

Franklin Repository

Wednesday, February 1, 1865.

We believe that there is no longer any necessity to withhold from the public the information that a large portion of Gen. Thomas' army has joined Gen. Grant, and that offensive operations against Richmond will be renewed in a very short time on a scale hitherto unapproached in point of magnitude. Not less than 200,000 effective men in the armies of Meade, Sheridan and Sherman will encircle the rebel capital, and we hazard little in predicting that Richmond will be occupied by our troops before the 1st of May, and most likely at a much earlier period. Gen. Couch's command is among the reinforcements sent to Grant by Gen. Thomas. It is understood that Gen. Lee is pursuing the same policy, and the rebellion is now represented in but a single army. He is rapidly concentrating his forces, and will probably hazard the fate of treason on a grand battle. He must either do that or allow himself to be driven out of Richmond by the severance of his lines, and we presume he will not surrender the rebel capital without a struggle. If unsuccessful in that engagement, then must the war be practically ended. There is everything to encourage loyal men. The cause of Right seems to be on the threshold of its crowning victory.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The American people have for several weeks past been on the tiptoe of expectation. To see the rebellion rapidly fall to the ground, and peace again restored to their distracted country. The loyal armies have everywhere been successful, and treason wherever it dared to present a front has been boldly met and terribly overcome. It is true that Gen. Lee still has an army in Richmond, yet he is completely cut off from the country his lines defend, that to leave the spot he holds is to him irrevocable ruin. At this time the entire coast of the Mississippi is loyal to the Union. The State of Louisiana is bold in her declarations for a representation in the Federal Congress. Arkansas is ready to renounce secession, emancipate Slavery and return to the Union. Missouri, by the largest majority she has ever given, has elected a radical Union Governor and amended her constitution so as to forever prohibit the traffic of human chattels. Kentucky is wisely deliberating upon her course, and the sentiment of her people is directing affairs in the same channel. Tennessee is side by side with Missouri in the abolition of Slavery and in returning to place herself under the Aegis of the Federal government. Alabama is isolated and at the mercy of Thomas' victorious army. Georgia has been crossed by the noble and gallant Sherman without any opposition; Savannah, the gem of the South, is now enjoying the blessing of our government, and the influence of a kind and conciliatory policy of Gen. Sherman, is fast working out grand results in Georgia, the wealthiest and best State of the South. Fort Fisher has been captured which gives us control of the Port at Wilmington, and shuts off the only door that gave the Rebels material assistance by supplies from foreign powers. Gen. Sherman's gallant army is moving on Charleston, and the fierce determination which characterizes those brave boys, will soon make the Palmetto State feel what she long has deserved, the ruin and desolation of war. Charleston the nest of treason, will soon be in the possession of the Federal army, and with the fall of this city, the entire Atlantic coast is ours.

Then for future operations we have the army of Gen. Thomas in excellent condition, flushed with Hood's defeat and ready to move anywhere. We have the invincible army of Sherman conquering and to conquer. The army of Sheridan ready for the Spring campaign; and the noble Terry who is not wanting in all the essential elements of a great General. Grant stands with one hand upon the throat of the Rebellion, holding Lee's army at bay. He is ready any moment to replace restraint by constraint. This in brief is the position of our armies. All are in excellent condition. They stand in point of cool courage and daring unsurpassed by the soldiers of any age or any nation. They have braved much, have endured many privations and hardships, and by their undaunted heroism have shed immortal lustre upon their national arms.

But this is not all, yet even this State of affairs is so encouraging that to doubt of success, is sheer blindness or what is worse, treason. The Rebel themselves are now at war with their own rulers; the conflict is terrible and growing more so every day. Every newspaper brought from the South, comes filled with the reports of angry discussions, and fault finding with those in power, who are not capable of doing more than they have done to bolster up a bad cause. The whole Rebel organization, military and civil, is now growing under internal differences of the gravest sort. The lack of military success; the sad and humiliating defeats; the extreme scarcity of all the necessary munitions of war; the destitute condition of transportation; the worthless condition of their currency; the general disaffection among their leaders themselves; the dissatisfaction of the people and the rapidly growing feeling favorable to reconstruction and reorganization; the request of many of their States for re-admission to the Union; these things not vague chimeras, but stubborn facts that speak to the reason, are working out for us a success as complete as the conquering legions now under the "Stars and Stripes." We have an army out side, and the hearts of the people of the South, in the hands, working out the great problem, which sooner or later must be announced to the world, that the Rebellion is subdued, the Union saved, and the government of the United States recognized as supreme.

There is one thing yet remaining to the Southern people; and it is discussed by many of their ablest men. The disposition of Jeff. Davis, the abolition of their Congress and the investiture of Gen. Lee

with dictatorial and absolute power. This must clearly be the last resort for it is the surrender of national power and private freedom, and when the time arrives to accomplish this, new factions will spring up, and more terrible opposition be manifested by those who are satisfied that the rebellion has proved a failure. The surrender of the liberties of the Southern people will not take place. There are those among them who are jealous of their rights, and whose lives are examples of ambition, to attain positions of influence and respectability. Such men will never submit to the will of a despot, no matter what may be offered by such a step. The history of the world is full of examples of nations that have resorted to this form of government one time or another, and every instance too proving a signal failure. The Emperors of Rome wielded their power with despotic will. France has seen its rulers, royal, republican and despotic. Napoleon contrived by the despotic power which he exercised to shake all Europe, and yet his power was his weakness, and at last invited him to the death of an exile. Cromwell was clothed with absolute power, and yet failed in his purposes. So too of Frederick in Prussia and Charles X in Spain. In all these instances great interests were at stake, and great efforts used to achieve results, but the last attempt was a failure and all was lost. When all is put at the disposal of one man and that fails, there is no resort, all is gone. We believe this to be the case with the rebellion, and we do not hesitate to say, that even the conferring of absolute power upon Gen. Lee could not turn the tide of affairs one whit. It is not within the scope of any human power to give victory and replace defeat, to a cause like the Southern rebellion. The heart of the rebellion is surrounded by a power that cannot be overcome, and to clothe Lee with greater powers than he possesses to-day, would only be giving a wider scope to use the army now in his immediate command. He could not recruit it, and greater power would be simply nothing at all practically. The papers themselves expose their weakness. It is clear that madness rules the hour. It requires but little acumen to know, that when the rulers of a country are at war, while the country is itself rapidly sinking, that country must fall so much the sooner as the discord is greater. The signs of the times indicate peace at no distant day. And when it comes our land will be stronger more powerful and wealthier than ever before. Our nation will stand out regenerated, purified and disenthralled. The States will be united upon a common basis, with freedom the foundation stone, and our people enjoy the envy and admiration of the world.

THE BLAIR MISSION ENDED.

We confess to disappointment in the result of the mission of Blair to Richmond. When he first went there we attached little importance to it, and supposed that it was a voluntary effort on the part of Mr. Blair to feel the rebel pulse without any great confidence in success; but when he returned, conferred with the President and only with him on the subject, and entered a government steamer that had been kept waiting for him, to renew his intercourse with the rebel leaders at Richmond, we supposed that there were substantial hopes of adjustment. Mr. Blair has now returned from his second visit to Richmond. Just what transpired, or what answers were given to his unofficial propositions to close the war on the basis of the integrity of the Union, we are not advised; but enough is known to dispel all hopes of immediate peace. It is evident that the rebel authorities have refused to entertain any proposition looking to the re-union of the States, and the southern people, although widely disaffected, are not yet prepared to end a causeless, wicked revolution by deposing the authors of their desolation.

For the present, therefore, we must dismiss the hope of peace, except as it may be strengthened by the crimsoned triumphs of our heroic armies. With their dominions desolated, their currency utterly worthless and their credit hopelessly destroyed; their armies shattered and dispirited by successive disasters; their last port closed to add to their already fearful wants; and the most appalling despotism the fruits of their fidelity to treason, still the power that was conceived in perjured ambition, and has marked its tread with hecatombs of dead and wide-spread bereavements, has vitality for a crowning sacrifice, and it is to be made. The broken columns of Hood have been gathered up and are marching to Richmond under General Johnston. The thrice defeated army of Early has abandoned the Shenandoah, and now has its position on Lee's left, with a new commander in the person of General Gordon. Davis has been virtually deposed from military control by the action of the rebel Congress, and Lee is made generalissimo of the entire rebel army. Buckner will doubtless surrender Charleston, if necessary, to join Lee, or will certainly transfer the major part of his force to join the death-struggle for the rebel capital. Thus will Lee have supreme power, and about him for the last desperate effort of treason, will be the whole available force of the rebellion. After Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, West Virginia, the Mississippi river and nearly the entire coast, have been wrested from the hosts of crime, the responsibility of saving the shattered remnants of the confederacy is thrown upon Gen. Lee, and he must stake all upon a grand struggle with the combined Union armies under Grant.

Nor is treason alone in concentration. Gen. Grant, with that admirable foresight that has ever marked his management of great campaigns, commenced the policy of concentration when Sherman cut loose from Atlanta and swept through to the coast. That triumphant and invincible army, under the greatest of our Lieutenants, is moving upon Richmond. It may attack Charleston or any other point or points on the way; but the objective point is Richmond. When Grant waxes Sherman on the James or on Lee's rear, he will be there. Gen. Thomas lured Hood to

the very fortifications of Nashville to compass his destruction. When all things were ready, he turned upon his unsuspecting foe, and routed him with terrible loss in men and nearly all his artillery. In despair Hood retraced his steps, leaving thousands of killed and wounded behind him, and fully five thousand deserters. His army was practically destroyed, and has now lost its identity in the army of Lee. Thomas thus nobly fulfilled the task assigned him, and while a portion of his army appeared to be pursuing Hood, the main body was consummating the great plan of Grant by moving to join the hosts about to encircle the doomed capital of treason. Already is most of Thomas' army in supporting distance of Grant, to operate against Richmond, and Couch and other well tested and most trusted commanders are leading the western heroes to the final struggle. Gen. Sheridan's victorious legions are also in line at the proper place for the great struggle, and it is confidently asserted that the Hero of the Valley will lead the Army of the Potomac to its crowning victory.

Such are the movements and such the purpose of the two opposing military leaders. Gen. Lee has every available man that treason can furnish, and Grant has over two hundred thousand soldiers, many of them just from victorious fields, to strike the last blow for Liberty and Law. Negotiations have failed—the olive branch has been rejected by the authors of the sword alone can give us peace. There cannot be protracted war. It must be brief, but it may be sanguinary. It may cost many noble sacrifices; but the great issue cannot be doubtful. We shall have peace ere mid-winter, and over the ruins of the last organized army of traitors. They have willed it so—we must accept the struggle, and when victory shall have crowned our efforts, there will be no fountain of treason remaining to poison the life of the rescued and regenerated Union of our fathers.

Mr. BLAIR arrived at Baltimore from Richmond on Thursday last. Notwithstanding the first reports to the contrary, it is now accepted that the rebels refuse to treat upon any other terms than the acknowledgment of their independence. The question of Peace is therefore again entrusted to Gens. Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas.

Mr. M'CLURE read a bill in place in the House last week providing for the adjudication of all military damages on the border. Under the amended constitution one bill could not provide for adjudication and payment, as but one subject can be embraced in a bill.

We have seen a letter from a distinguished officer of the Army of the Cumberland, in which he states that Hood lost 5000 men by desertion on his retreat from Nashville.

The Washington correspondent of the Tribune asserts positively that Gen. Sheridan will supercede General Meade in the command of the Army of the Potomac.

Jos. B. WELSH, Esq., of Washington county, has been elected, at the special election held on Tuesday last week, a member of the House of Representatives in the place of Dr. Reed, deceased. The district is composed of the counties of Washington and Beaver, and we understand that the Union majority is large. Mr. Welsh is an intelligent farmer, and will make a creditable member. He is a brother-in-law of Hon. George V. Lawrence.

We have received a copy of the second edition of the Tribune Almanac, in which Gen. Koontz appears properly in the list of members elected to the next Congress, and it gives also the new U. S. Senators chosen in the several States, with complete election returns from all the States of the late Presidential vote. Every family should have a copy, and especially should every politician keep it for reference. Shryock has it.

COL. QUAY, formerly chief clerk of the Military Department at Harrisburg, and now member of the House from Beaver, has become one of the editors of the Beaver Argus, with Mr. Rutan as associate. Under their administration the Argus has put on a brighter face, and the spirit of improvement is manifested in every department of the paper.

FROM THE SOUTHERN COAST.

Details of the Capture of Fort Fisher.—The Fort taken by the Navy.—The Landing and Assault.—The Explosion.—List of Officers of the Minnesota.

U. S. S. SREAGER MISSOURI, OFF NEW ORLEANS, N. C., Jan. 16, 1865. We are now able to present to the loyal North the would-be Christmas gift. The expedition consisting of the greater part of the N. A. Squadron and the transports sailed from Hampton Roads, on the 22nd inst., and arrived off New Inlet the same day. As when the fleet sailed from Hampton Roads, on the 14th of December, the weather was delightful, and the sea very calm. It was in fact, more pleasant at sea, than in the rough harbor of Beaufort. Early on the morning of the 13th inst., the fleet was under way, and the frigates and smaller wooden vessels stood in shore about five miles from Fort Fisher to assist in disembarking the troops. After the woods had been sufficiently shelled to remove all danger (rather to remove the Rebels) the troops began to land in our boats, and by 3 P. M. they were safely landed with little or no resistance. In the mean time, the New Iron-sides, by odds the most formidable vessel in the Navy, and the Monitors had taken position near the Fort, and were battering away, each shotspastically telling on the enemy's works. When the boats had returned, although late in the day, the vessels covered the landing of the troops, joined the iron-clad fleet, and until 6 P. M. the roar from our batteries was terrific and our proximity to the Fort enabled us to lodge the majority of our shells where they could not but do an immense injury to their works. Our fire was so incessant that there was only an occasional reply, the enemy being compelled to remain in their bomb-proofs. The iron-clads remained in position during the night, firing betimes, and the wooden vessels retired a short distance. The ill-omened Friday proved rather favorable to our cause. The next day the iron-clads and smaller wooden vessels continued the work of demolition but the frigates didn't leave their anchorage. There was no necessity for bringing the whole fleet to bear upon the Fort on that day, for the troops were able to "hold their own" besides, much more accurate firing could be done with a few batteries, than when the whole fleet was engaged, there being less smoke to contend with.

Having received orders, the night of the 14th inst., to be ready for action early in the morning, and being also informed that the assault would be made in the afternoon; daylight found us waiting for the order to take position. Presently the signal was made, and vessel after vessel moved majestically into position, the frigates first led by the Minnesota. We had not been firing long when the order was given to man and arm all boats. Now the landing party selected from the fleet began to disembark, and the gunboats continued the fire to prevent the "Johnnies" from coming out of their dens (bomb-proofs) while the tars were landing. By noon the sailors and marines, composing the landing party, were all ashore, and the fleet was in position for the last grand bombardment. The signal was made to fire rapidly, and thence, till the time of the assault, these can be better fancied than described. Each vessel seemed to fill with the others in showering their destructive missiles upon the works of the enemy. The music of our batteries contrasted very strikingly the music we were once accustomed to hear on Sabbath. It was not as harmonious as the church organ; to be candid, we yet feel the effects of the dreadful roar from our batteries, and I have no doubt the confederacy will still it ceases its existence.

At 3 P. M. the steamer, while was sounded, the signal for the assault and the fleet ceased firing, save an occasional shot to the left of the Fort, to prevent any assistance from that direction. Now that which was before merely play on our part, became a reality. The marines and "Blue Jackets" first started on the daring enterprise, up the beach (the best man foremost) apparently without the notice of the garrison until they neared the Fort, when a galling shower of grape and canister, as well as musketry was poured upon them, making sad havoc. But the brave sailor boys, little daunted by the messengers of death, flying thick and fast about them, pressed on till some took shelter in the rifle-pits and behind the stockades. It was impossible to climb the ramparts without the aid of ladders, and as no mortal man could stand the volleys which were then poured among our daring men, those that were not already killed or wounded were obliged to retreat for safety. Many brave souls were strewn upon the beach, and what was more cruel, those that were too severely wounded to make their escape were afterwards shot in cold blood. A surgeon from the Minnesota who it seems did not fear death, was killed while in the act of dressing a wound. Of the two hundred and forty that left this ship for the assault, fifteen were killed, twenty-five wounded and two missing. But this, then apparently fruitless sacrifice of lives, afterward proved to be the means of our success; for while the attention of the garrison was drawn by the approach of the "Jacks" on the sea-face, the soldiers entered the opposite side of the Fort, and with little resistance succeeded in gaining a foothold, which they so gallantly maintained; and, which resulted in the capture of the entire garrison, after a sanguinary contest of seven hours. Never was there known a more hotly contested piece of ground. Foot by foot the soldiers advanced, until 10 P. M. when their victorious cheering told us of their victory.

The Rebels attempted to land troops under cover of the night, but the anxious eye of Admiral Porter espied their movements and directed his mortar fleet to pay the proper salute. It was, indeed, magnificent to see the balls of fire dart through the air, illuminating the water, when, without them, was perfect darkness.

The most distressing occurrence since the commencement of the attack was the explosion which took place in the Fort this morning. Hundreds of unconscious soldiers and sailors were either blown in the air or buried in the ruins. Torpedoes had been concealed in every available place, and attached by means of wires to objects we would be likely to come in contact with. It wasn't even safe to bury their dead, for some of those wires were attached to corpses. We need not comment on the inestimable worth the capture of Fort Fisher is to the Union, for every one knows that it was the key to the Confederacy. The rebels were aware of it and thought its capture a thing impossible. In it they staked their all, as such by their able defence, and the ranks were as determined to win. All honor to the brave soldiers who have added new laurels to their already imperishable renown.

Since Terry was successful in his first assault, why could Butler have not been likewise, when the garrison was not half so strong? Butler, Butler, your "Hog is dead."

Conceiving it may be of interest to some I annex a list of the officers of the Frigate Minnesota, which bore so conspicuous a part in the bombardment, and capture of the formidable works on Federal Point:

- Commander Commanding—Joseph Lannan. Executive Officer—Lieut. Com. James Parker. Surgeon—J. S. Stevenson; E. E. Woodward. Assistant Surgeon—C. H. Williams. Acting Master—Theodore Westhoff. Acting Master—J. Cooper; Sidney Sampson. John G. Cross; Wm. H. Mott; Snowden Bell; James D. Lee. John A. Clark; O. B. Moody. Paymaster—Clark—O. B. Moody. Acting Quarter Master—Amos Merrill, Jos. M. Simms. Boatman—William Hanker. Sailmaker—T. Olin Fassett. Gunner—Robert H. Gross. Carpenter—O. E. Goodloe.

WASHINGTON.

The Assault on Judge Kelley.—Prompt Action of Congress in the Affair.—The Brooks and Butler Go to New York.—A Bill to Amend the Enrollment Act.—Burning of the Smithsonian.—Promotion of Capt. Theo. McGowan.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 27, 1865. The past week has been one of considerable excitement both in and out of Congress. The outrages and unprovoked assault upon Hon. H. D. Kelley by A. P. Field, one of the Louisiana Delegation to Congress, called for the prompt action of Congress to vindicate its dignity, which it did by denying him the privilege of a seat on the floor, until the committee shall report upon the rights of the delegations to seats as members. This man Field is pretty far advanced in years, yet retains all that old and peculiar spirit of chivalry, which southerners in bitter days considered essential to a "well-bred" gentleman. He is very profane in the most ordinary conversation and even in the presence of ladies. This unprovoked assault with a knife is denounced by almost every person, and the wonder how Hon. Thomas Corwin, our Minister to Mexico, could stoop so low as to appear before a Squire and plead the case of Mr. Field, is causing considerable gossip.

Some days since when Mr. Brooks, of New York, was speaking denouncing the Pennsylvania Legislature as a den of corruption, &c., he made use of the following language in regard to Gen. Butler: "I am bound to say an effort was made to control the city of New York during the autumn election. The government sent there a gold rod in the person of a major general of the United States, Robert as he was of the public treasury, and he had no other control over the city than over the robbers of whom the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Schofield) has called thieves and robbers." This language coming to the ears of Gen. Butler, he demanded an explanation. The following is a copy of the letter: WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1865. James Brooks, M. C., House of Representatives. I find in the Daily Globe of the 7th inst. a repeat of your remarks in the House on the 6th inst., an extract from which, personal to me, is appended. I have the honor to inquire whether your remarks are correctly reported, except, perhaps, in the misprint "gold" for "hold," and

also whether there was any modification, explanation or limitation made by you other than that appears in this report. The gentleman who hands you this will wait or call for your answer, at any time or place you may designate.

B. F. BUTLER, Major General. Mr. Brooks entered into a challenge to mortal combat, and in the debate about Mr. Field brought the matter before the House. The defence of Gen. Butler was promptly taken up by Messrs. Stevens, of Pa., and Boutwell, of Mass., and documents and correspondence laid before the House that completely vindicated Gen. Butler in regard to the \$50,000 bank seizure in New Orleans, and places Mr. Brooks in a disagreeable position before the House and country. Almost universally the letter of Gen. Butler is construed as it was by Mr. Brooks. Congress took no action in the matter, nor do they intend to.

1. That persons enrolled and liable to be drafted may be accepted as substitutes.
2. That no one furnishing a navy substitute shall be exempt unless that substitute is brought in person to the board of enrollment and is there accepted.
3. That any person who knowingly brings for enlistment a convict, an insane or drunken person, or a deserter, or shall defraud in matter of bounties, shall be liable to one thousand dollars fine and two years imprisonment.
4. That any master or officer who shall muster in such person, shall, upon conviction, be dishonorably dismissed.
5. That all sick or local bounties shall hereafter be paid in installments—one-third at muster-in, one-third at middle of term of service, and one-third at the end, unless sooner discharged honorably; if killed, balance to be paid to his heirs.
6. That every district shall make up by additional draft or recruiting, its loss from desertions and discharge on account of physical disability existing before enlistment.
7. That all deserters shall be disfranchised forever, including all who have deserted heretofore who shall not report within sixty days.

On last Tuesday the Smithsonian Institute caught fire, through the carelessness of the parkmen having it in charge, for which they can make no excuse, and was nearly consumed. The fire is supposed to have originated from a stove pipe setting fire to a joist, and that as a small of burning wood had been experienced for three days, it had been smoldering all that time in the cock loft. The upper portion of the building being fire proof, most of the museum collection was saved; as was the library and Professor Herring's records. The large collection of apparatus, the most costly and valuable in the country, was entirely consumed. All the books and records in the Regent's room, including the effects of the founder of the Institution, James Smithson—the library of Bishops John of Virginia and the Beaufort, S. C. library, placed there by the Government for safe-keeping, were all destroyed. The sarcophagus brought from Syria was broken. The elegant collection of Indian paintings belonging to Stanley, valued at over \$25,000 were all burned. The statue of the Dying Gladiator was entirely ruined, being crushed and burned into lime-stone. Had it not been for the timely arrival of a Regiment of the Reserve corps, which little was not burned would have been carried off by thieves and curiosity hunters. The House called for an investigation.

The numerous friends of Captain Theodore McGowan will be pleased to learn of his further promotion, as will be seen by the following order: HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON, 22d ARMY CORPS, No. 14, GENERAL ORDERS, No. 14.

Capt. Theodore McGowan, Assistant Adjutant General, is hereby announced as Assistant Judge Advocate of the Department. He will be obeyed and respected accordingly. By command of Maj. Gen. C. C. AUGER, C. H. RAYMOND, Asst. Adj't General. The weather is still extremely cold. The ice in the Potomac has stopped all navigation. Mail communication with the army is by way of Baltimore.

Two members of the House yesterday voted against the resolution of thanks to Major General Sheridan and his command. They were Clifton A. White, of Ohio, and Benjamin G. Harris, of Maryland.

HARRISBURG.

Debate on the Filling of Quotas.—Bounty Jumpers.—Interested Divorce Cases.—The Quota of the Department.—Companies Authorized to fill the Present call.

While nothing of special public moment has been considered in the legislature this week, the proceedings have nevertheless been at times unusually animated. The most spicy debate of the session was had yesterday on joint resolutions of Mr. McClure to require each sub-district to fill its quota of troops from its own residents. It was negatived by the Military committee, but came up on the public calendar yesterday, and elicited a very animated debate. Mr. McClure spoke in support of his bill, and refigured with some severity upon Philadelphia and other wealthy localities for purchasing the men to fill their quotas from the poorer districts, and leaving the families of the recruits a charge, in many instances upon the charity of the people of the districts. He showed also that the system had given birth to the most appalling frauds alike upon the soldiers and the government, and read in support of his position a memorial sent to congress signed by Major Henry and other prominent citizens of Philadelphia, stating that not over one-fourth of the men enlisted and paid by that city ever reached the front,—three fourths of them being merely bounty jumpers, who escape in many cases by the connivance of officers. Mr. Cochran, ever alive to the interests and fame of Philadelphia, defended that city and opposed the bill as did Mr. Ruldiman, a new city member of much promise; but the Speaker came from the chair and supported the bill in a speech of singular force. The hour of adjournment closed the debate without a vote. Its fate is doubtful, as all the very wealthy districts prefer to buy their men and load themselves with debt, to putting in their own citizens, or allowing a draft.

Mr. McClure read in place a bill to adjudicate all the military damages not examined by a commission. It is substantially the same law under which the Heister commission examined claims a year ago. It makes no provision for payment, as two propositions cannot now be embraced in one bill. If any measure is proposed for paying these claims, it must be a separate law. As yet no bill for payment has been offered.

If anybody wants a divorce—I mean any pretty woman, let her come to the Pennsylvania legislature. She need not perplex her attorneys before making the attempt, to prove that her bill is constitutional. It don't make the slightest possible difference. One bill passed both branches this week in which the courts have unquestioned jurisdiction; but the woman is pretty, young, and importunate; the divorce committee is humane, practical and energetic, and the bill went through with a flourish.

The quota of Pennsylvania under the late call for troops has been the subject of much correspondence by the State officials with the War Department and the Provost Marshal General. It must be remembered that last year the quota of the State was 61,000, a call for 700,000 men. Pennsylvania filled her quota, or nearly so, and now a call is made for deficiencies for 300,000 men, and our quota of the deficiency was at first given at 67,000. What new system of arithmetic Gen. Fry has adopted is not known; but the "oldest inhabitant" seems to be ignorant of the system. How 67,000 could be the deficiency of the State on a quota of 61,000, so puzzled Gen. Curtin that he eventually came to the conclusion that Gen. Fry didn't know much about figures in general, and less if possible about the

proper calculation of quotas. Since the first quota was assigned the Governor called the attention of the Provost Marshal General to the palpable error had committed, and a few days thereafter a new quota was forwarded, some 23,000 less than the first. It is rumored that since then another quota has been officially promulgated, and it is probable that Gen. Fry may get our just quota ascertained in fifteen or twenty efforts. The Governor this week was authorized to raise fifty full companies under the present call, and mustering Lieutenants will be appointed at once. None other than experienced men need apply.

Hutchinson is the prince of landlords. The United States is ever crowded, and its landlord is ever amiable, obliging, and pleases every body. His table is always graced with the best market affords, and he has the faculty of making all comfortable whether or no. He also keeps the Railroad Restaurant in the Pennsylvania Depot, and has demonstrated that such an institution can be kept in first class style, furnishing good meals at all hours. Under his management the United States does now double the business of any hotel in Harrisburg, and it would do much more had he more room. He has already levied contribution on all the houses adjoining his hotel and now thinks of adding a story or two next season.

For the Franklin Repository. SCIENTIFIC.

Rain and other meteoric phenomena appear more frequent when the earth is in conjunction with or opposition to a planet, especially when at new or full moon. If correct, the explanation might be that the magnetism of the earth is increased by its relative position with the planet, sun and moon, like bar magnets, side by side increasing its electrical condition also. If the curious observer their almanacs and the weather at these periods and find the theory correct, after a full trial, we ask them to publish it. TOWSER.

LOCAL ITEMS.

GOSSIP WITH OUR FRIENDS.—Once again in Chambersburg, the city of cinders, of ashes, of half-burned brick, of desolation. On my passage up to the dear old town I pictured to myself the ruins as they had been so vividly impressed upon my mind some months before, and with a sad heart dredged the renewal of the painful associations. As the train rolled over the Susquehanna, I wistfully gazed upon the "Capitolium hill," and inwardly prayed that the Legislature might be influenced by Providence or something else to hearken to the petition of our Representatives, and be induced by Hook or by Crook (not meaning our Representatives—forgive the pun, gentlemen), to grant some aid or comfort to the fallen great of my native town; if only to slame the soulless press of New York, which has so persistently sympathized with the Rebel despisers of us, for no other reason that I could ever see, except that McVausland is a New Yorker. The river crossed, Mechanicsburg, Carlisle, Newville and Shippenburg passed, my heart beat to beat in unison with my "co-sufferers," and by the time the long whistle blew, my anxiety was about insupportable. Down brakes—stop—I put on a becoming air of melancholy, needing only a clean white handkerchief to take a prominent part in a funeral, and stepped slowly and steadily from the platform. About two dozen friends rushed at me, to welcome me, as I dozed thought—and offered me—oil stock; asked me about—oil stock; fairly grooked me with—oil stock. I never was more surprised in my life. Talk about oil on the brain, here was oil on the entire constitution; oil in oceans over our head and ears; oleaginous oily oil; oil such as David never dreamed of when Dr. Watts made his say.

"My head thou dost with oil anoint," "How are you old fellow, don't you want some Imperial at 5?" "Why, no, I'm very glad to see you, yet you have five hundred shares Sterling at 3." "Bless you, my dear sir, if you want some Jersey Well at 2 I can spare you some." "Hollo, —, delighted to welcome you back, here's where you get the real genuine Hopedell." "Why—I am proud to welcome you, Chambersburg's favorite son. I have saved for you, especially, a thousand shares of Burning Spring and Ruble Farm at 2." "Huzza for —, let us present him, as he hails from Brooklyn, with two hundred and fifty shares of Pittsburg and Brooklyn Petroleum stock, price 1." "Welcome to C., —, shouted in inharmonious concert some six or eight well known voices—"here comes our old teacher. Buy some Pittsburg and Cherry Run, one dollar, two twenty-five, one fifty, one seventy-five, one two-hundred, two fifty, two seventy-five, THREE!" Surprised, astounded, amazed and confounded, as Blair's Rhetoric hath it, I knew not what to do, particularly as my speculative capital was limited to fifteen dollars. I had braved the hackmen of New York and of Philadelphia, had escaped the pretzel mongers of Lancaster, had avoided the temptations of the Harrisburg apple and chestnut market, had passed unscathed through the lazers of Carlisle, and the lazzaroni of Shippenburg, to be boked in oil as was St. John of old—at least 'ho thinks, if they didn't succeed, to the brutes that tried it on the address saint. I slipped through their fingers, promising all liberally, and hurried up town. In front of a seared and blackened ruin I encountered a young lawyer, who wanted to put me down for some Cherry Run. "Ten steps further on, a young doctor stopped his English sash, and said, "How is Sterling?" "Thinking of it, s. a. d., exchange on England, I answered "about 9 25," and was of course laughed at. Again I was hailed (Salve!) by a learned D. D., who asked me "whether I had seen the notice in a newspaper of the oil well that Herodotus had spoken of some two thousand and odd years ago, on an island in the Levant." Next I encountered a preacher, who called my attention to the singular fact that "Jacob, 1700 years Antichristum, had poured oil on the top of the pillar he had set up at Bethel, (not Big Bethel) when he vowed a tenth as a Rethel." Then I came across an old black woman, who seeing me limp slightly, recommended Seneca Oil. Met a school teacher, who entertained me with an erudite discourse upon the oil the ancient athletes used. Heard an old man pray at family worship for peace, in this wise: "Pour oil upon the troubled waters." In the evening there was no gas, and it was reported that the gas company had been changed to an oil company. I was agreeably surprised to find that every family had an ample stock of Keroseene on hand, of which they were by no means economical, each one hoping by consumption to enhance the value of their stocks. In attempting to amuse a domestic circle of young America, I gilded into the realms of natural history, and having made the acquaintance of a Nantucket man in Brooklyn, was naturally carried by my imagination into the wonders of the great deep, with the usual accompaniment of seals, walruses, whales. I informed the admiring audience that the whale, when fully grown, sometimes fringed the length of seventy feet, and a circumference of forty feet, and has been known to produce twenty tons of pure oil. Now this would have affected my youthful mind, I know. But a young two years old drove me within myself by exclaiming, "Why, uncle —, what's that to a five hundred barrel oil well, every day?" I made a faint show of resistance by citing the use of whalebone, and the enormous torped power of the huge mammal's tail, but all for no use. I have been informed that two young men locked themselves up one entire night, for the purpose of swapping oil stocks, and that they made off of each other, one one—seven hundred and fifty dollars, and the

other twelve hundred. An old, old man, who has been a wicked infidel all his life, is now a consistent church member, owing entirely to the frequent mention of oil in the Scriptures. How wonderfully compensatory are Nature's laws! Oil is good for a burn. We have been burned, ergo—oil is good for our burns. Could anything be plainer?

Now, dear gossip, I am done for this week. Four months' absence has made me regard you more than ever before. Hereafter I shall soar into the realms of science and art, and shall no more meet to soothe. You need not die. You require nothing but a little legislative aid, with which to re-build and to invest in oil. Fare-well!

P. S. An estimable lady friend asked me why I wrote about street cars and log-cabin saloons, when there were so many better places in New York that I might describe. When I told her that a ride cost five cents, and a glass of beer ditto, and that "the better places" cost \$1.00, she saw the point; and I have since heard that she is taking up a subscription to establish your shop as a missionary in New York. He'll do as well as most missionaries.

P. P. S. (Just before going to press.) The missionary money has been raised. After consultation with my friends, I concluded to invest it in the Pittsburg and Brooklyn Petroleum oil stock. The funds thus liberally raised, and so judiciously invested have not exhausted the supply, and if our friends want any they can call upon my friend, Wm. G. Reed.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.—The second week of our court was well attended and did not adjourn until Saturday afternoon. The following cases were disposed of:

Rebecca Morrison vs Henry Kreeger, Jr., now for the use of J. H. Miller. Feigned issue under the Sheriff's Interpleader act to test the ownership of certain cattle, sold by the Sheriff on execution. Plaintiff takes a nonsuit. Sharpe for Plaintiff; Kimmell for Defendant.

T. M. Carlisle, surviving partner of Robinson & Carlisle vs the Executors of Dr. B. Pheasant, dec'd. An action of assumpsit to recover their fees as the Attorneys of Defendants. Judgment confessed for \$50. Reilly and Sharpe for Plaintiff; Kimmell for Defendant.

Robert Taylor vs David Teeter. Appeal from Justice Hamman; judgment confessed for \$40. Stenger for Plaintiff; Keyser for Defendant.

Emmanuel Kuhn vs the Executors of Washington Crooks, dec'd; action of covenant, verdict for Defendants. Sharpe for Plaintiff; Kimmell for Defendant.

G. W. Wolfe vs Wm. Christ. Appeal from Justice Hamman; verdict for defendant. Kimmell for Plaintiff; Brewer for Defendant.

Solomon Heiser vs Wm. McGrath, Sheriff of Franklin county. Trespass. This case involved the ownership of about 300 bushels of Rye, sold by the Sheriff as the property of Jacob Myers, Jr., which rye the Plaintiff claimed as his property; verdict for Defendant. Sharpe for Plaintiff; Kimmell and McClellan for Defendant.

James Martin vs Michael Long and Abraham Erisman. Foreign attachment. Judgment confessed for \$80. Brewer for Plaintiff; Kimmell for Defendant.

John and Elizabeth Snyder vs William Christ. Ejectment. Plaintiffs take a nonsuit. Sharpe for Plaintiff; Brewer for Defendant.

John Millhouse vs William Eyster. Replevin for a gray mare. Plaintiff takes a nonsuit.—Douglas for Plaintiff; Stumbaugh for Defendant.

In the case of Com. vs James Johnson, an amicable settlement was made between the parties.

Quite a number of cases were continued for next term and several were settled by the parties. Judge King dispatches business with commendable promptness and by his uniform courtesy has made friends of both suitors and attorneys.

A LEADING DESERTER CAGED.—The Fulton Republican of last week says that for months past, or ever since the September draft, one J. Nelson Sipes, Esq., the embodiment of Peace Democracy; the man who that he might have his name stricken off the enrollment previous to the first nine months' draft, declared upon his oath