Franklin Repository.

Wednesday, December 14, 1864.

☞ Any of our patrons having copies of the first and second numbers of THE OLD FLAG will confer a great favor upon the publishers by sending them to this office. They are wanted to complete our files. All our copies on hand of those numbers, were burned by the rebels.

HENCEFORTH the subscription price of the FRANKLIN REPOSITORY will be $2.50 per annum in advance, and all accounts in arrears will be charged at the same rate. This increase is rendered imperatively necessary by the steady advance of labor, materials and everthing used in the publication of a newspaper; and we confidently rely upon the patrons of this journal to sustain it with the same generous fidelity they have hitherto given to its support. We spare no expense to make it in all respects worthy of an intelligent and faithful people, and we need hardly say that in the future, as in the past, it will be second to none in completeness as a public journal and in devotion to the cause of Union and Freedom.

SALMON P. CHASE was nominated by the President as Chief Justice of the United States on Tuesday of last week, and confirmed by the Senate without a reference. Mr. Chase is confessedly one of the ablest of our living jurists and statesmen, and has filled various most responsible trusts with a reputation unspotted. He has been twice chosen U. S. Senator by the legislature of Ohio; twice elected Governor of the same State, and was the Secretary of Treasury during more than three years of Mr. Lincoln's administration, when our finances were subjected to the severest trial known in history. His long and faithful public services and eminent ability are now fitly rewarded by being clothed with the most responsible position in the government excepting only the Presidency; and whatever may be the biased judgment of rancorous partizanship now, the appointment will be vindicated by the whole Nation as passion subsides, and the people turn to their court of last resort with that reverence it must ever command to fill its full measure of usefulness.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S fourth annual message needs no comment. It is brief, practical, free from all ambiguities, and shows a singleness of purpose to maintain our sacred Nationality, from the first to the last paragraph. It meets the just expectations of a loyal people by proposing a solution of the Slavery question by constitutional amendment, and the flood of vituperation charging that the war is prostituted to a mere struggle for the status of the Negro race, is most pointedly answered by Mr. Lincoln when he says that the rebels "can at any moment have peace "simply by laying down their arms and "submitting to the national authority under the constitution. After so much the "government could not, if it would, maintain war against them. The loyal people "would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain *we would adjust them* "*by the peaceful means of legislation, conferences, courts and votes, operating only* "*in constitutional and lawful channels.*" Had he said less he would have fallen short of his holiest duty to the loyal people of the Nation; had he said more he would have given renewed hope to despairing traitors. Equally pointed, and in harmony with the deliberately expressed verdict of the people, is his declaration that if the people make it a duty to reenslave the negro now free, "another, and "not I, must be their instrument to perform it."

HON. JOHN W. FORNEY is strongly urged for a position in President-Lincoln's cabinet by the press of this State, regardless of internal divisions in the Union party, and also by various prominent politicians who could not easily be concentrated on any other man. We most cordially join in commending the movement to the favorable consideration of the President, and earnestly hope that the great Keystone State will not be disregarded in the selection of the constitutional advisers for the new administration. Pennsylvania has borne a most conspicuous part in the great struggle for the maintenance of our Nationality. She has met every requisition with patriotic promptness and pride, and in every struggle involving the momentous issues of loyalty or sympathy with the enemies of our common country, her voice has ever been given in vindication of her unfaltering fidelity. Next to those clothed with official power by the State, and charged with the preservation of her honor, no one man has been more untiring, efficient and commanding in every contest than John W. Forney, and he would fitly represent our mighty Commonwealth in the highest councils of the Nation. It is a compliment of the rarest character that the discord of faction pales before the movement to place Mr. Forney in the cabinet, and, with Pennsylvania thus presenting the name of one of her honored sons, we look with confidence for his appointment.

CONGRESS AND GOLD.

We had hoped that Congress had learned wisdom from the various efforts heretofore made to fix the price of gold by statute. Several laws have been passed designed to lessen the nominal value of that commodity, but each has given bountiful fruits in its enhanced price; and the last effort made to depress gold by legislation so promptly and fearfully inflated it, that Congress hastened to retrace its steps by repeal. There we hoped the farce would end; but Mr. Stevens proposed a new bill, with most stringent provisions, the first working day of the present session, and ran gold up twelve per cent. in five hours. The result was, that in opposition to the earnest protest of the honored Chairman of Ways and Means, the bill was strangled in its swaddling clothes.

It is the most foolish of all financial follies to attempt to regulate the price of gold by congressional enactment. It will bring just what it is worth in defiance of all laws designed to depress it. Men will want it and will have it; and as Congress cannot compel men to sell what gold they own, it will bring between man and man just what it is deemed to be worth. To say therefore that one dollar of gold shall be sold no higher than one dollar of currency that is depreciated over one hundred per cent., as is evidenced to the humblest comprehension when the necessaries of life are priced, is to attempt an utter impossibility and bring Congress and the laws into utter contempt. Congress has by its own acts—wrong and even suicidal we must confess, as ever insisted by Mr. Stevens—*created* a demand for gold. It has recognized the distinction between a dollar in gold and a dollar in currency, by providing for the payment of the interest on the public debt in gold, as well as the principal at maturity, and also in requiring gold to be paid for custom duties. The merchants must therefore have gold to pay the government for its tax on importations, and the government must also have it to pay its interest. This distinction and these necessities have been created by Congress; and now when it has made an imperative demand for gold, and failed to provide ample revenues to sustain the debt and currency, it is proposed to legislate the price of gold down to the standard of a dollar in currency. Suppose it were done, we understand exactly that very many would be willing and glad to *buy* gold, but who would *sell?* Certainly not a member of Congress, and there are still some men out of Congress who know something of simple addition.

Mr. Stevens has been right in his theory touching our finances from the start. He insisted that no distinction should be made between gold and currency by the government, and wanted our bonds, interest and customs paid in our national currency. Had he succeeded in establishing our finances on that basis, then he might by legislation interdict the sale of gold entirely if he preferred to do so, for it would not now be needed in the every day business transactions of life; but as Congress kept wrong in the face of his earnest warnings, he should bear in mind that the acts of Congress confront every measure to depress gold by penal statute. Until we come to a currency standard, gold is recognized by the government as a medium of different value from our own currency; and the solemn faith of the Nation stands in the way of such a reformation.

There is now just one remedy for the inflation of gold. Our currency is depreciated solely because our revenues are inadequate to our wants. Every schoolboy knows that we are daily expending in this war for the National life twice or thrice our revenues, and is it rational to expect the public credit thus to be maintained? The people are now paying from one to three hundred per cent. indirect tax to the government for every necessary of life, solely because Congress has failed to tax the people directly one-tenth the amount they pay indirectly. Let Congress look squarely in the face the necessities of the Nation. Our credit can be maintained only by increased taxation, and the people will *save* millions of money by paying increased taxes and thus sustaining our credit. No individual can maintain his credit without visible means of payment, and governments are not exceptions to the rule. Give us ample revenues, and gold will recede and with it the prices of all the necessaries of life.

MILITARY DAMAGES.

The Pittsburg *Gazette* in a late issue took occasion to caution the legislature in advance, that certain schemes of plunder were to be pressed this winter, among which it named the claims of the border people for the spoliation they have suffered from both the Union and Rebel armies. It objected to the recognition of the border claims because many of them were "trumped up and all of them exaggerated," and also because, as it stated—

"The principal parties of these claims are men who have bought them up at a nominal price, and can afford to allow a wide margin for the contingencies of legislation at Harrisburg."

Knowing as we do the utter falsity of the foregoing imputations against our people, we asked the *Gazette* to do them the justice to correct its damaging accusations. In a later issue it grudgingly accepts our correction of its erroneous and sweeping charge of fraud, in the alleged assignments of claims, but still insists that in the adjudication of the value of our losses, we have been our own judges, and therefore have greatly exagerated our claims. In this the *Gazette* also errs.—The people of the border have never asked the government to accept their own estimate of their losses. Part of the claims have been examined and appraised by sworn officers appointed by the courts, and their report confirmed by the same tribunals—the Commonwealth having notice according to the provisions of the law. Another portion of them were appraised by military officers appointed by the general government, and still another class was adjudicated by commissioners selected by the legislature, eminent for their intelligence and integrity, and strangers to our people. Their report was also approved by the court of Dauphin county. All these commissioners or appraisers bore concurrent testimony that instances of attempts at extortion were most rare. Indeed so impressed was each board with the integrity of the sufferers, that they all took occasion in their reports to commend the honesty of our people. Will the *Gazette*, in the face of such a record, still insist that the border sufferers have assumed to be the judges of the extent of their losses? So far from that each will be glad to know that "his neighbor cometh and searcheth him!"

The *Gazette* then proceeds to more honorable warfare and objects on general principles. It says:

"What we object to in this whole business is the claim that the State is bound to make good the losses of these people, any more than it is bound to make good the losses of any one man or any community by flood, fire, or other cause of devastation. Whether these claims are large or small, or held by speculators or not, are minor and incidental questions; the grave question is, shall the State Treasury be emptied and the people taxed *enormously to pay the losses of men who happen* to live on the border and to have suffered from the enemy? We say no, most emphatically; and we say it because the principle upon which the claims are based is a wrong one. Hurricanes and tornadoes have laid whole sections waste: floods have swept away in an hour the entire property of thousands upon thousands of industrious men; and fires have laid desolate entire towns. In all these cases the desolation has been as great as that effected by the raid of the Rebels into the Cumberland Valley. Yet the legislature has not felt called upon to make any appropriation for the relief of sufferers by fire, flood and storm: why should *it in any other case?*"

We do not now choose to discuss the liability of the State to afford protection to the people from whom it exacts obedience and tribute. On that point the *Gazette* has a right to differ with us; but it is not fortunate in its logic. It is not very many years since Pittsburg was but partially desolated by a fire, and the legislature with commendable humanity and promptness made a liberal appropriation to the sufferers. It was done, too, when the insurances were binding and collectable in most cases, thus diminishing the loss in a very great degree. Had the insurance policies held by the people of Chambersburg been valid to cover loss inflicted by the torch of a public enemy, our town would have been abundantly able to care for itself; but it is now one mass of ruins in its heart of wealth, and all precautions against loss fail because it was the work of a recognized foe. Will the *Gazette* insist that it adheres to the golden rule in its arguments we have quoted?

It errs again in assuming that any loyal section has been desolated as has been ours. All its named elements of destruction combined have not, in any instance in this country, so crushed a faithful people as have the repeated military operations in our midst—alike of friend and foe. There are hundreds of our citizens now houseless and bankrupt by the sad ravages of this war, and have they no claim upon the *might and fostering care* of a great State? If not, why raise troops at an expense equal to our losses to defend them? If the State has no responsibility, why should several millions be now expended to raise a State Guard? If the State is bound to protect, is it not bound to compensate? We insist the *Gazette* shall somehow or other get within the range of consistency with itself!

OIL INVESTMENTS.

Just now the Oil fever rages. It rages every where—infects all atmospheres, and has drawn all classess into its dazzling whirl of speculation. Hitherto it has been confined mainly to the great cities and other centres of trade; but it has now ramified into every rural district in the State, and all want to take a chance in the brilliant lottery of fickle Fortune. In view of the fact that Franklin county is likely to invest half a million or more in these stocks, we venture a few suggestions for the consideration of our readers.

1. Never invest in non-producing oil lands more than you can afford to lose entirely. We do not mean by this that such investments must always prove a loss; but we do say that they will prove a total loss nine times out of ten, and profitless forty-nine times out of fifty. Of two hundred and fifteen Oil companies now organized in this State, not more than twenty of them are paying bona fide dividends out of the revenues from their wells. Three-fourts of the remainder will prove dividendless or a total loss to the stockholders.

2. Never invest in any Oil stock, good, bad or indifferent, more money than you can spare from your legitimate business without embarassment. It is never wise to do so, for even with the best prospects loss is possible. Wells may fail to produce—Oil may fall in price; titles may prove defective, and scoundrels may plunder in the management of these as well as other corporations, and it is best to be safe against all such contingencies.

3. Make such investments entirely incidental to your regular business on which you depend for a livelihood. It will prove a costly appreciation of wealth if it diverts farmers, tradesmen and other business men from their daily pursuits, while if they operate with their spare capital only, and ever bear in mind that it is a tide of speculation only that must ebb and flow with the inflations and depressions of trade, most judicious men may profit by it as it passes, and it will leave them richer in purse and no poorer in fitness for industry when it fades away. Be ever careful that the substance is not abandoned for the shadow. The dog tried that when crossing the stream with the meat in his mouth, and lost both. Many men will be no wiser.

4. Invest to the extent of your surplus means in companies with *certain* revenues. There are such on the market, and it wants but a little care and discrimination to distinguish them. If it is ascertained fact that a company has a positive yield of oil equal to ten or twenty per cent. on the cash capital, with good lands and ample reserved capital for development, it is fair to conclude that capital is not likely to be lost in that company. It is reasonably certain to pay good interest, and the stock will have a steady market value equal to its original cost, while the efforts for development are all in favor of the holders. True even such companies may fail but the chances are largely in favor of dividends.

5. *It is not best to invest all in any one* company. While it is the most profitable of investments when profitable at all, it is at the same time the most precarious, and it is but the part of discretion to try two or three good companies instead of one. If either developes successfully, the others may fail and the operation still prove profitable on the whole.

6. Make such investments through some reliable person at home. In the cities the business of selling such stocks to rural friends is a profession, and men are expected to take advice and at the same time be responsible for results. Most of our leading business men in the centres of trade throughout the county either are operating in such stocks, or are well informed on the subject, and as a rule, they cannot afford deliberately to mislead those who counsel with them. They may err in judgment but generally they will add vastly to the safety of such investments.

THE LADY'S FRIEND.—The January number of the Lady's Friend is already on our table, and fully bears out the high reputation of this new monthly, which is now entering upon the second year of its existence. The leading steel engraving, "Hush! it is Asleep," is a beautiful picture, and will doubtless go right to the hearts of the ladies. The Fashion Plate—a double one, as usual—is very handsome indeed, admirably engraved on steel, and richly colored. Then there is a colored design of a Work Table Companion, a very useful lady, as she seems, in red and yellow and blue; and numerous other engravings of the Fashions, Work Table Department, &c. The Music of this number is a piece entitled "I Stood Within our Cottage Hall." Price $2,50; 2 copies $4,00; 3 copies $16,00; 20 copies $35,00. Specimen numbers will be sent to those desirous of making up clubs for 15 cts. Wheeler & Wilson's celebrated Sewing Machines are furnished as premiums. Address DEACON & PETERSON, 319 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

THE Electoral College of this State met according to law on Wednesday last in Harrisburg to cast the vote for President. Hon. Morton McMichael, one of the Electors at large, was chosen President. Mr. Wister being absent, Mr. Clark, of Perry county, was chosen to the vacancy, when the twenty-six votes of the State were cast for Abraham Lincoln for President, and Andrew Johnson for Vice President. Hon. John A. Heistand, of the Lancaster *Examiner*, was chosen to carry the returns to Washington. The members of the College called in a body on Gov. Curtin at the Executive Chamber and congratulations were exchanged on the result of the election. After the adjournment, the members partook of a collation at Gen. Cameron's residence, and in the evening they were entertained by Gov. Curtin at the Executive Mansion.

THE Pittsburg *Dispatch* considers discretion the better part of valor, and comes down politely rather than have us carry out our threat to have the Harrisburg *Telegraph* speak well of it. It says:

"M'Clure may consider us as having withdrawn, under pressure of this most wicked threat, anything we may have said personally or politically offensive to him. Against the unfriendly criticism of the REPOSITORY we are armed in proof—thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just—but who or what can withstand, unjustly, the 'good opinion' of the *Telegraph?* For full information upon this point the inquirer should consult His Excellency, Andrew G. Curtin, or any other man in public life afflicted for their sins by this fulsome puffery. We trust that McClure will let his anger take any other shape but that; we cannot afford to be suspected of incurring the good opinion of the Harrisburg Organ."

The *Telegraph* has the floor!

—WE beg leave also to state, for the edification of the Chambersburg *Repository*, that Capt. Coffey's Company has been "*heard from*," and that the traitors in arms" remained true to their pledge and gave an almost solid vote for "Little Mac."—*Shippensburg Sentinel.*

Guess they hadn't tried the rebel fire in the front, or they wouldn't have taken a hand in the fire in the rear. Its no odds, as Tooby would say—we believe that the Nation at large differed slightly with the aforesaid company!

WE have received a copy of a neatly printed volume of over 300 pages, entitled "Winfield the Lawyers Son," being a history of the military career of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, the distinguished commander of the 2nd Corps. It is published in handsome style and well illustrated. It has a portrait of Gen. Hancock, and altogether is a most attractive and instructive book for youth. Ashmead & Evans, Publishers, Philadelphia.

GEN. SHERIDAN has issued an order stopping the travel of citizens between Hagerstown and Martinsburg, and no one not employed in connection with the army is permitted to cross. We are informed, however, that travel is uninterrupted by way of Frederick and from there to Martinsburg persons pass freely over the railroad. Some contraband trade from the direction of Hagerstown is reported as the effect of the blockade.

THE Bank of Gettysburg has been changed into a National Association, for the purpose of banking under the laws of the United States, and will hereafter transact business as "The Gettysburg National Bank."

THE *Continental Monthly* for December has its usual assortment of able contributions on topics of current interest. It has fairly won its rank with the foremost of our literary periodicals. Jno. F. Trow, New York.

WASHINGTON.

Congress Convened—The Amendment to the Constitution Abolishing Slavery—The Tax on Segars—Investigation of the Red River Expedition—Arrival of Union Prisoners—Gen. Logan—Hon. of W. Forney and the Secretaryship of the Interior.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 7, 1864.

Congress has quietly convened and gone to work with a determination to make as much as possible out of a short session. The work before it is large and will require extra labor by every committee and member in order to get through.

Judging from present appearances, it is quite probable that the amendment to the constitution abolishing slavery will receive a two-third vote at this session, and thus save the necessity of an extra convening of the new Congress after next 4th of March.

Since the agitation of that old subject, a direct tax on whisky on hand, log-rollers and forces are coming down on us like a swarm of locusts, button-holing and asking every member who will indulge to take a smile, and bring their friends in for oysters and coffee. Quite a change has lately taken place among many members, and it is likely that a majority will vote for the direct tax on all stock on hand.

The present law of taxation on segars has entirely failed of producing the supposed revenue, or anything like it, and leaves a wide door for fraud, will so repealed at once, and some other mode adopted—perhaps the placing of a stamp on each segar.

The Supreme Court met last Tuesday and adjourned in respect to the memory of the late Chief Justice Taney. Eloquent eulogies were delivered by the Associate Judges and Attorneys. Reverdy Johnson in his remarks said some queer things, among others, that the expression of the late Taney, "that negroes had no rights a white man was bound to respect," did not refer to the present times, but to the days of the revolution. Mr. Chase will take his seat next Monday.

Last Tuesday the House passed a resolution for the Committee on the Conduct of the War to investigate the disastrous Red River expedition of Gen. Banks. The matter will be immediately taken up, but will require a very long time to examine witnesses, as they are now scattered throughout the armies West and South. The testimony of Gen. Banks will be taken at once. At the time the resolution was introduced into the House, and during the debates thereon, Mrs. Gen. Banks was seated in the ladies' gallery and expressed considerable emotion.

Up to this morning 500 Union paroled prisoners has arrived at Annapolis from Savanah all of whom have been mustered and are now receiving pay. Some of them have been nearly three years without receiving any pay. No boat with prisoners have arrived for several days and it is supposed that Sherman has put a stop to the exchange, by making a wholesale charge on the Camps at Andersonville and Millen and adding some twenty thousand soldiers to his army.

Gen. John A. Logan is in town on his way to join Gen Sherman on the Atlantic Coast. Mrs. Gen. Grant is also in town on her way to City Point—whether she goes this evening on the dispatch boat, M. Martin.

There is some foundations for the report telegraphed this morning from Philadelphia urging the appointment of Jno. W. Forney to the Secretaryship of the Interior or Navy. He is backed up by a large number of influential men, not only from Pennsylvania but from other States. Hon. Simon Cameron it is said urges his appointment strongly. His chances lie most in the Interior—and that will depend on whether Judge Usher will go upon the bench of Indiana—which his friends say he has no notion of. If Wells is changed it is likely some distinguished Naval officer will get his place. S. T.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

—Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, of Iowa, succeeds Gen. Rosecrans as commander of the Department of Missouri.

—Major General Dana in a successful expedition from Vicksburg destroyed the Mississippi Central railroad for thirty miles, and a bridge. He also found the enemy and returned with 2500 bales of cotton, having destroyed more than a quarter of a million dollars' worth of rebel property.

—A steamer from Charleston has arrived at Annapolis, and reports that the point of exchange of prisoners has been changed to Charleston, Generals Sherman and Foster having interrupted the business at Savannah. On Wednesday last heavy firing was heard in the direction of Savannah.

—Maj. Gen. Emory, of the Nineteenth Army Corps, has arrived in Washington from Sheridan's front. Everything was quiet when he left.—Early, it is believed, has sent three divisions of his army to Richmond, viz: Pegram's, Gordon's and Kershaw's—leaving behind only one infantry division and Rosser's cavalry.

—Our cavalry expedition to Louden Valley, Va., has returned, having been entirely successful. They have brought away about two thousand head of cattle, sheep and hogs, and have left the whole region over which they passed without hay or forage of any kind. All barns containing hay have been burned, and the haunts of Mosby and his gang thoroughly cleaned out. A few rebel prisoners were taken.

—A few days ago General Stevenson, commanding the post of Harper's Ferry, sent out a scouting party of thirty men in the direction of Waterford, Loudon county, to watch Moseby, who was reported by citizens to be preparing for a raid into Maryland. At Waterford, our cavalry struck the head of Moseby's force, and a skirmish immediately ensued, in which we lost seven men in killed, wounded and captured. The rebels, who outnumbered us three to one, lost equally as many, if not more. Among their killed was Captain Montjoy, one of Mosby's ablest lieutenants. At Leesburg, on their return, the party gobbled a lieutenant of the rebel General Gordon's staff, who was visiting a lady.

—*As an instance of the popularity of the 1st* Veteran Corps, now being organized in Washington by Gen. Hancock, the following will give an illustration. No sooner had General Hancock, opened his office and headquarters than he received a telegraphic message from a discharged veteran, named Chatfield, living at Oswego, N. Y., as follows: "*Dear Gen. Hancock:*—I desire to have my name first upon the rolls of the 1st Veteran Corps. I will be in Washington to be mustered in as soon as steam can bring me there." A correspondent says that the Corps will be filled, organized and in the field in less than three months. Veterans are pouring in from all quarters. Hancock's Corps is a complete success.

—Late rebel papers report that Sherman captured all the powder of Georgia and 3000 stand of arms at Milledgeville that Grant has been reinforced by from 6000 to 10,000 men; that the Dutch Gap canal can be made ready in a few hours; that the Union troops have effected a lodgment between Fort Darling and the Howlett House; that one of our gunboats was sunk on Monday by an iron bolt from one of the Howlett House guns; that Gen. Sheridan and his cavalry appeared at Fredricksburg on Wednesday; that resolutions in favor of sending peace commissioners to Washington have been introduced into the North Carolina Legislature, and that in the South Carolina Legislature resolutions deprecating peace negotiations until a dissolution of the Union is conceded have been introduced.

—It is reported direct from Gen. Grant's army, that on Wednesday the Rebels had information that Sherman's advance was within six miles of Savannah. At this point he had halted and was awaiting the arrival of portions of his command which had been sent in different directions for the purpose of misleading the enemy. Deserters who gave this information also state that there is great dissatisfaction in the Rebel ranks, because correct information of Sherman's movements is withheld from them. Especially is this so among the Georgia troops. They also report that many of our prisoners have escaped from their confinement, and joined Sherman. It was also evident from the conversation of these deserters, that Lee had detached troops from his army and sent them to Georgia to assist in arresting Sherman's advance. It is not too great an inference to draw from the above facts, that ere this, Sherman has thundered at the gates of Savannah, and most probably with success.

—Army of the Potomac advices state that on Wednesday morning, the Fifth Corps, a division of the Second Corps, and two brigades of Gregg's cavalry, went south. They were subsequently heard from and had crossed the Nottaway river, on the Jerusalem road, without opposition. On Thursday afternoon, a reconnoitring party of cavalry went out on the left and encountered the rebel pickets on the Vaughan road. The rebels were driven to Hatcher's Run, where they had breastworks. After some skirmishing the party returned, with a loss of seven men. It was reported that firing was heard in the direction of Stony Creek, and Warren was supposed to be engaging the enemy. Another reconnoissance towards Hatcher's Run was made on Friday morning by a force consisting of detachments from several cavalry regiments. The enemy's videttes were driven across the run, and the rebel works on the opposite side were carried. The enemy is believed to have fallen back to Armstrong's Mill's, a stronger position a mile and a half west.

PERSONAL.

—Senator Sherman, of Ohio, is a brother of the General.

—John S. Ewell, a relative of General Ewell, of the Rebel army, is imprisoned at Washington, on a charge of being a spy.

—Wm. M. Swain, Esq., for thirty years publisher of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, has sold it to Mr. Geo. W. Childs, the well known publisher.

—Major-General John A. Logan on Thursday spent several hours with the President. He is *en route* to join his command with General Sherman.

—The Greensburg *Intelligencer* informs us that Hon. Edgar Cowan voted for Lincoln, and that he will be found, in the Senate, upon the side of the President's friends.

—Wm. P. Moorhead, Esq., has resigned his position as President of the Philadelphia & Erie railroad company. Mr. E. F. Gay, the Vice President, succeeds him.

—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, having nominated Gen. Butler for our next President, the Fall River *News* proposes the pastor of Plymouth Church himself as Vice President, on the ground of the natural strength of a combination of the law and the gospel.

—R. Lyle White, Esq., formerly of Erie, has taken charge of the Meadville *Republican*, as editor and proprietor. The paper appeared last week much improved typographically.

—Gen. B. A. Shaffer, of Lancaster, died last week after a brief illness. He represented the "Old Guard" in both branches of the legislature, and acted on the staff of Gen Keim in the early part of the war. He was warmly appreciated by a large circle of personal and political friends.

—The Baltimore *Clipper* advocates the choice of Thomas Holliday Hicks as one of those to be honored by the placing of a statue (two of which are to be contributed by each State) in the Statuary Hall of the Capitol at Washington, and furthermore urges that the statue should be of gold.

—Kosauth has three nephews in the Union army:—Col. L. L. Zulavezky, who, when General Asboth was disabled in the late severe engagement at Marianna, Florida, took the command and brought the action to a successful close; Major A. Ruttslagg, commanding the First Florida Cavalay, and Lieutenant E. Zulavsky, in his brother's regiment.

—The Legislature of Virginia, as contra-distinguished from that of West Virginia, now in session, at Alexandria, have elected Joseph Segar to fill the vacancy in the U. S. Senate, occasioned by the death of Mr. Bowden, and John C. Underwood, at present U. S. District Judge, in place of Mr. Carlile, whose term of office will expire on the 4th of March next.

—The Panama *Herald* says that information has been received in San Francisco lately, to the effect that Dr. Wm. M. Gwin, formerly United States Senator from California, has obtained, through the influence of the Emperor Napoleon, and in his interest, a commission from Maximilian, as Governor-General of the State of Sonora, with authority to induce emigration and settle the country, and power to grant lands.

—Daniel Clark, of New Hampshire, President *pro tempore* of the United States Senate, is a native of New Hampshire, graduated at Dartmouth College, is a lawyer, and was for five years a member of the Legislature of the State. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1857, and has served ever since. His present term expires March 4, 1867.

—Major-General Alexander McDowell Cook received orders last week to report to Major-General Sheridan, and left Dayton on Tuesday to do so. General Sheridan was the commander of a division in McCook's Corps during the Chickamauga campaign. As both are true soldiers the change in their relations will be a subject of less interest to them than to others.

—Lord Lyons, her Britannic Majesty's Minister took leave of the President and Secretary of State on Monday week, and proceeded to New York on Tuesday, in a special car provided by the Government for that purpose. His health is so seriously impaired as to require relaxation. He carries with him the respect, sympathy, and good wishes of the Government and people of the United States. J. Hume Burnely, Esq., will have charge of the British legation during the absence of Lord Lyons.

—Lieutenant Commanding James Parker, Jr., of the United States gunboat Maumee, received, when a lad, the appointment of a cadet at West Point, from the member of Congress from his district in Ohio. Unfortunately, Parker was too young to enter the Academy, and his father, desirous that some one in his town should have the benefit of the appointment, cast about for a boy worthy of it. In a dry-goods store was a lad, the son of Irish parents, who, by his salary as clerk, supported a widowed mother and sister. The place was offered to him, but was at first refused, as he disliked to give up the clerkship. Upon being urged further the boy consented, and entered the military academy. To-day he is in the Valley of the Shenandoah, and his name is Philip Sheridan.

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICIAL.

The official vote of this State for President is now returned, and taking the highest vote for Electors on each ticket, shows a majority for Lincoln of 20,081. There were a few scattering votes for Electors, in consequence of the misprint of a portion of the Union tickets, but not enough to effect any results. Aaron Mull received 2,631 votes, by mistake. He was on the Union Electoral ticket originally, but died during the summer and Wm. Taylor was substituted. Mr. Taylor's majority is therefore 2,600 less than the other Union Electors, but he has still enough and to spare. The following is the official vote by counties.

	Lincoln.	*M'Clellan.*
Adams	2,612	3,016
Allegheny	21,519	12,414
Armstrong	3,526	3,241
Beaver	3,237	2,304
Bedford	2,336	2,752
Berks	6,710	13,266
Blair	3,292	2,646
Bradford	6,865	3,067
Bucks	6,436	7,335
Butler	3,475	2,947
Cambria	2,244	3,036
Cameron	335	232
Carbon	1,721	2,251
Centre	2,817	3,399
Chester	8,446	5,987
Clarion	1,750	2,823
Clearfield	1,506	2,801
Clinton	1,666	2,135
Columbia	1,914	3,367
Crawford	6,441	4,526
Cumberland	3,604	4,356
Dauphin	5,044	4,220
Delaware	3,664	2,141
Elk	348	835
Erie	6,911	3,722
Fayette	3,921	4,126
Franklin	3,862	3,821
Fulton	694	906
Forest	65	62
Greene	1,583	3,076
Huntingdon	3,321	2,477
Indiana	4,320	2,779
Jefferson	1,823	1,868
Juniata	1,437	1,753
Lancaster	14,469	8,451
Lawrence	3,408	1,389
Lebanon	3,780	2,779
Lehigh	3,968	5,920
Luzerne	7,045	10,043
Lycoming	3,401	4,307
M'Kean	767	653
Mercer	4,220	3,569
Mifflin	1,643	1,716
Monroe	685	2,698
Montgomery	6,872	7,943
Montour	1,130	1,496
Northampton	3,726	6,944
Northumberland	2,915	3,609
Perry	2,406	2,446
Philadelphia	55,791	44,039
Pike	260	1,180
Potter	1,390	680
Schuylkill	7,851	9,540
Somerset	2,768	1,719
Snyder	1,679	1,368
Sullivan	396	670
Susquehanna	4,203	2,939
Tioga	4,673	1,584
Union	1,945	1,352
Venango	3,849	3,341
Warren	2,541	1,505
Washington	4,951	4,579
Wayne	2,274	2,989
Westmoreland	4,650	5,977
Wyoming	1,347	1,402
York	5,568	8,500
	296,389	276,308

The total vote of 1860 was as follows, viz:

Abraham Lincoln	270,170
J. C. Breckinridge	176,935
Stephen A. Douglas	17,350
John Bell	12,735

A LETTER FROM MR. LINCOLN.—Deacon John Phillips, of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, whose great age—one hundred and four years—did not prevent him from doing his duty at the polls on the 8th of November, has received the following letter from the President:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
"WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1864.

"*My Dear Sir:*—I have heard of the incident at the polls in your town, in which you acted so honorable a part, and I take the liberty of writing to you to express my personal gratitude for the compliment paid me by the suffrage of a citizen so venerable.

"The example of such devotion to civic duties in one whose days have already been extended an average lifetime beyond the Psalmist's limit cannot but be valuable and fruitful. It is not for meself, only, but for the country, which you have in your sphere served so long and so well, that I thank you. Your friend and servant,

"A. LINCOLN."

LATEST NEWS!

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH,

EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE FRANKLIN REPOSITORY.

By the Western Union Telegraph Line—Office at the Railroad Depot.

From the Army of the Potomac—Return of the Sixth Corps—Their Movement a Success—Destruction of Railroads, Depots, &c.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC, Dec. 11.

The movements in this department which have been in the course of execution the past few days, have finally been developed, and now the objects intended to be accomplished, may be given to the public, as well as the results attained. It was known that the enemy were procuring large supplies for their troops by way of the Weldon Rail Road to Stony Creek, whence they were wagoned to Petersburg. The cavalry force sent there some ten days ago not being able to effectually stop their operations, the 5th Corps, with Gregg's cavalry and the 3d division of the 2d Corps, were detailed to effectually put a stop to it by destroying the road as far South as Hicks Ford, and if possible that Station also.

The object of the movement having been attained, on Saturday morning the troops started on their return, reaching Sussex C. H. and halted there on Saturday night. This afternoon the Nottoway river was reached and the entire command crossed in safety, where they found a part of the 9th Corps, who had started to their aid in case of an engagement. To-morrow they all will be back in their old position in front of Petersburg.

The move may be considered as one of the most successful of the campaign and reflects honor not only on the originator but on those to whom its execution was entrusted. A most effective blow has been dealt the enemy by the destruction of some 15 miles of Rail Road, which they were using extensively, some hundred cars passing over it every day loaded with supplies. The track was torn up, the ties piled with dry wood from the adjacent fences and set fire to with the rails on top, the heat bending and twisting them in every shape. All the depots along the route were burned as well as numerous Mills, barns and dwellings from which the occupants had fled or from the cover of which guerrillas had fired on our troops. One was caught with a gun, near where a shot had just been fired and it is said the troops hung him near the Nottoway river.

Our loss in the entire trip will not exceed 40 or 50 in killed and wounded, besides a few stragglers who were captured. The severity of the weather was the principal difficulty the men had to encounter, but as there was much wood on the line of march and plenty of work for them to do, they managed to keep themselves from suffering.

Nothing has transpired in front of Petersburg to-day of interest.

CABINET ORGANS.—We are sure we are doing a real service to smaller churches and Sunday-schools, as well as to lovers of music generally, in calling attention to the Cabinet Organs manufactured by Messrs. Mason & Hamlin, whose warehouses are at No. 7 Mercer street. No one who hears these instruments will be surprised at the very strong favor with which they are regarded by our leading organists. Their quality of tone is admirable, round, sonorous, pure, and sympathetic; while they have abundant volume of tone for any private house, and quite sufficient for smaller churches and for such halls as are usually occupied by Sunday-schools. With all this, their capacity for expression is wonderful, exceeding in some respects even that of the largest and most costly church organs. This is mainly effected by the introduction of a *swell*, operated upon an entirely new principle, which gives the performer very efficient control of the notes he produces. The moderate prices at which they are sold, and the little space they occupy, are important practical advantages in these instruments.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

MUSICAL.—*A Well Merited Compliment.*—Mr. Wm. B. Bradbury of world wide musical renown has, within the past year brought that magnificent musical instrument the Piano Forte, to such a degree of perfection as to place him in the front rank of all the manufacturers. As a proof of the superiority of his instruments he has received testimonials from all the principal pianists, composers and Musical critics of New York, such as we believe was never given to any other manufacturer, (see his card in other part of this paper.) In a leading editorial of one of our most widely circulated musical periodicals he is thus spoken of.

"Wm. B. Bradbury is eminently a successful man.—Not successful because lucky, but because he unites with ambition and extraordinary talent the caution that prevents his undertaking anything unless he can see from the start that he can so combine the element of success as to distance all competitors. Setting out in life as a poor boy, his history is marked by a steady succession of triumphs. In no great undertaking has he ever yet made a mistake or suffered defeat.

"About two years ago, he started in the manufacture of pianos bearing only his own name. He had accumulated a fortune; could command the most skillful workmen and the best materials; could afford to try experiments—confident, in spite of the acknowledged excellence of American piano-fortes, that he could, and determined that he would, excel them all.

"When Mr. Bradbury started in this enterprise we had known him too long and too intimately to seriously doubt his ultimate success, if his life and health were spared; but we must confess that he has already come nearer to the goal of his ambition than we expected he would in so short a time.

"We spoke of them as 'in the ascendant,' careful at first not to claim that they were superior to all others.—Now, after having tested Bradbury's pianos in every possible way beside the best pianos of other makers for months past—tested them in reference to power, purity, evenness, brilliancy, singing and sympathetic qualities of t