Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING.....NOV. 30, 1863.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

The Inquest in the Rattigan Case.

On Saturday afternoon, at three o'clock, Coroner McClung continued the investigation in the case of Thomas Rattigan, deceased.

James M. Gallaghor, Esq., testified that he knew Patrick McNamee, and saw his testimony in print; was with him on Saturday, the 14th inst., at McNamee's own house, in the Seventh Ward, until ten o'clock at night. On Friday evening, the 13th, they were together at Eli Young's saloon, on Smithfield street, between nine and ten o'clock. He did not see Rattigan on Saturday, the 14th, being at home all that evening.

Daniel Herwig testified that he kept the Railroad House, on Penn street, in the Fifth Ward; he did not see Rattigan at all, on the evening of Saturday, the 14th inst., and did not know there was blood in front of his house, on Sunday, the 15th.

Michael Siglor, a moulder at the Fort Pitt Iron Works, testified that he never know Rattigan, but on Sunday morning, the 15th inst., at half-past five o'clock, he passed Herwig's house, on Penn street, and saw blood on the cellar door. The spot was about six inches wide, and the blood was dripping down the cellar stairs. It was starlight, and he could see it plainly.

H. Sutherland testified that he was a night-policeman, on the canal bridge boat, and was on duty on Saturday night, the 14th instant. He saw no disturbance whatever, and never saw Mr. Rattigan in his life.

Wm. Pinkerton was recalled, and testified that he was certain that he saw Rattigan, Gallagher and McNamee, on Saturday night, the 14th, at Eli Young's, about twelve o'clock. John Wherry, of Allegheny, was with Pinkerton that night.

Officer Johnston was recalled, and repeated his testimony, as given on the first examination.

The inquest was then adjourned until Saturday next, at two o'clock.

The Profits of the Oil Trade.

The Oil City *Register*, in referring to the amount of business done by the "Columbia Oil Company," says: "This Company was organized in 1861, with a capital stock of $200,000, or 10,000 shares of $20 each. It is managed by a President, Board of Directors, Secretary, and a Superintendent of the Story Farm. The principal stockholders are David Richie, G. Hartje, Bateman Gos, of Pittsburgh, Wm. A. Shreve and Conrad Reiter, of Oil City. The farm embraces about fre hundred acres.

"During the months of July, August, September and October, the Columbia Oil Company made dividends to the stockholders of about $300,000, amounting to over $20 to the share. All these dividends have been earned by the sale of the oil from their landed interest upon this farm. The sale of oil for one of these months amounted to over $78,000. This will go a short way to show how well capital properly invested and judiciously managed, will pay in this Oil Region. Other parties have been equally as successful upon a smaller scale, but we give these few statistics as a standard for the whole. The company have bored several wells for themselves, all of which have been profitable. The farm is now producing from twelve to fourteen hundred bbls. of oil per day. The company do not intend to give any more leases, as they find it so much more profitable to work it themselves. It is but reasonable to suppose from past developments, that this farm will produce at least 1,000 bbls. per day for the landed interest for years to come, as the wells do not at present seem to evince the slightest disposition to fail in rendering out liberally their golden treasure."

The Guffey Station Riot Case.

On Saturday morning, Capt. J. H. Stewart, Sheriff elect of this county, and the lad Campbell, who were convicted at the present term of the Criminal Court, at Greensburg, for participating in the famous "riot" at Guffey's Station, appeared before the court, for the purpose of awaiting the result of the motion for a new trial, which had been made in their behalf. After argument by counsel, Judge Buffington overruled the motion for a new trial, and sentenced each of the defendants to pay a fine of *five dollars*, and the costs of prosecution!

Capt. Stewart, who was exercising the friendly offices of pacificator and mediator between the enraged soldiers and the Guffyites, has been made to suffer because the Guffy family couldn't see, or wouldn't see him in any other shape than that of a fierce rowdy and rioter—a character which he had therefore been utterly incapable of assuming. As to young Campbell, it is asserted, that he stood on the top of a car, several hundred feet distant, and with most wicked tongue cried out "get it boys!" Well, the trial is over, and the Guffyites have fallen far short of the vengeance which they anticipated. They have raised a "great cry," and realized but "little wool." The sentence of the court was merely nominal, and very justly so.

Pond Freshet—Heavy Losses in Oil.

There was a pond freshet on Oil Creek, on Tuesday last, on which no less than two hundred boats started from the wells. A panic occured among the boatmen, and many boats were grounded and sunk between the Shermman well and Oil City. The *Register* estimates the total amount of oil run at from 15,000 to 20,000 barrels, and adds: "The loss by destruction of boats, loss of oil, and detention, we should estimate at from $15,000 to $20,000. This loss will fall heavily upon the owners of boats, as we saw not less than fifty boats come by the bridge here, more or less injured. Dilworth & Ewing, we learn, lost two barges of bulk oil, others small amounts by leaking and staving of their boats, while those aground all along the creek will have to be unloaded. There was sufficiency of water, but the boatmen were in too much of a hurry, hence the loss."

The Local Oil Market.

The Oil City *Register*, of Thursday, contains the following review of the market at that place: "There has been but a moderate business done since last report, and no material change in prices. Oil at the wells we quote at $3, and $3 75 to $4 at this point, in bulk; and $6, packages included. There have been heavy rains for the past week, but the creek and river have not been much benefited thereby. The last raise upon the Allegheny was not a general one, consequently but a portion of the oil fleet got through to Pittsburgh. Many of the boats are aground at different points between here and there, a large portion of the heavily ladened oil boats are still at our wharf.

THE City Executive Committee, as will be seen by reference to advertisement, convene this evening for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the ensuing city election. The following named gentlemen constitute the committee:

1st Ward—John Barber, G. W. Coffin.
2d Ward—Wm. Woods, J. Laughlin.
3d Ward—D. B. Ferguson, G. W. Leonard.
4th Ward—W. F. Johnston, S. Lindsay.
5th Ward—Jos. Kaye, David Mercer.
6th Ward—A. G. McCandless, J. W. McCimpsey.
7th Ward—Louis Rail, J. I. Bennett.
8th Ward—D. Hutchinson, F. Fredericks.
9th Ward—Wm. Wills, Wm. Williams.

The Old Folks.

Our readers should bear in mind that tonight is the time set apart for a grand testimonial of the citizens of Pittsburgh to Mrs. Emma J. Nichols, the beautiful and accomplished balladist of the Old Folks. As she will be ably assisted by all the members of this celebrated troupe, the entertainment will be varied and interesting, and those who are admirers of music, both vocal and instrumental, should not fail to be on hand. Mrs. Nichols will no doubt receive, as she deserves, a crowded house.

Thanksgiving at Camp Copeland.

After partaking of the sumptuous dinner provided for the soldiers of Camp Copeland, by the ladies of the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee, a meeting was organized by calling Sergeant Thomas Jordan to preside, and electing Sergeant William Laughlin as Secretary.

On motion, a committee consisting of Sergeants S. Kieffe, Peter Bowser and J. S. Everton, were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, and reported the following:

WHEREAS, Having on this, the general thanksgiving, partaken of a bountiful repast, we, amid the universal rejoicing over the unparalleled prosperity of our Government in the midst of a civil war, and over the triumphs of the arms of Liberty and Right, should not forget those who have, with lavish hand, spread our table with luxuries, filled our hearts with gladness, and nerved our arms for our country's service. Therefore

Resolved, That since the calling of citizen soldiery into the field in defence of Constitutional Liberty and the Government of our fathers, the ladies of the North have never slighted an opportunity to ameliorate their condition, relieve their sufferings and by their devotion to encourage them to renewed efforts in the cause of Liberty and Justice.

Resolved, That in the noble works of kindness and charity performed by the associations of loyal ladies, we recognize the highest christian virtues and the noblest and purest patriotism of which a government was ever blessed; but to the ladies of the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee we award the meed of praise for their patriotism and generosity.

Resolved, That as soldiers we make ourselves worthy of a Government that can boast of such women for her crown jewels.

Resolved, That the grateful and heartfelt thanks of the soldiers at this camp be tendered to the fair donors of this elegant dinner.

Resolved, That to the ladies of Braddock's Field, and especially to Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Parker for the tasty and elegant contribution to our repast, we render our sincere thanks.

On motion the resolutions were unanimously adopted and three hearty and prolonged cheers that echoed along the valley were given for the generous doners of the feast, when each squad and company quietly retired to their quarters, refreshed in body and purpose for the work before them.

Young Men's Library Lecture.

By the notice in our column it will be seen that this association will open its annual course of lectures on Tuesday evening by Mr. Vandenhoff. Mr. Vandenhoff is too well known here to need praise from us; he is certainly one of the best readers we have ever heard. He will read, for the first time in this city, Bulwer's play of "Richelieu," a drama well suited for the lecture room, as it is the most elaborate and finished production of the author; in fact, it can only be fairly appreciated by a reading, as much is necessarily lost by a stage representation. He will also read Dickens' sketch of Mrs. Gamp. "Lairey" is thus endorsed by her friend Mrs. Harris: "Lairey Gamp you rally do amuse me; never did I think till I knowed you, as any woman could sick-nurse and monthly likeways on the little you take to drink." We see the committee have issued tickets for the entire course of ten lectures. They promise a satisfactory course, and as we know them to be in correspondence with Prof. Agassiz, Daniel S. Dickinson, Bayard Taylor, and others of note, we think the subscriber will not be disappointed. Course tickets may be obtained at the Library, or any member of the Committee.

Strike Among Mechanics.

A grand mass meeting of mechanics was held in Philadelphia, on Friday evening last, to hear the report of a Committee of Machinists and Blacksmiths, now on a strike in New York.

Mr. John Schutte, from the New York Committee, stated that the machinists of New York were now striking for an increase of twenty-five per cent. in wages, and hoped for assistance from the mechanics of Philadelphia.

Mr. Powers said the machinists in New York had now been on a strike for a month. They needed aid, any any action of the mechanics of Philadelphia in their behalf would be reciprocated when the opportunity should offer.

Resolutions were passed extending to the machinists of New York an expression of the sympathy of their brethren in Philadelphia, and assuring them of material support to the extent of their ability.

A Committee of one from each trade represented at the meeting was then appointed to collect money in each shop in the city, and report to a Central Committee of Five, who are to transmit the funds to the proper parties.

Information Wanted.

The following letter was addressed to the Postmaster of Allegheny City, who, not being able to hear anything of the parties alluded to, has handed the letter to us for publication, in the hope that it may thus reach the relatives of Henry H. Perkins:

CAMP 2ND PENNSYLVANIA CAVALRY,
NEAR MORRISVILLE, VA.,
NOVEMBER, 20th, 1863.

To the friends of Henry H. Perkins, member of Co. E, 2d Pa. Cavalry:—It is with great regret that I have to inform you that Henry H. Perkins was taken prisoner on the night of the 13th inst., while on picket near this place, with three other members of this company. We had one man killed in the fight. I don't know of any place to direct a letter to his friends. You will please send me information if this reaches any of his friends. He is a brave young man, and was captured while defending his post. You will oblige the members of Co. E if you will inform me if this letter reaches his friends.

I remain your obedient servant,
JOHN GAVIN, O. S. Co. E

P. S.—Direct to John Gavin, Co. E, 2d Pa. Cav., Col. R. B. Price, commanding regiment, Washington, D. C.

MILITARY CLAIMS.—We take pleasure in recommending to the particular attention of those who have claims against the Government for Pension, Bounty, to the card of Messrs. W. J. & Hall Patterson, in another column. The pension business requires great care and skill; these gentlemen have made it their study to obtain a thorough knowledge of it, and familiarize themselves with the practice in the various departments. We guarantee them reliable in every respect, and any business entrusted to their care will be attended to promptly.

SIGHT GUNS.—Four 20-pounder Parrot guns were sent from this city to Cleveland, a few days since, consigned to General Cox, and intended for the defence of Cleveland. They were taken over to Camp Cleveland for safe keeping, until the location of the battery on the lake front of the city is decided on.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT LINA HAUMAN'S, No. 175 Ohio street, Allegheny. Be sure and see the place. We recommend her assortment of choice toys as the richest and cheapest in the two cities; it contains the latest notions from the east and Europe.

DEATH OF THE INVENTOR OF GREEK FIRE.—Levi B. Short, the inventor of Greek Fire, recently employed in the bombardment of Charleston, died suddenly on Wednesday, at his residence in Philadelphia.

VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE.—On Saturday, Mayor Alexander fined Joseph Anderson and John Emerick, one dollar and costs each, for violation of ordinance in driving their teams over the sidewalks.

SNOW.—On Sunday morning the roofs of the houses were found covered with snow, and during the forenoon snow fell to the depth of half an inch—but molting almost as fast as it fell.

SERIOUSLY ILL.—We regret to learn that Andrew McMaster, Esq., is lying dangerously ill at his residence at Homewood, of an attack of typhoid pneumonia.

SCROFULA.—*Mr. Geo. H. Keyser*:—I have had scrofula for five years, and could get nothing to help me. I was induced to try one bottle of your medicine (Blood Searcher). I feel so much better that I think when I use two or three more bottles I will be entirely well. I recommend it to any one afflicted as I have been. JOSIAH V. SHAW.
Greensburgh, Pa.

Prepared and sold by Dr. Geo. H. Keyser, No. 140 Wood street.

Our Book Table.

HISTORY OF THE SIXTH WAR and MASSACRES of 1862 and 1863. By Isaac V. D. Heard. With Portraits and Illustrations. New York: Harper & Brothers. Pittsburgh: for sale by Henry Miner, Fifth street (next door to the Post-office). 548pp. 12mo.

A timely and deeply interesting account of the recent war in the North-west, with the savage Indian tribes, the whole course of which,—presenting a thrilling picture of the havoc and horror wrought by the murderous passions that ruled in those dark and terrible days and nights, through the frontier towns and villages, and amid the forest clearings, where the smoke of the lone cabins of the pioneers marked for the assassin where his victims might be found,—has not been traced with any approach to completeness until now. The paramount interest of the great war with the white barbarians in the South-west has in great measure diverted the public attention from the war of lesser magnitude, (but equal, and even greater, horror,) which the red men and the half-breeds waged against our settlements in the far North-west. Mr. Heard's book will supply the reader with a satisfactory narrative of this terrible episode of the war during the past two years.

SOUNDINGS FROM THE ATLANTIC. By Oliver Wendell Holmes. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Pittsburgh: for sale by Henry Miner, Fifth street, next door to the Post-office. 458pp. 16mo.

Those who have already made acquaintance with these brilliant contributions to the *Atlantic Monthly*, in which they have all first appeared, will be glad to have them *per se*, in such a handy volume as we have here; and those who not yet had the same advantage as the readers of that able monthly, may as well be told that, whatever they *will* be, they *ought* to be still gladder. We trust there is no wicked wit suggesting anything to anybody in the title which the Doctor has chosen for his book—at least nothing worse than this implication, that whatever other people may do in the *Atlantic*, he for his part casts the lead and goes to the bottom of—his subject, of course.

THEATRE.—Mr. Miles, with his educated horses, will appear at the theatre this evening in the popular drama of "Rookwood, or Life and Death of Dick Turpin." Mr. Miles appears as the daring "Dick," with his horse Hiawatha as "Bonny Bess." The performances will conclude with the capital farce of "An Alarming Sacrifice."

SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS in the Army, being exposed to sudden changes, should always be supplied with "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*," as they give prompt relief in a Cold, Cough, or an Irritated Throat.

HOME AGAIN.—Capt. J. H. Stewart, the gentlemanly Sheriff elect, has returned home, after a very pleasant wedding tour through the principal cities of the East.

TEMPTATIONS—bargains in ladies' furs, at J. Finch's, corner of Grant and Fifth streets.

SPECIAL LOCAL NOTICES.

THOMAS PARRY, Plain and Ornamental Slate Roofer, and dealer in Pennsylvania and Vermont slate of the best quality at low rates. Office at Alex. Laughlin's, near the Water Works, Pittsburgh, Pa.

DENTAL INSTITUTE, No. 251 Penn street, is the place where you can get the best cheap dentistry in the city. Don't forget the place, No. 251 Penn street, near Hancock.

C. SHIL, Dentist, 245 Penn street, will attend to all business of his profession

The Potomac Army.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—No intelligence respecting the Army of the Potomac has been received at headquarters up to 9 p. m.

The *Star* says that yesterday evening our cavalry pushed forward as far as Locust Grove, where they met the advance of the rebel cavalry, and the latter were driven across Russa Creek, or river, and afterwards across Mill Run. A large rebel infantry was posted between that point and Orange C. H., and the whole rebel force is reported to be directly in the latter place. A great force is four miles south of Germania Ford, in Orange county, within a short distance of the wilderness where Hooker fought his battle. Mill Run is two miles from Locust Grove, and from there to Mountain River, where the rebel General Early, with Ewell's old corps, is said to be in force, is about six miles. Orange C. H. is eight or ten miles further on in a south west direction.

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, Nov. 28, 1 p. m.—The report made by General Meade is highly encouraging and successful. A new base of supplies will be established in a few days, from which the army will operate with more damaging effect to the Confederacy.

We are having a heavy and disagreeable rain.

Rappahannock Station, Nov. 28, 7 p. m.—The Army of the Potomac has finally severed its line and communication with Washington, and nothing has come through from it since yesterday forenoon. If there had been a general engagement yesterday the wounded would have been sent to the rear, and conveyed to Washington by the railroad from this point. As no wounded men have been sent here it is certain that no battle has been fought. The heavy cannonading yesterday was probably of no greater importance than the artillery firing which often makes a great deal of noise and but little execution. This morning the cannonading was heard fainter than yesterday, but during the day it has been perfectly quiet.

The rain ceased before dark, and it is probable that the quantity which fell to-day will not interfere with the movements of the army except for a few hours.

In emancipating itself from Washington, the Army of the Potomac is in a position to operate most disastrously against the rebels. Should it emancipate the Union prisoners now enduring ages of misery in a single month, in Richmond, it will accomplish one of the greatest achievements performed by any army during the war.

Frauds in the Revenue Department—The Rebel Gen. Roddy on the Tennessee River—Conscripting at Columbus, Ky.—The Nettie Moore Sunk.

CAIRO, Nov. 25.—Frauds upon the Revenue Department to a large amount have been recently discovered in this port. Some of the parties implicated have been arrested. Major Devasse, chief clerk of one of the principal shipping houses here, and a leading operator of the gang of smugglers, is supposed to be one of the guilty parties, as he left here last Sunday and has not been heard from since. The losses to the Government are already reported to be $200,000.

There are rumors at Paducah that General Roddy with from 4,000 to 5,000 rebels made their appearance recently on Tennessee river, below Eastport.

There was great excitement at Columbus, Ky., yesterday, by Gen. Smith enforcing Gen. Hurlbut's conscription order. A large number were arrested for military purposes.

The steamer Nettie Moore, for Nashville, with Government stores, was sunk on Friday in the Ohio river below Smithland.

Rebel Money and Mail Found on a British Steamer.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—The British steamer Corsician, from Nassau, was thoroughly searched by the Custom House officers night, as well as the baggage of passengers. A large amount of specie, rebel money, and rebel mail, was found on the steamer and among the passengers.

Our Killed and Wounded at Chattanooga.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The *Times'* Washington special to-day says: The official statement of our loss at Chattanooga, in killed and wounded, on the 23d, 24th and 25th, at the storming of Lookout Mountain, were 3,000, and the assault on Missionary Ridge about 200. Our wounded are all under cover, and well cared for.

Surrender of Arkansas City—100 Prisoners Captured.

SOUTHWEST PASS, Nov. 21.—On the 17th inst., our forces attacked Arkansas City, Texas, and it surrendered. We captured 100 prisoners and three guns.

Burnside Cheerful and Confident.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 29.—The latest news from Knoxville is to Wednesday. The north part of the town was burned, including the railroad depot. General Burnside is cheerful and confident.

Recruiting in New York.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—From returns received at the Assistant Provost Marshal General's office it appears that the number of soldiers enlisted in this city, under the new call for volunteers, during the past week, has been about 800. As recruiting business was not fairly in operation till Monday last, this is considered very encouraging for the first week.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 28, 1863.

THE CONDITION OF UNION PRISONERS AT RICHMOND.

The following official statement of all the ninety-five surgeons recently released from Libby prison, was this afternoon presented to the President, Dr. Ashman, of Ohio, President of the meeting at which the statement was adopted. While we have all along known their true character, the rebels have not only succeeded in convincing the world that we barbarously violated the rules of war, but that their conduct was always regulated by the most scrupulous regard for humanity, the following document, which calmly and dispassionately recites the facts on the faith and honor of the ninety-five medical officers, none below the rank of major or captain, it is valuable not only for the new light it casts on the dismal sufferings of our prisoners, but mainly because it gives to the recital of the sufferings the attestation of an official sanction, that no man in his sense will question.

Steamer Adelaide, Chesapeake Bay, Nov. 26, 1863.—At a meeting of Surgeons of the United States army and navy, lately confined in prison in Richmond, Va., of which G. I. Ashman, Surgeon 93d Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was chosen chairman and J. McCurdy, Surgeon 11th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Secretary, it was resolved that a committee of seven be appointed to prepare a report on the condition and treatment of national prisoners in Richmond; also the prisoners, quality and quantity of rations and treatment of our sick and wounded. The following committee was appointed: Dan'l Meaker, Surgeon U. S. V., N. J. Herrick, Surgeon 24th Ill. Vol., W. Houston, Surgeon 122d O. V. I., H. J. Herrick, Surgeon 17th O. V. I., Marcus Rice, Surgeon 24th Mass. Vol., John T. Lock, Asst. Surgeon U. S. Navy, and Augustine A. Mann, Asst. Surgeon 1st R. I. Cavalry. The following report was presented by the chairman of the committee, which was read and adopted, unanimously, after which the committee received the thanks of the meeting and were discharged: The committee appointed by the United States Army and Navy Surgeons recently imprisoned in Richmond, Va., to report the past and present condition, and treatment of Union prisoners, now held at that place, submit the following facts, derived from personal observations and the statements of fellow-prisoners, in whose veracity they have implicit confidence, and about 1,000 officers, representing all grades of both branches of the service, confined in seven rooms of the Libby prison, a building formerly used as a warehouse, each room is 42 feet wide and 102 feet long, affording to each prisoner but about 256 cubic feet of air. The rooms have unplastered walls, partitions and ceilings, but few of the windows are glazed, being either open to the full sweep of cold winds or closed with boards or canvas, thus rendering the rooms dark and cheerless. One of the rooms is used exclusively as a kitchen and dining room, while portions of others are necessarily devoted to some purpose, and but none scantily furnished and medium sized cookstoves are supplied the prisoners. The officers have to do their own cooking, and the supply of wood for this purpose is often insufficient, and occasionally for half a day none at all is sent us. A privy and a sink rendering foul and linger ing one end of each room, polluting at times the air of the entire apartments. None are permitted to leave the building of accumulated and accumulating horrors till forwarded to the hospital or happily exchanged. Fourteen men are confined in various places. At the time the Surgeons left Richmond there were about 6,300 soldiers held on Belle Island, in the James river, near the city, and about 1,000 soldiers, and 150 sailors and marines in a building similar to, and in the immediate vicinity of Libby. In these buildings the condition of the men is about the same as that of the officers in Libby, only they are much more crowded. The condition of those on the Island is much worse. An insufficient number of tents are furnished to protect them from the cold and rain, and no blankets or any other bedding have been given them by the rebels. Only one surgeon is assigned to Belle Island, and he makes but one visit a day, during which he does not enter the enclosure where the men were kept, to see those too sick to walk, but attends to those only who are able to come to him, and when those that are neglected are sent to the hospitals it is often too late. None of the privates in the prison or about Libby are furnished with bedding of any kind.

A member of the committee received a letter from a number of men belonging to the same command, and confined in the building opposite Libby, over theirs. "Dr. Webb, try to get us something—either clothes or blankets, to keep us warm. We have no fires in the buildings to warm us, and have nothing either to lie on or cover us, and suffer greatly from the cold."

In Libby, stoves for heating purposes have recently been put up in some of the rooms, but no fuel of any description has yet been given to render them useful. At one time the rations issued consisted of about three-fourths of a pound of wheat bread, one-fourth pound of fresh beef, two ounces beans and a small quantity of vinegar and salt for each prisoner per day. Subsequently the same quantity of corn bread, made of meal, and rice instead of beans, were issued in the same quantity, in lieu of beef and rice. Two or three small sweet potatoes, and quite often [illegible] entirely within the past [illegible] nothing except [illegible] a pound of corn bread, [illegible] each prisoner to satisfy the gnawings of hunger for twenty-four hours. One-tenth of the Northern men on Belle Island did not get a morsel of anything to eat until four o'clock, p. m. The Committee unanimously agree that the rations furnished our prisoners by the rebel authorities at Richmond are not sufficient to prevent the prisoners from suffering from hunger, and thus becoming debilitated and very susceptible to disease. Some of the Committee have seen men brought from Belle Island to the prison hospital, literally starving to death. A United States army officer of high rank and of undoubted veracity thus, and now a prisoner in Libby prison, told a member of the Committee that while on a visit to Belle Island recently the west he permission of the rebel authorities in Richmond) the prisoners there followed him in crowds as he walked around the enclosure, and cried to him with eager voices, "We are hungry—send us bread! send us bread!" Were it not for the supplies received from home, none of those confined in the Libby and other prisons would escape the pangs of hunger. On arriving at the prison, officers were searched, and in addition to articles contraband of war, their money and other valuables are taken from them. A few got all, some a great portion, and others none of their money returned, while no other articles are returned. All the money arriving in letters and express packages for the prisoners, from whatever source, is taken and deposited with the rebel quartermaster of Richmond, and the owner is permitted to draw it in a stated amount in rebel paper, though they allow seven dollars in Confederate currency for one dollar in United States money. Some of the surgeons released yesterday on applying for money taken from them in various ways, but always with the promise that if released while any remained on deposit, it would be returned, were cruelly told that the aforesaid Quartermaster had exchanged all their money, and they must each take Confederate money or wait.

The treatment received by our privates is of the greatest severity. For looking out of the window three nights since, one was shot and instantly killed. Those having trades, and also some who have none, are taken out into the city and compelled to work, guarded and restrained from all liberty by sentence. It was no common sight to see a gang of our men coming home to their prison house at night carrying their implements of labor, bespotted with white wash or showing other signs of having been at work.

About thirty of our men are now employed in Richmond making shoes, supposed to be for the rebel army. Some officers have been compelled to scrub floors, clean the water closet of the prison, and perform other menial services. All are and all have been at all times since their imprisonment in Libby, subjected to menial and brutal treatment on the part of the prison subordinates, and the Captain and the Inspector of the prison, when applied to, not only dare not rebuke the subordinates but encourage them to further offensive conduct.

Upon the most trifling charges officers have been confined for from twenty-four hours to several days, in dungeons under the jail, and there fed only bread and water. An officer, for doing that which certainly did not merit the term offense, was put into one of these dungeon cells, though at the time convalescent from typhoid fever, and too weak to do anything.

Not more than two hundred blankets have been given to all the prisoners in Libby by the rebels, and were it not for those received from home, furnished by the Sanitary Commission, all would suffer very much. Twice within the past week the floors of the prisons have been [illegible] at sundown, and thus with [illegible] more [illegible] the officers must be [illegible] morning [illegible] relief by [illegible] on [illegible] occasions [illegible] were ready, [illegible] hue, in various ways, [illegible] make our condition not only uncomfortable, but dangerous.

After there arrive at the hospital the sick are not unkindly treated, and the rations given them were a shadow better than those served to them while in the prisons, but so enfeebled have they become by privations of food, and so stricken by exposure previous to their admission, that the mortality in the great number of desolate among the Union prisoners at Richmond, Va., and Belle Island together, has reached the startling number of fifty in one day. All the prison hospitals are insufficiently supplied with medicine for the proper treatment of the sick, and finally, members of this committee individually assert that no prison or penitentiary ever seen by them in a Northern State that did not surpass in cheerfulness, healthiness and abundance of rations issued to them, to either of the military prisons in Richmond, Virginia.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1863.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS INTERRUPTED.

Communications are said to be interrupted between Washington and Meade's Army. At any rate, the customary dispatches have not been received yet to-day.

RAILS REMOVED.

There is a story that workmen are busy taking up the rails from the railroad this side of Culpepper, but it is hardly credible.

ROLLING STOCK SENT TO ALEXANDRIA.

It is understood that the rolling stock of the road has all been sent back to Alexandria for the reason that Meade wanted the men who were guarding it, and was to get them, sent it where it would need no guard.

THE CONFISCATION BILL.

The conviction that the amendatory clause, limiting the operation of the confiscation bill, to the forfeiture of a life estate of the rebels, is an addition not called for by any just interpretation of the constitution, and practically nullifying the bill, will, it is supposed, lead to a movement for its repeal early in the approaching session. Some believe that the President will now give his sanction to this, though last session he demanded and secured the passage of this amendatory resolution, against the wishes of a large majority of both houses.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

Judge Underwood's decision, confiscating rebel property in fee simple, is likely to be soon brought before the Supreme Court for confirmation or reversal.

THE FRENCH FLEET GOING UP THE JAMES RIVER FOR TOBACCO.

It is stated again that the French fleet is soon to go up the James River to get the tobacco bought by the French Government before rebellion, concerning which, so much has been said. There is a rumor that Count Mercier recently went to Richmond again.

CLERK TO BE APPOINTED.

A Clerk of the United States Supreme Court is to be appointed by the Judges next week, vice Carroll, deceased.

MEETING OF CONGRESS.

Congress meets one week from to-morrow. There is no doubt now entertained of the organization on the first day. It is understood that the Administration caucus, to select the speaker, clerk, sergeant-at-arms, door keeper and postmaster, will meet in the hall of the House on Saturday evening.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

It is believed that the proper application of the Internal Revenue system to the Southern States, as they are reconquered, may considerably enlarge the revenue. It is understood that the forthcoming report of the Treasury Department will discuss this point; also, that it will recommend the passage of a law to reform the Custom House statutes, so as to insure fuller and more accurate records and prevent frauds.

JEFF. DAVIS RETURNED TO RICHMOND.

Jeff. Davis, owing to the unfavorable weather of Wednesday, did not review the rebel army, as he intended, and he is said by prisoners to have returned to Richmond on Thursday.

Supplies for the Union Prisoners at Richmond.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The Sanitary Committee has to day dispatched from Baltimore another large invoice of clothing and supplies for the Union prisoners in Richmond. They have advices of the distribution of their previous contribution by rebel authorities. Additional supplies will be forwarded as soon as evidence is received of the proper distribution of what has already been furnished.

Steamer Morning Star Seized.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29.—Yesterday morning the Deputy Marshal seized the steamer Morning Star, previous to her sailing for New Orleans, and attached sixty hogsheads of supposed pork, but which contained whisky, it is alleged for the Southern army. The owners agreed to bond the vessel for the return of the cargo in the amount of $30,000, and the Marshal then permitted her to proceed on her voyage.

MOVEMENTS OF MEADE'S ARMY.

Communication between Washington and Meade Cut Off.

HEAVY SKIRMISH AT OAKWOOD.

The Rebels Repulsed!

A GENERAL ENGAGEMENT IMMINENT.

Our Troops in Good Spirits!

&c., &c., &c.

Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 27, 1863.

Communications between Washington and Meade's army are completely cut off. There is no telegraphic connection, and no couriers can get through save by running the gauntlet through a country already swarming with guerrillas. A courier, however, got through this afternoon, bringing details of the army operations down to noon yesterday. These operations are all preliminary. Meade seems to be gradually pushing the rebel army on Gordonsville, and it is believed that if Lee means to fight at all a pitched battle must be imminent. Our army has an abundance of rations, and is animated at once by its pursuit of a retreating enemy, and by the inspiriting news it heard, just before beginning its movements, from Chattanooga.

The following is an account sent in by the New York *Times* correspondent from the Army of the Potomac:

Robertson's Tavern, Saturday, Nov. 28.—This army was in motion all day yesterday. The enemy's advance was met at an early hour in the morning, and gradually fell back, skirmishing heavily, until the centre of our line occupied, this morning, one and a half miles South of the Point, which is seven miles from Germania Ford. Gregg's cavalry, on the left, the 2nd Corps in the centre, and the 3rd Corps on the right had some pretty heavy artillery practice and skirmishing to secure a proper line for more active offensive operations. The loss in killed and wounded in the 2d Corps is about seventy. In Gregg's Cavalry Division, thirty will probably cover the loss. The work yesterday was only preliminary for to-day, if the enemy mean fight.

It can certainly do no harm now to recapitulate the movements of this army for the last forty-eight hours, which places it in a position ready for any emergency. The army was under orders to march last Tuesday morning, but unfortunate a rain storm, on the night before, rendering the roads next to impassible, caused a postponement of the day for marching. Tuesday the storm ceased, and on Wednesday, a stiff breeze and an unclouded sun all materially in drying the roads.

Thursday morning, orders having been issued the night before, the whole army was in motion. The 1st and 5th corps moved to Culpepper Ford, a short distance below Germania Mills, and the 2d corps to Germania Ford, followed by the 6th corps as a support. The 3d corps went by Jacobs' Mills Ford, two and a half miles above Germania. Kilpatrick's cavalry, now under Custar, protected the inner fords, to watch any attempt to make a flank movement or attack our rear. Gregg's cavalry division moved on the left flank, and Buford's on the right. From the usual amount of preparation the enemy had made by throwing up earthworks and digging rifle pits at the principal point of crossing, a strong resistance to the passage of the Rapidan was expected. In this all was disappointed. The enemy's pickets fell back almost without firing a shot. The river was reached early in the day on Thursday, and finding that the enemy had evacuated these places the troops commenced crossing at once.

On Thursday night the troops, wagon trains, and artillery were crossing the river. A sufficient force was thrown forward on Thursday afternoon on the Germania plank road to cover the front. On Friday morning the Fifth corps and First corps moved from near the river up the Germania plank road. Gregg's cavalry taking the advance, and driving the enemy's cavalry back, skirmishing to Oakwood. At this point and one mile beyond, the enemy made considerable resistance, both sides having out strong skirmish lines. Charge upon charge was made on both sides by the skirmish line. The enemy were invariably repulsed and finally, suddenly introduced a line of infantry skirmishers to repel a charge. We followed it up promptly by a counter movement with infantry, and for a few moments forced our line back, but were finally repulsed by a vigorous fire opened upon them from the Sixth New York, Independent battery, Capt. Martin.

The First brigade of Gregg's cavalry division, under command of Col. Taylor, did the heaviest part of this work. This brigade is composed of the following named regiments: The 3d Penn'a cavalry, 1st Penn'a cavalry, 1st New Jersey cavalry, 1st Mass. cavalry, and 1st Rhode Island cavalry.

At Oakwood, companies K and I, Captains Wright and Welsh, of the 3rd Pa. Cavalry, had the advance, and behaved in a most gallant manner. Last night, our left was two miles south of Hope Meeting House, or Oakwood, and twelve miles from Germania, on the plank road leading from Fredericksburg to Orange Court House. Just as the rebel infantry was exposed so unexpectedly, to repel a charge of the line of skirmishers, as above recorded, the advance of the 5th corps came into position very opportunely, throwing out a strong line of skirmishers. The enemy opened with a heavy fire of artillery upon it, which was responded to in a similar manner from our side, and for an hour quite a brisk cononading was kept up on both sides. In one of the charges made by the cavalry, twenty-four prisoners were taken.

As the train of the 5th corps was turning from the Back pike into the plank road, a fire was suddenly opened upon it from a concealed foe, when one man was wounded and several mules were killed. The enemy were speedily dispersed by a detachment sent out from the 5th corps for that purpose. Having crossed Germania Ford, the second corps yesterday took the first road to the right—the Orange C. H. Pike. But little distance had been made before the enemy's pickets were encountered and a lively skirmish was kept up to beyond Robertson's tavern. Here the enemy brought forward their infantry, and for two hours there was heavy skirmishing and considerable artillery practice until it was quite dark. Next on the right of the second is the third, and then again the sixth corps. The third had considerable skirmishing in front, and at one time a general engagement seemed imminent. The reason it did not come off, in fact, was doubtless because neither side was ready. We may have it to-day. Gen. Custer, in command of Kilpatrick's cavalry division, anxious to mix in the fight that seemed to be impending, made a dash across Raccoon Ford with a Michigan brigade and Pennington's brigade, and commenced work in real earnest. As the position he was in might become a critical one, and as his movement would somewhat interfere with other arrangements on foot. He was directed to recross the river. This morning finds our whole army in position and ready for work. Everybody seems to be in good spirits, and may that be a harbingor of a decided victory.

The country hereabouts is one of the most conceivable for field operations. It is truly named the wilderness, for a wilderness of small growth wood covers a [illegible] tenths of the whole surface of the country. So dense are these young forests that it is impossible to penetrate them, except where paths are cut out. This enabled the enemy yesterday to hover on our flanks, often within [illegible] of a moving column, with impunity. It was not until late in the morning that our line in front was connected as to keep straggling parties of cavalry from intercepting our lines.

Another correspondent says that twenty of the 5th corps wagons were captured. We have lost a large number of prisoners, and killed and wounded. The 3rd corps lost from five to nine hundred. On Saturday morning the enemy were advancing in line of battle. We took a large number of prisoners while Lee was changing his line from Morton's Ford, where he had expected us to cross, to Orange Court House. It would have been almost impossible to cross at Germania