The Daily Post.

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 9, 1864.

Petroleum.

In a late number of the *Continental Monthly* we find an interesting article on Petroleum, from which we make a few extracts, in which some new and novel speculations are indulged in relation to the gigantic proportions assumed by the oil trafic which has so recently loomed up in Western Pennsylvania. The writer says:

"The oil region of Western Pennsylvania is the portion of oil producing territory that now occupies the largest share of attention. It is confined principally to the valley of Oil Creek, a tributary of the Allegheny River, which it enters at a point about sixty miles south from Lake Erie. It is true that oil wells are successfully worked on the banks of the Allegheny for some distance above and below the mouth of Oil Creek; still the county of Venango has monopolized almost the whole number of oil-producing wells in this region.

"There are some strange facts, that point to a history all unwritten save in some few brief sentences in pits and excavations, of oil operations along the Oil Valley. These detached fragments, like the remains of the Sibylline Oracles, but cause us to regret more earnestly the loss of the volumes which contained the whole. A grand and wonderful history has been that of this American continent, but it has never been graven in the archives of time. The actors in its bygone scenes have passed away in their shadowy grandeur, leaving but dim footprints here and there to tell us they have been, and cause us to wonder at the mystery which veils their record, and to muse upon the evanescent glory of man's earthly destiny.

"Along the valley of Oil Creek are clear traces of ancient oil operations. Over sections embracing hundreds of acres in extent, the entire surface of the land has at some remote period of time, been excavated in the form of oblong pits, from four by six to six by eight feet in size. These pits are oftentimes from four to five feet still in depth, notwithstanding the action of rain and frost during the lapse of so many years They are found in the oil region, and over the oil deposits, and in no other locality, affording unmistakable evidence of their design and use. The deeper pits appear to have been cribbed up at the sides with rough timber, in order to preserve their form and render them more available for the design in view. Upon the septa that divide them and then in the pits themselves, trees have grown up more than one and a half feet in diameter, indicating an antiquity antedating the earliest records of civilized life in this region. For centuries has this treasure been affording intimations of its presence. Before Columbus had touched these western shores was it gathered here, in this valley, as an article of utility or luxury, by the processes of design and labor, and with the idea of traffic and emolument.

"By whom were these excavations planned and these pits fashioned, that tell of the pursuit of wealth so many years ago? Let the mighty dead, that are slumbering in our valleys, and the remains of whose fortifications and cities are spread out all over the great West, in magnificence as vast and gorgeous as the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon, arise and speak, for they alone of mortals can tell!

"One theory that has been somewhat popular is, that these pits are due to the labors of the American Indians. But the very term labor seems absurd when used in reference to these lords of the forest. They never employed themselves in manual labor of any kind. The female portion of the community planted a little corn, and constructed rude lodges to shelter them from the wintry blast; but they never even dreamed of trade or commerce. The Indian loved to roam through the wilderness and follow the war-path—to seek for game to supply their present wants, or to bring home the scalp of his enemy as a trophy of prowess, but would scorn to bend his strength to rude toil in excavating multitudinous pits for the reception of oil, or in bearing it from place to place after it had been secured.

"The remains of the once powerful confederacy of Indians known as the Six Nations still linger in Western Pennsylvania, in a region not very remote from Oil Creek, but they can throw no light upon the origin of these pits. In regard to their history, they can give no more information than they can concerning the mounds and fortifications, ruined castles, and dismantled cities, that tell us of a once glorious past, of a mysterious decadence, and of the utter vanity of all earthly glory.

"There are men still living in the oil valley, who were on terms of familiar intimacy with Complanter, a celebrated chief of the Seneca tribe of Indians—the last of a noble and heroic line of chieftains that had borne sway from the Canadas to the Ohio River, and who was living at the time of the French occupation. But in reciting his own deeds and memories, and those of his fathers, who had gone to the silent hunting grounds of the spirit land, he could say nothing of early oil operations, any further than the collection of it in small quantities for medical or ornamental purposes.

"The only rational conclusion, therefore, at which we can arrive in regard to these early oil operations is, that they are due, not to the Indians or French or early white settlers, but to some primitive dwellers on the soil, who have long since passed away, leaving no written records to tell of their origin or history but stamping the impress of their existence on our mountains and in our valleys, assuring us of their power and the magnificence of their operations, yet leaving us to wonder that such strength could fail, that such magnificence could perish, and that such darkness could settle over the memory of a great people."

Meeting at Splane's Building.—A large and influential meeting was held at Splane's Building last evening for the purpose of taking some action in relation to the wretched condition of the incorporated roads leading to and from the city. After a free interchange of opinion, it was resolved that our representatives at Harrisburg be instructed to procure legislation by which those having control of said roads *should be compelled to keep them in order*. Let our representatives act without delay.

The Convention To-day.—We shall be on hand to-day, and shall take care that every delegate is placed on record, and his vote recorded for future reference. So, gentleman delegates, come prepared to vote with the full knowledge that a "chiel's among ye takin' notes, an' faith he'll publish 'em."

Third Ward.—The first precinct of the Third Ward last evening elected as delegates to the Tax Convention David Simms, James L. Sutherland, John O'Connor. The second precinct, A. N. Brown, A. J. Baker and John J. Case.

The Tax Convention To-Day.

In pursuance of the call of the County Commissioners, the citizens of the Fifth Ward met at the school house yesterday evening for the purpose of electing delegates to the convention which meets today for the purpose of granting or withholding its assent to the issue of bonds by the county to the amount of $800,000 for the purpose of raising the quota of men called for under the late calls of the President for volunteers.

On motion Wm. H. Williams was called to the chair and Will. M. Hartzell and F. H. Coolley appointed Secretaries.

After a rambling discussion, in order to test the sense of the meeting, Mr. Coolley offered the following resolution;

Resolved, As the sense of this meeting, that the Commissioners of Allegheny County at once take measures to issue the bonds of the county for a sum not exceeding $800,000, for the purpose of procuring men to fill the quota of the county under both the calls of the President.

The resolution gave rise to a lengthy discussion, and was finally adopted by an overwhelming majority.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the delegates be instructed to vote in favor of taxing all stocks and business of individuals as well as real estate.

The following delegates were elected, with but a few dissenting voices:—Wm. H. Williams, Dr. A. G. McCandless, and Joseph Butler, all in favor of issuing the bonds. Adjourned.

An Important Decision.—In the United States District Court at Cincinnati, on the 3d instant, Judge Leavitt delivered an important judicial opinion in the case of the United States against C. Cathcart and C. Parmenter indicted on a charge of treason. Counsel for defendant in the first case had filed a special demurrer to the indictment, and in the second a motion to quash, both resting on the same grounds, which were, aside from technical exceptions, these: That the United States government was a compact, and that several states having withdrawn, the compact no longer exists, and, therefore, a citizen of Ohio cannot commit treason or conspiracy against the United States. These points were argued, apparently at great length, by defendant's counsel. Judge Leavitt, in a long and able opinion, going over the whole ground and quoting the decisions of the Supreme Court from the time of Marshal to that of Taney, declared that the exceptions could not be sustained, and ordered the trial of the accused to proceed at the April term of the Court.

The Pittsburgh and Erie Railroad.—The Erie *Dispatch*, alluding to this road, says: "The track on the Southern end is being laid down as rapidly as possible, and traine will run through from this city to Pittsburgh, early in the spring. This work will be a valuable tributary to the trade of Pittsburgh, and whatever benefits Pittsburgh commercially must also assist Erie. It will be the first direct road through our own State from Pittsburgh to Erie. It will be an adjunct, also to the Pennsylvania railroad, whose business it must assist by opening up a rich and populous region to the influence of that grand corporation. That section has both mineral and agricultural resources of great importance. To the counties of Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence and Beaver it will be of immediate consequence as a main line of trade and travel, affording them access to the great trade marts of New York and Philadelphia, as well as to the nearer market of Pittsburgh."

Democratic Caucus.—The regular Democratic caucus—Hon. J. L. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, president and Hon. N. Perry, of New Jersey, secretary, was held in Washington on the evening of the 3d inst. The only important business transacted was the announcement of the following committee, to prepare an address to the country. It is composed of one member from each Congressional Democratic State delegation Maine, Hon. Lorenzo Sweat; New Hampshire, Daniel Marcy, Connecticut, J. E. English; New York, Francis Kernan; New Jersey, William Wright; Pennsylvania, C. R. Buckalew; Maryland, B. G. Harris; Ohio, George Bliss; Kentucky, Wm. H. Wadsworth; Indiana, Thomas A. Hendricks; Illinois, James C. Allen; Missouri, Wm. A. Hall; Michigan, Augustus C. Baldwin; Wisconsin, James S. Brown; California, J. A. M'Dougal; Delaware, William Saulsbury.

Always in Season.—There is no article more suitable, and one that is always in season, for a present to relative or friend, than a handsome and well-bound Photograph Album. No Souvenir is more highly appreciated by the ladies, with the exception, perhaps, of the betrothal ring. In making a present of a photograph album, however, it becomes the donor to select one that will not only please the eye, but suit the taste of the one for whom it is intended, and in order to make such selection, you must have variety. Our prominent book and periodical dealer, Miner, Nos. 71 & 73 Fifth street, next door to the Post Office, has an immense stock of albums, comprising the most elegant, durable and beautiful, and ranging in price from $— to $—. If the reader contemplates purchasing an album, we suggest a call at Miner's for that purpose.

Look Out for Him.—A fellow who calls himself "Prof. Wayland C. Parker," a music teacher, now sojourning at Valparaiso, Indiana, is catching it severely through the columns of the Valparaiso *Republic*. He appears to be a "gay and festive cuss." He is charged, and the facts seem to be proved, of taking improper liberties with his pupils, to his infamy and their disgrace. The scene of his ugliest amours is located at Clear Creek, Wayne county New York, and the time some two years since. He will probably have to leave Valparaiso, and may turn up at Pittsburgh or some other point—where they read the *Post*. We caution the public against him on the strength of his published history.

The 77th Coming.—A special dispatch from Major General James S. Negley to the Evening *Chronicle*, dated Louisville, Feb. 8th, 1864, says: "The gallant few of the distinguished 77th regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers are en route for their homes as veterans. I sincerely hope that the citizens of Pittsburgh will appreciate the glorious record of these brave men, and give them a generous welcome." Let our citizens, in accordance with the General's suggestion, give the brave boys of the 77th a warm reception.

The Great Miltonian Tableaux of Paradise Lost at Masonic Hall.—In order to accommodate the vast crowds that throng the door of Masonic Hall to witness the above work of art, there will be an exhibition every afternoon this week, at 3 o'clock. The Ladies will of course avail themselves of these afternoon matinees, and avoid the crowd of the evening. The exhibition in the afternoon will be precisely the same as in the evening.

Petroleum.—On Saturday, Feb. 6, in New York, Petroleum, at the Merchants' Exchange, Pine street, was unsettled, in consequence of uncertainty as to the new taxation. Crude sold at 28@28½, according to grade; refined in bond at 45@47, free 53@55. Receipts, 1,408 barrels.

The Theatre.—Miss Helen Western made her first appearance before a Pittsburgh audience last night, and we are not exaggerating when we say that she created a perfect *furore*. She is a very pleasing actress, possesses a thorough appreciation of the parts she undertakes to perform, reads with correctness, and is highly animated in her acting. These qualifications, united with graces of person rarely equalled on the stage, made her a favorite at the outset with her audience, and when the curtain fell it was amid the most enthusiastic applause. Miss Western, who, for the information of those not present last night, we may say is a brunette, with eyes large, lustrous and almost dazzling in their brilliancy, appeared to great advantage as the *Mysterious Stranger* in the popular drama of "Satan in Paris." She exhibited high histrionic ability, and sustained her part with much taste and judgment.

Proff. Richards.—The first lecture of Proff. Richard's course was given at Concert Hall, last night, to a large and delighted audience, under the auspices of the Library Association.

We advise every student of Natural Philosophy, who desires to see the great power of atmospheric pressure illustrated to attend the course. Subject to-night is "Atmospheric Pressure."

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NOTICE.—THE LECTURE COMMITTEE of the Mercantile Library Association take this method of thanking the members and friends of the Association who have aided them in making the first course of lectures so successful, and request the holders of course tickets to preserve them as it is intended to add two or more lectures to the regular course. As the Committee have not been able to make any engagement for the present month, they have arranged a SPECIAL COURSE OF SCIENTIFIC LECTURES for the interval, and again ask the aid of the friends of our institution.

W. H. KISKADD, GEO. W. WEYMAN,
SAMUEL A. LONG, H. M. ATWOOD,
W. W. WARD, THOS. BAKEWELL, Jr.,
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N. B.—Will open February 15th, 1864.
jan29-tf

$150 BOUNTY.—THE FOURTH WARD, Allegheny city, is prepared to pay a BOUNTY OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, (in addition to the Government Bounty,) to volunteers, sufficient to fill its quota under the call of the President. Application for the bounty will be made to J. C. M'PHERSON, esq., Treasurer of the Fund, at the Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank, Allegheny city, (accompanied by a certificate from any Provost Marshal, or recruiting officer, that may have enlisted the recruit designated to be credited to the Fourth Ward, Allegheny city, being the Fourth sub-district of the 23d District of Pennsylvania.

THOS. M. HOWE,
President of Bounty Fund Board, of 4th Ward, Allegheny city. feb6-3t

Fiat Justis.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Post:

Knowing you to be a man of liberal feelings I was not a little surprised to read in your excellent paper, a paltry piece written by some vagabond or other, who calls himself "McSHANE," attacking the Hon. W. F. JOHNSTON, a writer in the *Commercial* who signs himself "JUSTICE," vindicates this fine old public functionary in a disinterested manner, to which "McSHANE," in a second article, takes exception and uses more "puppyisms," but I think special atonement is due from you for giving place to the wretched remarks of "McSHANE." The very name this clumsy slanderer has chosen, proves that he believes the honored ex-Governor to be a member of the Protestant Association. Probably he is, and if you and I object to that society, that is no reason why you should permit any member of it to be assailed in this way. *It is within my knowledge* that certain prominent leaders of the Republican party sneered and sniggered at the presumed palpable hit made by ribald "McSHANE" concerning reconciling of the sons of the ex-Governor. O yes! *they* could well afford to laugh—*they* hold the trumps, their hopeful heirs, perchance, are all officers, probably every mother's son of them has a snug appointment as the reward of his father's luck or management, while I am informed that one of the ex-Governor's sons served in *the field* and that in the perilous position of a sutler. I say "perilous," for the life and property of the devoted, patriotic, and industrious sutler are always at the mercy of the rebel guerrillas. It ill becomes these Republican rivals of my friend to laugh at the coarse jokes of a bog-trotter, aimed at one who would cheerfully have given an hundred sons to this cruel war if he could have obtained places for them half as good as those given to the offsprings of his enemies. But these envious competitors find that they can't put him down, and they take the poor revenge of joining in on "anonymous," laugh at his expense. They have managed to exclude him from the "Union Circle" at Washington, but they are still jealous of his eloquence—they fear the effect of his frank and genial nature, unmarred as it is by any grain of selfishness. These envious men see that though they have kept to themselves all the honors, loaves and fishes, the shining patriot they have thrust aside, is now the darling of the people. He is filling up their depleted ranks of the Union armies—now by gentle persuasion, anon by the inspiring call of his clarion voice. He it was who, when Pennsylvania was threatened by a nightless foe, at once entered his name as willing and determined to leave on the afternoon of the same day to give the usurper battle and hurl back his hordes of ragged scoundrels, and this, too, when fellows who did really go as far as the Maryland line and then had some hesitation as to the *propriety* of "crossing the border." These are now your sneerers, your anonymous scribbler—alike conspicuous political and polemical, alike adapted for war, for business, for social amnesties—his exalted, unselfish, and intense, but yet unmitigated loyalty, is the admiration of all.

It is in vain that your paper colonels and generals with the regulation badge, and scheming congressmen, and blood contractors, and government parasites of every grade, and McSHANE and O. BOTHEREMS conspire to frown down or sneer into obscurity such a man as this. You, sir, should be ashamed to aid them, and you should welcome to your column even this humble vindication of our patriotic ex Governor.

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TELEGRAPHIC,

FOR THE POST.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS ITEMS.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

CINCINNATI NEWS ITEMS.

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—*Senate.*—A message was received from the President enclosing a communication from the Secretary of War, transmitting correspondence with the rebel authorities as to exchange of prisoners.

On motion of Mr Powell, the Secretary of War was requested to communicate information as to orders given to Provost Marshals in regard to elections in the several border States

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing a communication from the Secretary of State, declining to transmit correspondence in relation to the reciprocity treaty between the United Stafes and Sandwich Islands.

Mr. Carlisle made a speech, in which he said that in these unhappy times, when good men are rendered odious and bad men popular, when great men are made little and little men great, he who would save his country best must be above personal consideration.

House—Mr. Blair (Western Virginia) offered a series of resolutions deprecating the present civil war, and quoting largely from speeches of Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stevens, those persons having asserted that a reconstruction of the Union was impossible, and uttered language in bitter denunciation of the people North.

Mr. Mallory (Ky.) inquired whether any objection could be made to the continued through resolutions because of their length. The Clerk finished the reading of the resolutions, which declare any attempt on the part of the government to conciliate the leaders of the rebellion, or compromise the question involved, would rob the gallows of its due, and humiliate and bring into contempt this government in the estimation of the civilized world.

Mr Eldridge, of Wisconsin, asked to know whether it was proper to include rebel stump speeches in the resolutions brought before the House. The speaker said he was not aware of any such rule. The House, only 12 voting in affirmative, referred to second the demand for the previous question on the passage of resolutions and that they lie over for future consideration.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, on the Senate enrollment bill. An amendment was adopted as a substitute for one of the original selections, which forever provides that any persons drafted into the military service, may before the time fixed for his appearance at the draft rendezvous, furnish an acceptable substitute, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. If such substitute is not liable to draft the person furnishing shall be exempt from draft during the time for which such substitute is not liable to draft not exceeding the time for which he was drafted, and if such substitute is liable to draft, the name of the person furnishing him shall be liable to draft in filling future quotas.

Mr. Stevens (Pa.) offered an amendment, which was adopted, making all able bodied persons of African descent, between 18 and 45 years, subject to the draft This was however, afterwards stricken out, together with one of the original sections. The committee then rose without concluding its action on the amendments of the Military Committee. The House, at a quarter to five o'clock, adjourned.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Parties arriving from the front this morning state that when our troops pushed across at Germania ford they found the rebel rifle pits in that immediate vicinity occupied by but twenty-five pickets, who threw down their arms and surrendered, stating that there was no rebel force within ten miles of their position. Immediately thereafter our forces pushed ahead in the direction of Orange Court House, but had hardly progressed two miles before they were opened on from twelve guns, the rebel force working and supporting these gun. We drove them from their position with considerable loss in killed and wounded, our loss being thirty-five in the affair. The mass of our infantry then recrossed the Rapidan, leaving a force to hold the rifle pits first taken, probably until the operations of our cavalry that had moved by a different route had terminated. Heavy firing is said to have been heard yesterday, and it was believed about Culpeper that our cavalry was then engaged with the enemy it had been seeking.

CINCINNATI, February 8.—A large oil mill owned by D. W. Burson & Co., in Richmond, Ind., was burned Saturday night. The loss is estimated at $75,000. Seventy thousand bushels of Flaxseed and seventy-five of Linseed oil and a large quantity of oil cake was destroyed.

Chattanooga dispatches of the 7th say that the railroad is open to Cleveland, Tennessee, and will be open to Knoxville in five days.

Reports of a military and wide-spread rebellion in the rebel army are afloat.—Deserters are still coming in.

The Railroad depot, containing quartermaster's stores, was burned at Chattanooga on Saturday. Loss a hundred thousand dollars. General Logan's expedition has returned to Huntsville, Ala., without encountering the enemy. The rebel army is around Tunnell Hill, Dalton and Rome.

One thousand and forty-eight deserters have been registered at the Provost Marshal's office during January. One hundred came in on the 2d.

NEW YORK, January 8.—The *Herald* publishes the details of the recent movement of the Army of the Potomac. The following is a summary: A reconnoissance in force from the army was made, on Saturday morning, to the south side of the Rapidan. The enemy's outposts were met at Morton's Ford, where they found a considerable force. After some brilliant and successful skirmishing our troops returned to their old quarters.

The country was pretty well scoured by Kilpatrick, Warren and Merritt. It is reported, but not officially, that our loss is between one and two hundred men. The reconnoissance resulted in ascertaining the fact that Lee was occupying a position in full strength in our front.

NORRISTOWN, February 8.—Trains are now running to Rogersville Junction. There is nothing of interest from the front. A large force of Yankees, supposed to be about eight thousand strong, have crossed the Tennessee river near Germansville. The object of the raid, no doubt, is the destruction of the iron works in Cherokee county. The Richmond *Sentinel* says the pickets retired towards Kingston, N. C., after the fight at Batchelor's creek.

WASHINGTON, February 8.—The Senate in executive session to-day, confirmed the nomination of Isaac Stone, U. S. consul at Singapore. Capt. Rolla Gleason, Provost Marshal, 3d district of Vermont, and Dr. J. L. Chandler, surgeon of the board of enrollment of the same district, have been suspended from duty and awaiting an investigation for enlisting into the United States service men physically disqualified for military duty. Capt. Isaac Platt, Provost Marshal, 12th district, New York, and Dr. Wm. H. Pitcher, surgeon of the board of enrollment of that district have been suspended in like manner and for similar reasons.

Mr. A. McFarland, of Portsmouth, Ohio, so well and favorably known as a clerk in the office of the Secretary of United States Senate, has been appointed Commissioner for leasing cotton plantations and agent to procure the exchange of soldiers and officers upon terms not conflicting with the position the department has taken relative to colored soldiers, nor surrendering men without just equivalent, man for man and officer for officer. Subsequently he was directed to exchange first those who had been longest confined, and crave for time for consideration of questions of parole and excess of rebel prisoners in our hands.

He was allowed to exchange colored men in civil employment for men in civil employment captured by our forces on the 25th of December. Gen. Butler sent forward by Assistant Commissioner Mulford, five hundred and two prisoners from Point Lookout, asking an exchange of a similar number, leaving in obeyance all existing differences, with assurances that their prisioners in our hands were well cared for, and suggestions looking to immediate exchange of convalescent or disabled prisoners in communications of same date.

He asks for the exchange of Alfred F. Bengle, of the Sanitary Commission, confined in Castle Thunder. All prisoners and the excess on either side to be on parole and says this is the provision of the cartel and we can accept nothing less, unless this be the distinct understanding that no equivalent will be delivered to you for any confederate officers and soldiers whom you may hereafter bring to City Point in hope that such is the understanding. I have directed that number total at your delivery and shall be sent you in another communication. Gen. Hitchcock, in reminding him that by presidential proclamation Gen. Butler is under ban of outlawry, and that while this government cannot prescribe what agency the United States shall employ, self-respect requires that the Confederate government shall refuse to treat with one so obnoxious, and that Gen. Butler's agency cannot therefore be recognized, or his person protected by flag of truce.

Gen. Butler returned the note and said in reply, no right of declaration of outlawry by those authorities of any officer or soldier of the United States can be admitted or for a moment regarded by the Government of the United States, as it certainly will not be by persons upon whom such intimidation is attempted. He informs Robert Ould that unless his flag of truce is respected all further communication, by flag of truce, between those authorities and ours must close January 12th.

Gen. Butler writes again asking an exchange of lists of the prisoners and deaths, and proposes the making up of monthly lists.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 6th says the confederate Congress has got in a pet with the newspaper men, and will conscript all below 45. Commissioner Ould declares the exchange of all prisoners heretofore held by the Union authorities, whether officers, soldiers or civilians, or received at City Point before the 1st of January, all officers and men of Vicksburg captured who reported for duty at Enterprise prior to the 14th of November, 1863, also all officers and men of Vicksburg captured belonging to the 1st Tennessee Artillery. Capt. Ives, 10th Maine, and Capt. Read, 3d Ohio, are to be ironed, sent to Salisbury, and put to hard labor, retaliation for similar treatment of two captured by Burnside, now at Johnson's Island.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Up to twelve to-day the Government have no telegram from the army of the Potomac. The reports thus far are meagre. It is reported that the rebels are in considerable force in our front.

Nothing additional has been heard from Newbern or Knoxville.

The Ways and Means Committee will not consider the Senate amendment to the whisky bill to-morrow, and it is doubtful whether the bill will be considered by the House until the conscription bill is disposed of.

BOSTON, Feb. 8.—The Malden Bank robber and murderer has been arrested in the person of Edward W. Green, the postmaster of the place. He has confessed to his guilt, and most of the stolen money has been recovered. Mr. Green is twenty-seven years old, and has a wife and one child. He has heretofore bore a good character.

CHARLESTON, February 5.—The enemy keeps up an occasional fire on Fort Sumter. Six shots were fired yesterday morning, and three last night. Eighty shots were fired at the city to-day. The enemy's batteries kept up a slow fire on the wreck of the Presto.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A report is circulating here of the capture of Mobile with 400,000 bales of cotton, 8,000 prisoners and 130 cannon. There can be little doubt that the report is a canard to affect the gold market.

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And all articles usually found in Drug Stores of first quality, for sale low.

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feb1 No. 70 Market street, corner of Fourth.

AUCTION SALES.

T. A. M'CLELLAND, AUCTIONEER, No. 55 FIFTH STREET.

FURNITURE, CARPETS, &C., AT AUCTION.—On THURSDAY MORNING, at 10 o'clock, at Masonic Hall Auction House, 55 5th street, will be sold without reserve, Hair Cloth Sofa, Fine Mahogany Sofa Chairs, Dressing Bureaus, Marble Top Tables, High and Low Top Bedsteads, Lounges, Cook Stoves, Dining, Side and Breakfast Tables, Brussels Carpets, Queensware, Cutlery, Plated Forks, &c.

Attention is called to the sale, as the Furniture is in excellent condition.

Persons having articles of Furniture to dispose of will please send in on or before Wednesday.

SWORD, VIOLIN, &C., AT AUCTION.—On THURSDAY EVENING, at 8 o'clock, at 55 Fifth street. Can be seen at any time. feb9

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL.

PITTSBURGH PRODUCE MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY POST, TUESDAY, Feb. 9, 1864.

BUSINESS—Yesterday was active. The demand for the leading articles was active, and a large business was transacted. The weather was unchanged. Among the sales we notice the following, viz:

ASHES—Sales 20 tons common soda, cash, at 6¼c; 10 do, refind, at 6¾c. Caustic Alkali—Sales 10 bbls at 9c. Nitra of Soda—Sales 6 tons at 10c. Perlis—Sales at 10c; Pots at 7½c.

GRAIN—Sales of 1,400 bush of corn was made at $1,10@1,12½, and a lot of 600 bush was disposed of at $1,15; 1,000 bush on private terms. Oats—Were dull at 75c from first hand and the usual advance from store. Wheat—Red $1,38@1,40; White—$1,48@1,50. Barley—Spring $1,35; Fall—$1,50.

FLOUR—Sales were 100 bbls Extra Family at $7,25@7,40; 85 bbls do at $7,40; 220 bbls do, Extra, at $6,40@6,50; Extra Family $7,25@7,50 ⅌ bbl.

WHISKY—The market remains unsettled. The last sale reported to us was at 88@90c for city rectified. Our dealers have a fair supply on hand.

BACON—Shoulders—Sales 4000 lbs at 9¼c; 10,000 lbs do at 9¾c. Sides—Sales 2,500 lbs at 11¾c 4000 lbs at same figures. S. C. Hams—Sales 300 lbs at 14½@14¾c; 12,000 lbs do at 14¼c. P. Hams—Sales 6,000 lbs at 13c.

MESS PORK.—The market for some days past has been inactive, buyers and sellers being apart in their views. We note sales 40 bbls at $22@22.50.

HAY.—The receipts yesterday were barely worth mentioning; what came in was disposed of at $35, 38@40 per ton.

CHEESE.—Market firm with a good demand. Sales 104 boxes W. R. at 14@15 per quality. Goshen 15½@16.

CORN MEAL.—We note a sale of 150 bushels at $1,40 per bushel.

GROCERIES.—The market was firm with a good local demand. Prices unchanged.

SEEDS.—Market firm. Sales of Clover from store $8,25@8,50 Timothies $3,25@3,50.

FLAX SEED.—Sales 400 bushels at $2,75@2,75.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY POST, TUESDAY, Feb. 9, 1864.

BUSINETS—Yesterday in the oil