J H M'Mullen 8 march 64

The Franklin Repository.

BY M'CLURE & STONER. | CHAMBERSBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1864. | VOL 71.....WHOLE NO. 3,645.

Franklin Repository.

OUR QUOTA—INJUSTICE IN CREDITS.

We have the official statement of the quota of troops of this county, under the various calls, together with all the statistics necessary to exhibit the exact position of each sub-district on the official records on the 31st day of January last. The total number subject to draft in this county, according to the enrolment, was 4720; and the entire quota of the county, under the two calls for 300,000 and 500,000 men, is 1079. From this are to be deducted the number held in the draft—that is all who paid commutation, furnished substitutes or served in person—and all enlistments of volunteers. The number to be credited as the fruits of the draft is 325; and 167 volunteers are credited on the official records at Washington up to the 1st of February—making a total credit of 492, and leaving to be furnished 601 men. We subjoin the table showing how each district stands:

Sub-District.	Township.	No. Subject to Draft....	Quota........	Number held in Draft....	No. of Vols. to Jan. 31st.	Total Credits	Number to be furnished...
41	Antrim..............	433	99	36	17	53	46
41½	Greencastle Boro'..	198	45	14	45	59	
42	Chamb'g, N. Ward	356	82	16	40	56	26
43	Chamb'g, S. Ward	292	67	7	29	36	31
44	Fannett..............	257	59	16		16	43
45	Green..................	320	73	16		16	57
46	Guilford.............	287	66	28		28	38
47	Hamilton............	145	33	7		7	26
48	Letterkenny.........	220	50	13		13	37
49	Lurgan................	126	29	11		11	18
50	Metal..................	140	32	7		7	25
51	Montgomery........	358	82	28	3	31	51
51½	Mercersburg Boro'	116	27	10	13	23	4
52	Peters.................	271	60	17	1	18	42
53	Quincy................	304	70	27	2	29	41
54	St. Thomas..........	181	42	18	11	29	13
55	Southampton.......	198	45	16		16	29
56	Warren................	78	18	5	3	8	10
57	Washington.........	281	64	20		20	44
57½	Waynesboro' Boro'	159	36	13	3	16	20
		4720	1079	325	167	492	601

The credits entered to the 1st inst. are doubtless very imperfect. There were many more than 167 men enlisted in this county during the month of January; but the rolls were not returned in most cases, and the proper credits could not therefore be made. This will all be right in time; but there is another feature now palpably manifest in the matter of credits, that threatens to wrong this county most materially. The 167 enlistments credited to the county were all made at home, as can be seen readily by a glance at the localities credited; but in the meantime hundreds of veterans from this county have re-enlisted, and what has become of them? The rolls are in most cases, returned to the authorities at Washington; *and this county evidently is not credited with a single veteran enlisted in the field!* This is a wrong that should not be imposed upon this county. It has been desolated by war—its fields laid waste and every species of perishable property has been effected more or less by the tread of armies. With no surplus population at any time, we have now more than one-fifth of our able-bodied men in the service, and the devastation left us as legacies of war, demands nearly double the usual amount of labor this season to save our harvest. Obviously unjust as it would be to any section of the State to deny credit for veteran enlistments in the field, it would fall with peculiar hardship upon Franklin county. Nor is it in any sense a justification that enlistments have been made erroneously and confusion would result from the correction of the rolls. Provost Marshal General Fry has written to Capt. Foster, of Pittsburgh, that "no change can be made in them without producing confusion and errors. The veterans have already received government bounty and enlisted by virtue of it." It is true that the veterans enlisted in the field upon a contract with the government to receive $402 bounty—such is the bond; but must they be denied the benefit of local bounties proffered by their friends at home, merely because it would mar the circumlocu*tion of red tape* in the office of the Provost Marshal General? And must districts to which such veterans belong, be denied a credit for them, and be compelled to furnish an excess of men, because mustering officers have blundered and it would produce "confusion and errors" to correct them? Bear in mind that when veterans are not credited to their proper localities, it is an error of the officer or officers m-'ng out the rolls, and it is a most grievous error in some cases; and a though it might confuse the sanctity of prescribed regulations a little, still it could not produce error approaching the magnitude of the error that denies bounties to veterans and just credits to districts.

After a careful examination into the military organizations from this county in service, we are satisfied that nearly if not quite five hundred veterans have re-enlisted who *should* be credited to our districts. Three companies went from here with the 77th under Captains McKesson, S. M. McDowell, and William McDowell; one with the 11th Cavalry under Captain George Stetzel; three with the 107th under Captains Dick, Brand and Thompson; one with the 16th Cavalry under Capt. Kurtz, and a fraction of a company under Lieut. Harmony; one with the 17th under Captain Sullenberger; one Battery went into the 1st Pa. Artillery under Capt. Campbell; one company with the 12th Reserves under Capt. Eyster, and one with the 6th under Captain Dixon; nearly a company went under Lieut. Shorb with the 55th; nearly a company went into Col. Palmer's body guard under Lieutenant McDowell; the 7th and 9th Cavalry had each large squads from our county; Lieut. Houser took nearly a company to Colonel Campbell in the 57th; some 50 went from here into Col. Bayard's 1st Cavalry; Captain Ward enlisted nearly 100 here for the 11th Cavalry; Lieut. Wingert enlisted over 200 here for the 2d Art., and there are doubtless many more from this county now in service, of whom we have no recollection or record. Nearly all these veterans have re-enlisted, and Franklin county has not been credited with one of them. Why is this? The instructions issued from the War Department require officers re-enlisting veterans, to enter them on the new rolls as enlisting at the places where the rolls of their original enlistment locates them; and had these instructions been obeyed, we would have received the proper credits, or nearly so; but instead of entering them on the rolls according to instructions, many of our Franklin county soldiers were entered on the new rolls as enlisting in other States. Captain McDowell's Battery, made up almost exclusively from Franklin and Erie counties, was entered on the rolls as re-enlisting at Chattanooga, Tennessee; the 77th is doubtless also credited to Tennessee; some of our six months' men are credited to Charlestown, Virginia, because they happened to re-enlist there; others are credited to Beaufort, North Carolina; and where our veterans who have enlisted in the Army of the Potomac have been credited we know not; but certain it is they have not been credited to Franklin county. And yet those rolls, although in violation of orders cannot be corrected, says Col. Fry, because it would produce "confusion and errors."

This failure to credit veterans properly is a double wrong. It deprives the brave soldiers who have borne the brunt of the war of local bounties, and requires their respective districts to furnish an excess of men; and it cannot be justified by any mere apprehension that it might confuse a subordinate department of the government. If that department has a competent head and a competent clerical force, it will not confuse it to correct the blunders of its own officers; but on the contrary it will rectify gross errors and flagrant injustice alike to the soldier and his district. That these errors of credit should occur is not surprising, for most of these veterans re-enlisted before local bounties were paid any place, and the credits were not deemed important;—but now that they have become important to both veterans and citizens, that even handed justice that is ever due from the government to the people, demands that the rolls and credits be rectified even at the cost of a little confusion.

—Col. Fry knows but little of the intimate relations a great and free people sustain to a great government. He is simply a military man, and considers a military regulation more sacred than any popular right it may impair; but he should learn that the people are not a regular army, and the sooner the better. We doubt not that these credits may be measureably corrected, and that when the case is properly presented it will have the sanction of the authorities at Washington. If it be done, Franklin county will have a considerable excess over her full quota in the service of the government; and Old Pennsylvania, ever foremost in the holy work of maintaining our Nationality, will stand on the records of this fearful struggle, as the first, the truest, the noblest of all!

THE steamship City of Manchester, with four days later advices from Europe, arrived at New York on Friday last. The intelligence is important. An engagement, lasting six hours, had taken place between the Danes and Germans at Missunde. The Danish outposts were driven in by the Germans, but the Danes repulsed their assaults on the place. The Danish loss was from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. The Prussian loss was from two hundred and fifty to three hundred.

The Austrians attacked Bistore, one mile south of Schleswig, on the 3d instant. The Danes held their own. An attack on the whole Danish line from Missunde to Agel was expected to take place on the 7th. It is asserted that England has offered to guarantee all that Austria and Prussia have demanded of Demark. The Parliament of England was opened on the 4th, and the Queen's speech speaks at length of the difficulty in Europe, and also of affairs in Japan. The Emperor of the French, it is asserted by the Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, has resolved to take no part in the Danish question. In Italy the result of the Parliamentary elections were generally favorable *to the moderate party.*

For The Franklin Repository.

A LADY'S VISIT TO THE THEATRE.

I arrived in Washington the last afternoon of the old year, looked at the play bill, and found that the evening closed the engagement of Davenport, Wallack and Mrs. Farren. I got tickets and went early to secure good seats. The theatre was Grover's, an inferior building somewhat tawdry in its appurtenances, and so small and brilliantly lighted as to make all the faces around seem uncomfortably near and uncomfortably distinct, and the stage so close to us as to destroy all illusion. Evidently whatever pleasure was to be excited, would be by the absolute talent of the troupe. The play was "Damon and Pythias," with Davenport as Damon, Wallack as Pythias and Mrs. Ferran as Hermione. The opening scene was impressive, but not at all exciting. When Damon withstood the the soldiers, there was none of that lightning power in the eye which renders Forrest so terrible in his indignation. As the soldiers pressed upon him, you trembled for his safety. Suddenly Pythias, the soldier, appeared at his side, and hurled back the hireling. There was a stir in the audience, a hum of admiration among the women; apparently Wallack was to be the man of the evening! He was painted more than any actor I ever before saw, but the brilliant color served only to intensify the expression of his eyes, which were magnificent; not so much light and luminous, as lowering and wrathy, fitted rather to terrify than to animate or charm.

It was not till the appeal to his betrayed country, after the scene in the Senate, that Davenport manifested his power. His body was nerveless, his face despairing, his passion profound, pathetic, hopeless for a moment, then quickened into defiance which stirred the house into the most enthusiastic and sympathetic applause. Thenceforward, as the two tragedians were thrown into contrast you felt that it was to a certain degree intellect against physique. Wallack was handsome, muscular and self-conscious; the impression he produced was instantaneous and almost startling, but there was no increase of power. Davenport, on the contrary, seemed to dilate into greatness as you watched him. His voice lacked the rich ring of Wallack, but had more modulations, and his face wanted the fascinations of Wallack, but possessed greater variety and intensity of expression. Up to the last act Wallack's part was the most pleasing and exciting. He is the sacrifice for his friend, and, of course, all interest centres in him.

The prison scene where Calanthe and Dionysius disguised tempt Pythias to escape is finely conceived in the drama, and was rendered by Wallack with the most impassioned power. As Calanthe pointed out to him from the prison window the white sailed ship which was to wing him away to liberty and love, he seemed maddened with the fear that he might yield, tore himself from her arms, and retreated into the darkness of his cell, tempted, as you could see, by the yearning of his face, but not dishonored. The excitement could not be restrained. For a moment the applause was deafening. So genial was the feeling excited that it was impossible to repress indignation toward Damon for his delay. Up to that moment the laurels were Wallack's.

But the scene changed. Damon has parted from his wife, who lies senseless in the garden, their boy wonder struck at her side. In vain he bids Lucillus bring his horse, which the poor coward has slain. As the truth bursts upon Damon, through the words of the cowering slave, he turns livid with rage, he beats his breast, he implores the gods, and, frantic with despair, clutches the slave and drags him to the fatal precipice. The house is breathless with suspense; the curtin falls a moment; the orchestra strikes up a few notes, ominous and mournful; the curtain rises. It is the execution scene; the moments are spent; Pythias is the victim. Calanthe begs for an instant; they scan the horizon; there is nothing; still she presses back the fatal stroke; again they gaze; there is a cloud; a something increasing; palpable; distinct; a sound; he is coming. He throws himself into their midst, gasping, spent; the agony he has suffered still working in his face. He falls upon Pythias' neck; he cannot speak; he laughs. Oh such a passion of laughter; such maddened, such triumphant peals; more terrible, more searching than tears or sobs. No words can describe the effect. Women sobbed, men shuddered; there had been nothing like it during the evening; it indicated a tragic power that had hardly found scope in this drama, but which was equal to the most thrilling and the most sublime conceptions.

There had been little opportunity in the play, for an actress to display her talents, we could only judge of Mrs. Farren, that she had a splendid eye, that she was very graceful, and, that she could be exceedingly tender.

At the end of the play, the applause was prolonged, determined and ever clamorous, until Davenport came forward in a half dishabille, and made a somewhat humorous speech, his face still wearing its tragedy expression.

There is a something about the man, both in his countenance and manner, a certain philosophical air, at once absorbed, abstracted, and tragical which seems peculiarly fitted for the character of Hamlet, in which he is said to excel.

There was an after piece, this evening, a second rate tragedy, with the usual complement of murder, thunder and lightning perfectly execrable after fine play we witnessed, but which gave us an opportunity of seeing Wallack in the part of a villain, to which all his talents, his voice, his expression and his manner are pre-eminently adapted. We could only regret that it was not an Iago or some other villain worthy of such surpassing power.

Certainly not the least pleasure of the evening arose from the perfect unanimity and kindliness of feeling which seemed to exist between these two actors who appeared before the public as at once friends and rivals.

D.

Gen. Curtis arrived at Fort Smith, Ark., on the 10th. The Army of the Frontier is to be organized for offensive operations immediately.

THE SOUTHERN COAST.

Attempt of the Rebels to Re-capture Newburn—Interesting Details of the Movement—The Rebels Repulsed and Compelled to Retreat—Gens. Palmer and Peck—More Troops Needed.

Correspondence of The Franklin Repository.

NEWBERN, N. C., Feb. 8, 1864.

The recent attempt of the rebels to re-capture this city and at the same time occupy the whole of Eastern North Carolina resulted, in a loss to us of two pieces of artillery, a gunboat and several hundred men—to the enemy, of a greater number of killed, wounded and prisoners and the utter defeat of their well conceived but badly executed plans.

We labor here under all the disadvantages incident to operations in an enemy's country, and to the rebel sympathizers and spies who are in our lines we probably are indebted for the arrangement of the little surprise party with which we were favored last week. Certain it is that on Monday last numerous North Carolina females, resident here, had large quantities of food prepared and their houses set in order, that they might give their friends a warm reception—and I doubt not that in the opinion of the rebels, their reception was quite as warm as was desirable.

At about 3 o'clock on the morning of the 1st inst. the outpost picket at Neuse bridge was driven in by the enemy. This being a frequent occurance, no particular notice was taken of it, until the enemy was discovered attempting to cross the bridge in force and evidently bent on mischief. Col. Classen commanding the out-posts, immediately ordered his regiment, the 132d N. Y., to the support of the pickets, and the "Monitor," a car built of heavy oak timbers, iron-clad and carrying two rifled guns, was also advanced to the front. In a very short space of time, through the instrumentality of the U. S. military Telegraph, the different garrisons from Batchelor's Creek to Fort Macon were aroused and under arms. A section of Angel's Battery under command of Lieut. Kirby, was sent to Beech Grove, where Co. F. 2d N. C. U. Vols. were stationed, and another section of the same battery, supported by two companies of the 17th Mass., was sent out on the Neuse Road. In the meantime the enemy had opened on our forces at the bridge with artillery and were advancing in great numbers along the entire line of pickets. The little band of scarce five hundred men fought desperately and, for five hours successfully, in defence of the bridge, but at 8 o'clock, finding the rebels swarming on his flanks, Colonel Classen withdrew his command and retreated toward New Berne, in pursuance of instructions previously given by Brig. Gen. Palmer, commander of District of N. C. A train sent from here had removed all the Quartermaster and Ordinance stores from Bachelor's Creek and after burning his camp there, Col. Classen retreated along the track for several miles fighting continually, until he discovered that the rebels, with artillery had cut off his retreat. Declining however "to give it up so," he turned off to the left of the Railroad and fought his way through to the Trent road, thereby extricating his command from its perilous position, and bringing it safely inside the breastworks here at 3 P. M.

Unfortunately these movements completely isolated Lieut. Kirby's section of artillery and the N. C. Company from the main body. A messenger sent to Gen. Palmer to inform him of this mishap, was captured, and revealed to Gen. Pickett, Kirby's whereabouts, and he was immediately surrounded and forced to surrender. The North Carolinians not being sure of kind treatment at the hands of the rebels, fled to the woods and it is hoped that most of them escaped.

At 11 A. M. the enemy about 5000 strong, with artillery and cavalry, appeared before the works on the south side of the Trent River, and immediately advanced to the attack with the intention of forcing a passage to the Railroad bridge, which leads into New Berne from the South. They made a vigorous assault on the block-house at Brice's Creek, but after a sharp contest of an hour's duration, they were driven back, by our forces under Col. Amory. The guns of Fort Gaston and the single piece in the block house were used in this affair with terrible effect.

Thus failed the second movement of Gen. Pickett's programme. The third, though made some thirty-six hours behind time, was more successful. This was an attack on Newport Barracks, a point on the Railroad twenty-five miles south of New Berne, and the object, the destruction of the track and telegraph communication between the latter place and Morehead City. The enemy advanced 4000 strong on Tuesday at noon, and were promptly met by about 500 men of the 9th Vt. Regt., who after a gallant resistance to overwhelming numbers were compelled to retreat to Morehead after spiking their guns and destroying the barracks. The enemy penetrated to the railroad and burned the bridges at Newport and Havelock. The telegraph wire was not cut until midnight. Mr. D. C. M'Gaughey, of the Telegraph Corps, rendered valuable aid to Gen. Palmer, by keeping constantly in sight of the enemy and reporting his movements. At 3 A. M. on Wednesday the wire was cut between his instrument and Head-quarters, and M'G. escaped through the woods to New Berne.

The severest blow inflicted, was the capture of the gunboat Underwriter, which was accomplished on Monday night by about 250 sailors who had come from Wilmington for that purpose. They approached the vessel in the fog and after a short struggle boarded her and captured most of the crew, which numbered about 70 men. A few escaped by swimming to Fort Stevenson which immediately commenced shelling the boat. One of the shells set fire to her and the rebels had to abandon their prize.

The destruction of the bridges was the last offensive movement of the enemy, though they remained in our immediate front until Wednesday night. At midnight we were favored with a farewell serenade by a brass band which performed "Dixie" the "Bonie Blue Flag" and other secesh airs very creditably. The band of the 2d Mass. Artillery, immediately responded with our National airs.

Thus ended the second grand attempt which the rebels have made in the past year to regain what they have lost in North Carolina. Their plan of operations as near as I can learn was as follows: Whitford's North Carolina Battallion, composed of infantry, cavalry and artillery, to the number of 2,000 men, came down the eastern side of the Neuse river for the purpose of capturing Fort Andrew and its garrison, in case the city should be taken. General Pickett, (commanding the expedition) with 6,000 men, to make the grand assault on the defences proper of Newberne. General Barton, with 5,000 men, to capture the works on the southern side of the Trent river, and prevent our retreat by the railroad. Gen. Martin, with 4,000 men, to capture the posts on the line of the railroad and prevent reinforcements reaching us from Morehead city. 250 marines to come down the river in small boats, take possession of the first gunboat they met with, and in the darkness surprise and capture the other gunboats, and with them assist in the capture of the city. This was a "right smart" programme, and if everything had worked as they expected, the probability is that a "right smart chance" of Yankees would soon have been on the road to Richmond from this vicinity. That we are not mistaken in their numbers, is proved by the fact that prisoners were taken from twenty-six different regiments, (14 North Carolina, 10 Virginia and 2 Georgia regiments) to say nothing of their artillery or of the regiments which are not represented in our guard house. That they were confident of success we know, because hundreds of former citizens of this place, accompanied the rebel army in the expectation that they would soon be able to re-occupy their old homes. But alas for their hopes. The attack was to be made along our whole line at 2 A. M., and Pickett expected to be able to assail Fort Totten before daylight. The gallant resistance at the outposts prevented his reaching our front until 3 P. M. It was too late for a surprise, and a daylight view of our works convinced him that unless we were caught napping, we would scarcely be caught at all. Barton was assailed and unable to carry out his part of the plan. Martin, thirty hours late, succeeded in destroying the bridges, but not until they had ceased to be useful to us, and though we lost a gunboat they failed to gain anything by our loss. Their army has retreated to Kinston, the refugees are refugees still, and the sympathizers here, to whose ears the sound of the enemy's cannon was as the sweetest music, will be speedily weeded out, and sent across the lines. Our force here is so small that it was scarcely possible to make a sortie during the short seige, and pursuit was impracticable. It is to be hoped that "the powers that be" will take warning and leave us no longer with scarcely enough of troops to garrison our forts. We owed our safety last week to the splendid dispositions made by General Palmer, and the stubborn resistance of the few who met the enemy's advance. With 20,000 men, General Palmer would be pleased to return General Pickett's call. With 5,000 men in addition to our present force, we will be pleased to have Pickett call again. If we are not reinforced, there is a possibility that I may soon have an opportunity to carry letters from the folks in Chambersburg to their friends in Salisbury.

Major Gen. Peck has returned from his leave of absence and resumed command of the District of North Carolina.

Our troops have reoccupied their former positions, and the railroad and telegraph lines are again in working order.

J.

HARRISBURG.

Dr. Thomas St. Clair Elected Senator—The Senate Unlocked—Political Management of the Democrats—They Recognize Mr. Penny as the Speaker on Various Occasions—Military Damages in the House.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 20.

The Democrats were confident of the election of Mr. Douglas, their candidate for Senator in the Armstrong and Indiana district, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Maj. White. The management of the contest was the subject of repeated grave consultations here by such political leaders as Clymer, Hopkins and others, and a policy was resolved upon that promised success. The Democratic papers were instructed to take the position that Mr. Penny was not the Speaker of the Senate; that therefore his writ for an election was illegal; that the election could not be sanctioned by law, and that the Democrats would not vote at all. They were instructed also to have the township leaders industriously at work to organize the Democratic voters quietly, so that, while the Union men would, as they hoped, be thrown of their guard and lulled by over confidence to inactivity, they could bring out a candidate just on the eve of the election and carry him through by surprise. Unfortunately they had resolved to nominate Gen. McClellan for the Presidency with Douglas for Senator; and the idea of *surprising* a foe with McClellan as their leader, was an absurdity that none but men with their heads turned could have conceived of. But the Union men were on the alert all the time, and knowing the proclivities of their old enemies to deceive, they fought the contest from the start just as if they had an open, active foe, and they triumphed. Dr. Thomas St. Clair, of Indiana, was chosen by over 1800 majority. I have not seen the official vote; but St. Clair's majority is larger, considering the vote polled, than that received by Senator White in 1862.

Unfortunately Dr. St. Clair cannot take his seat for some days. The law requires that the return Judges of the district shall meet on the seventh day after the election, so that the certificate cannot be made out until Friday next. The new Senator will probably be here on Friday night, and if there is a Session on Saturday, the election of subordinate officers will probably be disposed of.

The Union Senators will, I understand, vote against going into the election of Speaker until the close of the session. They are well convinced that Mr. Penny is the legal Speaker of the Senate, and they do not desire a change. They will therefore refuse to yield to the gasping efforts of the revolutionists to get an indirect endorsement of their wrong by the Senate going into an election when it has a Speaker. Mr. Penny is not only recognized as the Speaker by the framers of the constitution, who for four years after its adoption, did not elect speakers at the opening of the session; but he is also recognized by scores of acts of the revolutionists themselves. They went forward and had the oath of office administered to them by Mr. Penny; they have voted on probably an hundred propositions to legislate, while if the Senate was not organized they could not vote on anything but the question of organization; they have voted on the proposition to go into joint conventions; have allowed the vote for Governor to be counted and the result officially declared by a convention over which Mr. Penny presided; have recognized Gov. Curtin as the legal Executive of the State, although qualified by Mr. Penny as Speaker; have voted on the final passage of bills vetoed by the Governor; have recognized Mr. Penny's writ for the election of a Senator in place of Maj. White, and exhausted themselves to elect their candidate; and it is too late for *them* to say that the Senate is without a Speaker. There will therefore, I am assured, be no election; but the subordinate offices will be filled at once; the committees will be announced at an early day, and we shall witness a working Senate from the day the new Senator appears until the important measures are disposed of. By Monday next, the work of legislation will begin. Hon. Henry D. Moore will doubtless be chosen State Treasurer next week; the amendments to the constitution allowing soldiers to vote, will be speedily adopted, and a bill passed providing for a special election in July or August to vote upon them.

The Senate did nothing whatever during the week. Most of the Senators paired off and left for home until Monday next, and there was often not a quorum present. In the House there were several interesting discussions. The passage of a bill authorizing the construction of a railroad *from Easton, to Mauch Chunk caused* quite an excitement. Why don't Pennsylvania allow railroads to be built everywhere they are needed, as they do in New York? Charters are often defeated here now by great corporations to protect monopolies.

The resolutions of Mr. Kelly to impose a test oath to all claimants for damages, gave rise to another spirited debate on Thursday last. But as the special committee have incorporated an acceptable oath in the bill, I presume that the consideration of the bill will not involve that question. It comes up on Wednesday night and is the special order. Mr. Sharpe did not participate in the discussion on Thursday last. He is doubtless reserving himself for the struggle on the bill. He is very able on the floor; but is wanting in legislative skill owing to his inexperience. The indications are that the bill will pass.

HORACE.

The news from the South-west is important. Refugees from Texas report a fearful state of affairs existing there, and the whole country beyond the Rebel army is a perfect battle-field, where engagements between deserters and guerillas are frequent, in which the former are generally successful.

WASHINGTON.

Escape of Union Prisoners from Richmond—Interesting and Daring Adventures—Rebel Deserters—The Conscription Bill as Passed.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, February 19, 1864.

A large number of the officers who escaped from Libby Prison have arrived in the city, and others are at Yorktown and Fortress Monroe. Their escape, and the daring manner in which it was carried out, forms a very interesting narrative. They were fifty-one days making a tunnel. Their instruments were case knives, files, pocket knives and a chisel. Their first tunnel was aimed for a sewer, and after digging for some thirty feet they were stopped by a line of log piles driven in the ground. The logs were over a foot in diameter, but not large enough to stop or discourage the men bent in liberation, and with the same tools severed the logs, and in a few days after they struck the sewer, but the filth and water in it compelled them to seek some other outlet. They accordingly went back and commenced a new tunnel across Carey street, a street some fifty feet in width. On this route they had to dig through a stone wall over three feet thick, which took them nineteen days. After this no serious obstacles came in their way, and by the 9th of February the tunnel was completed. Col. Rose, of New York, was the leader, and Col. W. P. Kendrick, Capt. D. J. Jones and Lieut. Bradford brought up the rear, and as they passed out of the hole, within a few feet of them was a sentinel who cried out, "half past two o'clock and *all's well.*" Our men did not seem to think the cry exactly correct. The men went in small squads, of two and three, and in all directions, but the greater number aimed for Yorktown. The Rebel cavalry, scouring the country to recapture them, often passed within a few feet of many of them without discovering them. The negroes all along the route were very friendly, and aided them all in their power; giving them food, and informing them of Rebel pickets. It is believed that nearly all of them will eventually reach our lines.

Over forty deserters from Lee's army arrived in this city yesterday, bringing with them their arms and equipments. They took the oath of allegiance and go North. They report that the Rebel pickets are picked men, and they always place two men on at a time, the one to watch the other, and often the men thus chosen agree in sentiment and quietly leave the post to take care of itself and make their way into our lines.

A few days since a scouting party of some fifty men were ambushed by a party of guerillas, and Major James H. Larrimer, acting Inspector General of Gen. Crawford's staff was killed. Two cavalrymen were also killed and four wounded. Our men had to retreat until they received reinforcements, when the guerillas fled towards Fredericksburg, after having robbed the dead. Three Rebels were left dead and several wounded.

The Committee of Conference on the Enrollment bill have agreed on the main features of the Senate bill with amendments and substitutions of a few sections of the House bill.

The commutation is retained at $300, and a compromise is made in the effect of the exemption thereby, which is limited to one year.

The exemption of high officials in the Senate bill is stricken out, leaving as the only classes exempt those mentally or physically unfit, and soldiers in the field or honorably discharged. If the quota is not filled in any district by one draft another is to be made till the quota shall be obtained.

The section authorizing the Secretary of War to assign drafted persons of religious scruples against bearing arms, to duty in the hospitals, or the care of freedmen, is reported, with a proviso confining such provision to those whose deportment is consistent with the conscientious scruples against bearing arms.

The House proviso for drafting colored men is retained, with the essential modification that when the slave of a loyal master is drafted and mustered into the service, thereupon such slave shall be free and the master shall be paid the bounty of one hundred dollars in place of its being paid to the master on his freeing the person. It was held by the Committee that he must not be a slave a moment after his enlistment, and it is understood that this is the disputed point upon which a contest may be expected to-morrow.

The report is signed by Messrs. Wilson (Mass.,) Nesmith (Oregon) and Grimes (Iowa,) on the part of the Senate; and Messrs. Schenck, (Ohio,) and Deming (Conn.,) of the House of Representatives.

The House will certainly pass the bill before adjournment to-day.

The reports sent abroad to several papers and daily served up as facts for the people, to wit: that nearly all the Senators and Members of Congress are for Chase, is incorrect. A majority of both Houses are for Lincoln. The documents that are now afloat, favoring the Chase party and pointing out the faults of the present administration, will do more harm to the Union cause than good for Chase or the party getting them up.

S. C.

BRIEF WAR ITEMS.

The St. Louis correspondent of the Chicago *Journal* says that the largest and most formidable fleet ever seen on the Mississippi river is now being fitted out by Admiral Porter.

An officer just from Gen. Grant's head-quarters states that all through the country to the rear of the Union lines a Union officer, in his uniform, can ride unmolested to any portions of Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama, halting at farm houses along the rood for such refreshments and shelter as he may desire.

Gen. Logan penetrated the State of Alabama to Sand Mountain, forty miles east of Huntsville, and his reception by the Union people amounted to a regular ovation. He telegraphs to the Government that the people of the mountains will everywhere hail the old Flag with joy that is not capable of literal translation.

Peace resolutions, which the Richmond *Examiner* calls "extraordinary," were offered in the rebel House of Representatives, Feb. 7. They propose that representatives of each Government shall meet at some place and time not specified, to consider;

"*First:* Whether they cannot agree upon the recognition of the Confederate States of America.

"*Second:* In the event of such recognition, whether they cannot agree *upon the formation of a new Government*, founded upon the equality and sovereignty of the States; but if this cannot be done, to consider:

"*Third:* Whether they cannot agree upon treaties, *offensive, defensive, and commercial.*"

The Richmond correspondent of the London *Times* intimates that Longstreet has fallen in general estimation. He writes that in January of last year, it was found that Lee could not subsist his army in bare and devasted Northern Virginia, and that Longstreet was sent with twenty-five thousand men to occupy Suffolk, and scour all that region for corn and pork. The conduct of Longstreet in this first independent command created great disappointment at Richmond, and it was charged that he was very slow to go about his work, and slower still in breaking camp when called to assist at Chancellorsville. His affair at Knoxville closed the year with another imputed miscarriage, which had the effect to do away with much of the glory he earned at Gettysburg and Chickamauga.