hamilton for offering this beef for sale, after which the suit for trespass was entered. Since then, officer Montgomery has sued Hamilton, under the penal code, for selling unwholesome meat. A hearing of the case came off on Friday, before Alderman Scott, and a number of butchers testified that the beef was not good. The penalty, under the section of the penal code, is a fine of one hundred dollars, or imprisonment for six months. Hamilton was held to bail for trial.

THE REVIVAL AT NEW BRIGHTON.—A protracted meeting of four weeks' continuance has just closed at the M. E. Church, New Brighton, under the pastoral care of Rev. Alex. Clark, editor of the *School Visitor*. It is said to have been one of the most remarkable seasons of refreshing ever witnessed in the place. The number of adults, who have united with the church, forty-two, besides twenty-nine children—total, seventy-one. Over fifty hopeful conversions are reported. Mr. Clark's congregations are crowded every public service. We are glad to hear of such success in the good work.

DIED:

BOND—On Thursday, Feb. 26th, 1863, ANNA LUCINDA, only daughter of Robert and Susan Bond, aged 2 years and 3 months.

The funeral will leave the residence of the parents, Penn street, Ninth Ward, on SATURDAY, 28th inst., at 10 o'clock a. m. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

BEYMER—On Friday, Feb. 27th, at noon, Miss LOUISA, daughter of P. Beymer, in the 23d year of her age.

Her funeral will take place from the residence of her father, on Western Avenue, Allegheny City, on THIS AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock. The friends of the family are requested to attend.

HUGHES—On Friday evening, February 17th, ALICE, only daughter of Ann Jane and the late Richard Hughes, in the 17th year of her age.

Funeral on SUNDAY, March 1st, at 2 o'clock p. m., from the residence of her mother, No. 778 Penn St.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

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

A. F. GLEASONY, General Agent,
No. 13, Fifth street.

Dr. Lillie's Laughing Gas Exhibition.

Our Cleveland friends are enjoying a rich entertainment given by Dr. J. H. Lillie through the agency of Nitrous Oxide, or Laughing Gas. The following is from the Cleveland *Morning Leader*:

Such shouts of laughter have seldom shaken the walls and roof of Brainard's Hall as have been heard there for the last two nights at Dr. Lillie's entertainments. Under the influence of the gas which he administers (and which, by the way, is as harmless as so much air,) the inhalers exhibit the strangest phases of intense enjoyment. One sings as if he were paid by the note with specie; another dances in a style which Fanny Elsler or Taglioni never achieved; another imagines himself in Congress or a school district caucus, and makes a furious speech; another laughs until he shakes the buttons off his waistcoat, and so on through the list of emotions. It is richly worth one's while to go and see the effect of this laughing gas upon the different temperaments.

In addition to these comical features of the entertainment, Dr. Lillie has a series of highly interesting and instructive experiments in chemistry and philosphy that are worth more than the price of entrance fee.

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 Spring 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.

CATALOGUES are now ready for the sale of a valuable Private Library at Davis' Auction, 54 Fifth street, to-morrow evening, at 7½ o'clock. A fine Flute, a Gold Lever Watch, and a 30 day mantel Clock, are to be sold at the same time.

IF YOU desire any repairs or alterations to your dwelling, or places of business call and leave your order at Cuthbert's Carpenter and Jobbing Shop, Virgin Alley, above Smithfield street. All work promptly attended to. ‡

OMNIBUS CALLS will be taken at the Omnibus office, No. 495 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

THE PICTORIALS.—John W. Pittock, Fifth street, opposite the post office, has Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie, the New York Illustrated News, and Forney's War Paper, for sale. Call and get copies.

THE LITTLE COUPLE.—J. W. Pittock, Fifth street, has no less than twenty different kinds of photographs of Tom Thumb and wife. Everybody should have a likeness of these remarkable little folks.

THE SEVEN SISTERS still continues to draw largely at the Theatre. It will be repeated this evening.

PROCLAMATION.—CITY OF PITTSBURGH SPECIAL ELECTION.—In accordance with the provisions of an Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the incorporation of the City of Pittsburgh, and of the various supplements to said Act, I, M. G. SAWYER, Jr., Mayor of said city, do issue this, my Proclamation, that on the SECOND TUESDAY 1st MARCH, A. D. 1863, being the 10th day of the month, the qualified voters of the Sixth Ward of said city will meet together at the PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE in said Ward, and elect, by ballot, ONE CITIZEN TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMON COUNCIL, for the unexpired term of William Norbottom, resigned.

Given under my hand and seal, this 25th day of February, A. D. 1863.

M. G. SAWYER, Jr., Mayor.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1863.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

Even the members of the Conference Committee disagree as to the precise effects of their compromise proposition, adopted in the House yesterday afternoon. It is clear, however, that, substantially, everything is placed in Secretary Chase's hands. He carried his point fully as to the legal tenders, there being literally but $50,000,000 more authorized, on which number all parties had long ago agreed. There are but $200,000,000 of currency. He is bound to issue $50,000,000 legal tenders, $50,000,000 postal currency, and $100,000,000 legal tenders, voted some time ago to pay the army. He has power, if he chooses, to throw into circulation $700,000,000 more, as follows: $400,000,000 interest bearing treasury notes, which he may make convertible, and for the redemption of which he may provide a reserve fund of further legal tenders, and $300,000,000 bonds, authorised in the bank bill, and to be used as a basis for at least that much more currency. The immediate result of this state of affairs must be the further inflation. The subsequent effect must depend largely upon the disclosures as to Secretary Chase's intentions about the extent, to which he will use the discretionary power placed in his hands.

The House has just voted to tax the banks three per cent. on their profits, where they have evaded the previous tax by declaring no dividend.

The second Conference Committee, on the Ways and Means bill, consisting of Senators Sherman, Collamer and Harding, and Representatives Washburne, Spaulding and Dawes. After two meetings, they wanted to agree on the bank taxing section disagreement.

Messrs. Sherman, Harding and Washburne united on two per cent., after two years. Messrs. Collamer, Dawes and Spaulding refused, and would agree to one-eighth of one per cent. on deposits over the average circulation, besides one per cent. on circulation, and to nothing more.

The Committee reported a disagreement.

Mr. Washburne moved to recede from the disagreement to the Senate's amendment, arguing the importance of taxing the banks, and showing the danger of the failure of bills.

Mr. Dawes opposed Mr. Colfax and supported Mr. Washburne. Mr. Thomas, of Mass., followed in opposition, arguing that the responsibility of the failure of the measure must rest with the Senate, the revenue measures being in the province of the House, and that the provision was intended to destroy banks, whose usefulness he maintained. The previous question was then ordered. The yeas and nays on the motion to recede from the vote on Mr. Washburne's motion stood 63 yeas to 75 nays. A new committee was ordered on motion of Mr. Dawes. It consists of Messrs. Dawes, Fenton and Maynard. The two former take the House view and the latter the Senate view. One compromise suggested as probable is to make an increase to two per cent. in three years intead of two.

The bill making amendments to the tax law is in some danger, having been reported so near the end of the session, and the House having since then spent so much time in discussing it, that the Secretary of the Treasury transmitted to-day a supplementary letter answering the Senate resolution about the importations on paper under the act of March 3d, 1861.

He says additional reports have been received from the Collectors of New York and Boston, from which it appears that there has been no importation of printing paper whatever at either of these places since the passage of the act named.

No stronger argument for lowering duty could possibly be presented, but Morrill, who is said to be a shareholder in a paper mill, still stands in the way.

THE PAY OF VOLUNTEERS AND MILITIA.

The joint resolution, introduced by Senator Wilson to-day, provides that the existing laws relating to the pay of volunteers and militia be so construed as to allow their payments to commence as follows, or to the enlisted men from date: From individual enrolment or enlistment; and to commissioned officers from the date from which they are mustered into service, the day of entering on action, duty in the field, or proper order to that effect, or the date of the organization of their respective companies or regiments in the manner prescribed by the general orders of the War Department, whichever one of these dates shall, in point of time, soonest occur, and that all recruits and enlisted men, either in the regular army or volunteer service of the United States, who have received or shall be entitled to receive an advance bounty of twenty-five dollars, and shall not forfeit the same unless discharged or under the sentence of a general court martial, by orders by way of punishment, or in consequence of fraud on the part of the soldiers. This materially increases the pay of many soldiers, and does away with the injustice of keeping troops in camp without pay, so long as the regiment is not made up.

EMANCIPATION IN MISSOURI.

The passage of the Missouri Emancipation bill in any shape becomes exceedingly doubtful. Disputes arise as to the reasons for the probable failure. The Senators, who thought Noell's ten million bill good enough, say they warned Henderson in ample season of the danger of defeating any bill by pressing his against Noell's.

Others say the whole fault is with the Senate incautiously putting the direct appropriation into Mr. Henderson's bill, which, under the House rules, sends it to the Committee of the Whole, where, at this stage of the session it is, of course, buried. The Democrats say if it is brought up they will filibuster to defeat it, if in their power now to do so.

GEN. M'DOWELL.

Maj. Gen. McDowell is ordered to Cairo to serve as President of the Court of Inquiry to examine into the peculiarities of the cotton speculation among the army officers. The decision of the Court of Inquiry in his own case was never made public, but this is sufficient evidence that he has been wholly cleared.

GEN. CURTIS.

Petitions has been circulated here among the Missourians praying for the removal of Gen. Curtis from the command of that department and the substitution of Gen. Schofield in his place. Every member of Congress except Noell has signed it. But the real friends of Missouri are not understood to be particularly anxious for its success.

SOLICITING HIS PARDON.

The friends of Isaac Fowler, defaulting Postmaster of New York, are soliciting for his pardon. The Attorney General is reviewing the facts for the President's consideration.

NOMINATION OF MR. WITHEY.

The President has nominated Mr. Withey as District Judge for West District of Michigan, under the bill just past dividing the State.

THE CONSCRIPTION BILL.

The Conscription bill was informally postponed in the Senate till to-morrow, at the request of the Copperheads, who promised not to filibuster, saying that they only desired to make a few brief speeches in opposition, which they did not have an opportunity to make when the bill was originally under consideration in the Senate.

NOMINATIONS.

The President sent the following additional nominations to the Senate to-day: Paymasters—Wm. Phelps and Walter Crane, of Michigan; Assistant Quartermasters—J. K. Shaw and H. G. Boker, of Missouri; Commissary—Levi Ruggle, of Missouri.

NAVAL OFFICER RESIGNED.

Acting Master Henry Wilson, of the Duchess, belonging in the Gulf Squadron, has resigned in order to serve as Major General of the Ohio militia.

ADMIRAL PORTER.

Admiral Porter gives instruction to the Captain of the Indianola to visit the plantations of Jeff. Davis and his brother Joe, and carry off all the cotton and male negroes he could lay his hands upon.

COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War will probably report in a few days a large mass of evidence taken before them, without note or comment.

GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

The President has said, to-day, that Mr. Gurley is certain to be Governor of Arizona, if it shall be found possible to appoint him to an office created during his term as Congressman.

THE BANKRUPT BILL.

The Senate, to-day, refused to take up the Bankrupt bill by a large vote. That probably kills it for this Congress.

DISCUSSION ON MEDIATION.

It still seems probable that the Senate will have a discussion on Mediation before adjournment.

FROM HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 26, 1863.

HOUSE—The bill to accept the grant of public lands by the United States to the several States for the endowment of agricultural colleges was passed.

Mr. Pershing said the grant would be giving the State eight hundred thousand acres of public lands. If the lands are worth one dollar an acre, it will be equal to the sum of eight hundred thousand dollars. He was in favor of endowing the Farm School of Pennsylvania, but as probably there would be a surplus left, he was in favor of giving some money to some other institution, for an asylum for soldiers or public school purposes.

Mr. Kaine said that the bill had been prepared by those immediately interested in the Farm School in Centre county. There is no land coming to the State of Pennsylvania. It is only land scrip, under the Act of Congress, and the proceeds cannot be appropriated for any other purpose than agricultural colleges. The amount to be realised from the lands would be, he thought, about twenty thousand dollars a year. The Farm School in Centre county may be considered a State institution.

The State has appropriated about one hundred thousand dollars to it, and students are charged one hundred dollars a year tuition. They have four hundred acres, he believed, for the purpose of teaching the science of agriculture. He was in favor of concentrating the best ability the country can produce around institutions of this kind.

Mr. Pershing said he believed they did not pretend to instruct in the mechanic arts in the farm school, as an act of Congress also provides.

Mr. Vincent said that the State of Pennsylvania, by the act of Congress, was only a trustee for that fund, and when other colleges of the kind come to be erected there is nothing to prevent an appropriation of money to them. The bill passed—yeas 82, nays 9.

Mr. Beck offered a resolution authorising the Committee on Public Buildings to examine the arsenal near the capitol, where, it is said, there are eighty tons of powder and a large quantity of fixed ammunition, which are dangerous on account of the carelessness noticed among some soldiers. Passed.

Mr. Walsh offered a resolution that when the House adjourns to-day it adjourns till 7½ p. m. on Monday. Passed.

The Chair presented a communication from the Auditor General showing the condition of such foreign insurance, trust and annuity companies, as have obtained licenses since the 21st of February, 1862.

The Senate met the House in joint convention to open and publish the returns for Auditor General and Surveyor General. For Auditor General, Allegheny county gave Isaac Slenker (Democrat) 7,805 votes; to Thomas E. Cochran (Republican) 12,323 votes. Armstrong gave Slenker 2,476; Cochran, 2,250. Beaver—Slenker, 1,734; Cochran, 2,268. Butler—Slenker, 2,618; Cochran, 2,771. Philadelphia—Slenker, 33,124. Westmoreland—Slenker, 5,040; Cochran, 3,673.

For Surveyor General: Allegheny gave James P. Barr (Democrat) 7,861; William S. Ross (Republican) 12,801. Cumberland county gave Barr 3,519; Ross, 2,659.

In consequence of the length of time necessary for the clerks to complete their labors in ascertaining the sum totals of each candidate, the convention was adjourned until next Tuesday, at twelve o'clock.

SENATE.—Messrs. Smith and Stein presented petitions of citizens for national conventions.

Mr. Clymer presented a petition from citizens for a law to prevent blacks and mulattos from coming into the State with a view of acquiring residence.

Mr. Reilly presented a petition from citizens against large corporations holding lands for mining purposes.

Mr. Penney presented a petition from citizens of Manchester against granting to the passenger railway company the privilege of carrying freight.

Mr. Turrell presented a petition from citizens of Bradford county for the repeal of the act of 1861, in relation to the tonnage duties.

Adjourned till Monday evening.

NEWS ITEMS.

The New York *Times* says:

Out of thirty Southern members twelve voted yesterday for the passage of the conscription bill.

There is a disagreement in the Conference Committee on the Josiah bill in regard to the tax on bank circulation.

Gen. McDowell has submitted to the Military Committee of the two Houses a plan for consolidating the regiments in the field, or for filling them up to the maximum, and keeping them full from troops to be raised under the new conscript law. It proposes to make such a change as will consolidate parts of regiments into whole ones, thereby disposing of supernumerary officers.

Then forming them into brigades with a Brigadier General for each, and then into divisions with a Major General to command. It gives the President power to muster out of service officers whom the consolidation may leave without commands, always discriminating in favor of those oldest in the field and most noted for services and ability.

Gen. McDowell appeared in person before the Committee, and they were forcibly impressed with his views, and will endeavor to carry them out before Congress adjourns.

It is understood that Gen. McClellan has appeared to testify before the Committee on the Conduct of the War in regard to matters which he has already testified to.

Some of the Senators believe the report at Washington, that the French have landed at Guaymas, and are marching on the capitol of Sonora.

The bill for promoting the health, comfort and efficiency of the soldiers provides tobacco as an army ration, to be furnished at cost price.

The amendment to the Pacific railroad bill in the Senate yesterday provides that the percentage of bonds to be retained by the government, until the completion of the work, shall apply only to the portion between San Francisco and the Sierra Nevada, and that between the Missouri river and the Rocky mountains, and that the President may at his discretion cause the money to be paid to the Companies in lieu of bonds.

The President will probably appoint Representatives Aldrich, of Minnesota; White, of Indiana, and Potter, of Wisconsin, as commissioners to ascertain the amount of damage committed by the Sioux in Minnesota.

The incumbents of judicial offices in the District of Columbia are flooding Congress with petitions against the contemplated reforms and changes in the Judiciary of the District.

The recent storm on the Rappahannock was very severe. Snow fell to the depth of fourteen inches, and the weather was intensely cold.

The rebel forces under Pryor have been reinforced, and now numbers about twenty thousand. It is reported that an attempt will soon be made to capture Norfolk. Pryor is to undertake it. Measures have been taken to give him a warm reception.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 27, 1863.

The President has nominated the following Generals to be Major Generals: Rosecrans, Hooker, Couch, Sedgwick, Foster, Augur, Schenck, Hurlbut, McPherson, Meade, Negley, Palmer, Blunt, Sheridan, Stoneman and Schofield.

It is said that General McClellan is preparing an elaborate statement of the Peninsula campaign.

Mr. Stevens offers to sell to the Government his floating battery.

The Naval Committee will consider the subject. Between three and four hundred civilian prisoners yet remain in the Southern prison. Nearly all the prisoners of war have been exchanged and sent North. Those now in the hands of the rebels are chiefly sick or unable to move on account of their wounds. The total balance of prisoners is largely in our favor.

There is a report in Washington that a considerable force of rebels is now at Warrenton, Va., and that Jackson has gone up the Shenandoah Valley to Strasburg, but the report is rather unlikely.

A large rebel force, the Washington *Star* says crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, with the intention of making a raid.

The iron-clad Monitor Nahant arrived at Port Royal on the 20th. Gen. Hunter has issued an order expelling all members of Gen. Foster's staff from the Department.

Gov. Seymour is said to have recently remarked that he intended to put 30,000 of the National Guard, organized under the law of 1861, upon a war footing. B.

Washington items.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitted to the Senate to-day, says that no printing paper was included in the recent statement of imports of paper from the collectors of New York and Boston, and none whatever has been imported under the present tariff.

Some of the principal merchants and shippers of New York, in a memorial submitted to the Senate, remonstrated against the continuance of the present system of price adjudication, alleging it to be chargeable with abuses and delays, which consumes the receipts of prizes so richly earned by the crews entitled to them.

The Senate, in executive session, to-night, confirmed the following nominations:

Rear Admirals of the Navy, Charles Henry Davis and John A. Dahlgren. Chief of Police of the District of Columbia, Richard Bull. Quartermaster with the rank of Captain, J. I. Rapelye, N. Y., Elias M. Greene, N. Y., Sylvester Bogg, Iowa, Augustus L. Thomas, N. Y., Samuel R. Hamill, Pa., Walter Carter, Mass., Henry L. Jones, Mass., Henry L. Browning, Ind., S. H. Danan, Ohio, W. D. Cochran, N. H., Thos. H. McDill, Wis., Chas. Sanford, Massachusetts, Saml J. Wright, Ind., T. Hamilton, Wis., H. C. Goff, West Va., John R. Craige. Medical Inspector, John E. Summers. Commissary of Subsistence, Ben. S. Noble, of Iowa, Alfred Norton, Massachusetts, Marcus P. Breckinridge, Illinois, George H. Smith, New Jersey, Dwight A. Aiken, Michigan. Quartermasters Charles Parson, Iowa, Nathl. S. Conliable, Mo., J. S. Woods, Mo., Joshua H. Alexander, Mo., George P. Doon, Mo., Theo. Cromwold, Mo., Thos. B. Hunt, Mo., Richard B. Owen, Mo., S. H. Lunt, Iowa, Robert H. Harris, Md., Chas. A. Henry, Nebraska.

Additional Paymasters—Geo. B. Ely, Wis., Jacob Sharpe, N. J.; Wm. M. Babbitt, N. P. Colburn, Minn.; Robert G. Hunter, N. J.; Wm. J. Wood, N. J.; George N. Smith, Pa.; Robt. C. Walker, Pa.; Gaspernard S. Webb, Ohio; Henry W. Scovel, N. Y.; Edwin Fly, Me.; Justus Phelps, N. Y.; C. C. Clark, Ct.

From a careful inquiry in military quarters, there appears to be no possible ground on which to verify the newspaper rumors of apprehended raids by Jackson or others towards Strasburg or the valley of Virginia. On the contrary, our constant reconnoissance can detect nothing like such a movement.

The Senate has agreed to the proposition of the House for another committee of conference on the disagreement to bank duty clause of the finance bill.

From the Army of the Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 27.—On Wednesday night two rebel cavalry brigades, Fits Hugh Lee's and Hampton's, attempted to make a raid into our lines. They crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, and succeeded, by a strong attack, in breaking our thin line of cavalry outposts at one or two points, capturing a small number of our men. Our cavalry outposts reserves were brought up, and the lines immediately re-established. A force was sent in pursuit. Our capture included two or three officers. The rebels failed to accomplish their object, and retreated in great haste across the Rappahannock, felling trees across the roads, and placing other obstructions in the way of the pursuing forces. The cavalry sent out in pursuit have not yet returned. The rebel cavalry were commanded by Gen. Stuart in person. One of the rebel prisoners is Capt. John Alexander, of the Second Virginia Cavalry.

Railroad Accident.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 27.—The Owl line from New York ran into the 11½ p. m. line from Philadelphia, at 2 o'clock this morning, at Princeton station, just as the Philadelphia train was turning off the switch to avoid it, it struck the third car and shattered it to pieces. Four men were injured, but not seriously. No body was killed.

The locomotive of the Owl line was thrown into the canal and two cars broken up. The obstructions on the track have been removed and the trains are running regularly. The signal light was hanging out, but the dense fog prevented the engineer from seeing it.

From Kentucky.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 27.—A special dispatch to the *Times*, from Lexington, says the excitement had subsided this morning—the Richmond scare being almost without foundation.

The fight of Wednesday was more successful than reported. Some two hundred prisoners were taken, and all the captured wagons recovered.

Gen. Carter left yesterday with a considerable force for some point unknown.

The rebel force beyond Mount Sterling is said to be scattered in their retreat.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1863.

HOUSE.—Mr. Holman, of Ind., from the Select Committee on Government Contracts, reported a resolution, which was adopted, that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to decline any further payment to the parties interested on account of the chartering of the steamer Catalina, in April, 1861.

The House then went into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Colfax, of Ind., in the Chair, and resumed the consideration of the amendments to the Internal Revenue bill. A substitute was adopted for the sixth section, imposing new rates of stamp tax on promissory notes, in order that the tax may be more certainly executed and to avoid evasions; and also on bonds and mortgages with powers of attorneys; also taxes on the sale of ships and assignment of insurance policies, etc. It exempts pension papers of soldiers and sailors from taxation. The eighth section was amended so as to add navigation and turnpike companies.

Mr. Morrell, of Vt., offered a new section, that every incorporated bank or private institution, legally authorized to issue notes, shall be required to make returns under oath on the first of January and July, or within thirty days thereafter, the amount of profits which have accrued or been earned during the six months next preceding, on which there shall be paid three per centum. Adopted.

Numerous other amendments were acted upon, but no material alteration was made in the bill as reported by the Committee. The House then took a recess till seven o'clock.

Evening Session.—The new section was adopted. The Assistant Treasurer at San Francisco is required to audit, allow, and pay for the service of collectors and assessors in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington and Nevada Territories. The Committee rose, having acted on all sections of the bill, and reported its action to the House.

Mr. Washburn, from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing amendments to the bank clause of the bill to provide ways and means for the support of the Government, reported that the Committee was unable to agree. He moved that the House recede from the disagreement to the Senate amendments.

Mr. Roscoe Conkling raised a point of order, that as the amendment proposed a tax, it must be considered in the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The Speaker overruled the point.

Mr. Washburne moved the previous question, which was not seconded—ayes 48, noes 55.

Mr. Dawes said they had understood the adoption of the Bank bill was merely to give an opportunity to introduce a system of national banking under that measure, it being expressly understood there should be no coercion. Now, the proposition of the Senate, if adopted, would change the tax which was fixed in the bill and obtained a majority in this House. The second objection was, it would place the government in hostility against all the banking interests of the country, and all the industrial interests connected therewith. It was a proclamation to the banking interests that such has been their course during the war, and their present attitude, and such the strength of the government that it can afford to place itself in a hostile array and crush them out.

The banking institutions of New York not only lent to the Government every dollar, but three for every two they had. With a capital of $100,000,000, they lent their cash and credit to the extent of $150,000,000.

Mr. Washburne said it was usual to have the vote on the report of a committee at once. He did not recollect of an instance when it was refused to second the demand for the previous question, but the House had now refused to do so. He denied that the Government was placing itself in hostile array against the banks in the Tax bill. There was no tax on bank notes, while every other interest was taxed; yet when it was proposed to put a tax of one per centum only on banks for the first two years, and after that only two per centum, they were told that it was arraying the Government in hostility against the banks.

Mr. Kellogg, of Ill., said the country was tired of hearing the eternal complaints of the banks and the wrongs they were suffering at the hands of the Government.

The House, by a vote of 63 against 75, refused to recede from its disagreement to the Senate's amendment.

On motion of Mr. Dawes the House insisted on its disagreement, and asked another Committee of Conference.

Mr. Stevens, from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes on the bill to indemnify the President and others, for acts committed under the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, presented a report thereon. It authorizes the President, during the present rebellion and when the public safety requires it, to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in any State or parts of States, and provides for discharges by Courts the parties discharged to take the oath of allegiance.

Mr. Pendleton raised the point that this was not the report agreed upon in the joint committee of conference, but was altered after the meeting adjourned, contrary to the manual.

Messrs. Stevens and Bingham severally explained.

The report being signed by a majority of the Conference Committee, the Speaker put the question as to whether the report should be received. It was decided in the affirmative—88 against 42.

Mr. Pendleton suggested that the bill be printed and laid over till Monday.

Mr. Stevens was willing that the previous question on the bill should now be seconded.

Mr. Ancona moved that when the House adjourn it be until Monday.

Ben Wood moved that it be until Tuesday next.

Mr. Allen, of Ill, demanded the yeas and nays.

No quorum. A call of the House was ordered at eleven o'clock.

Messrs. Pendleton and Vorhees would not consent to this.

Mr. Stevens said there was no other way left him than to demand the previous question.

Mr. Pendleton moved to lay the bill on the table.

Mr. Noble moved to adjourn.

Mr. Ancona thereupon demanded the yeas and nays—yeas 34, nays 92.

SENATE.—A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury transmitting additional reports from the Collector concerning the duties on paper.

A Committee of Conference was appointed on a bill to limit the number of major and brigadier generals.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., from the Military Committee, reported back the bill to establish the rules and articles of war, with amendment.

Mr. King, of New York, presented a memorial from the merchants and ship owners of New York city, in reference to the sale of prizes in that district, asking an investigation, and for the passage of a law to secure a more speedy and less expensive sale and distribution of proceeds. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, with instructions to enquire into the propriety of appointing a committee to investigate the matter.

Mr. Collamer, of Vt., from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported back the bill to allow the Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company to build a bridge across the Ohio river, at a height of not less than one hundred feet above low water mark, with a two hundred feet span.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., offered a joint resolution relative to the payment of the volunteers and militia of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Grimes said the very crude notions of the Senator from Virginia on the subject of education explained some things which might otherwise not be understood. It might be the