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We are compelled, on account of impaired health, to offer for sale this office. THE PILOT is now in its 4th year. It has enjoyed a considerable degree of patronage. A good paying subscription list has been secured. Any energetic person would be able to increase it rapidly. A weekly journal can and will be supported by a wealthy community like ours. The business of the town and neighborhood is being constantly enlarged. The material in this office is good. The office enjoys a good run of JOB WORK.

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## THE PILOT.

GREENCASTLE:

Tuesday Morning, Jan. 12, 1864.



## THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania convened on the 5th inst., that being the day fixed by law. There was no difficulty in the organization of the House—the Republicans being in the majority, and Mr. Johnston, of Crawford county, was elected Speaker. Mr. Sharpe, the member for this county, was present and took his seat.

The Senate has up to this time failed to organize, there being a tie, 16 Republicans and 16 Democrats. The Senate is composed of 33 members, but Major White, the Senator from Indiana county, is a prisoner in Richmond, having been captured at Winchester last summer when Milroy was driven from that place. Major White is a Republican, and if in his seat, an organization favorable to the Republicans would be effected. Although very little progress has been made so far towards an organization, and it may be a good while before one is effected, still there seems to be no doubt that, at last, after every species of parliamentary tactics has been resorted to by both sides, and every one becomes tired of the farce they are now enacting, a presiding officer will be selected from the Republican side; for, judging from the proposition made by Mr. Clymer, of Berks, a Democrat of course, the question seems to be, how many, if any, of the minor officers shall be conceded to the Democratic side.

On the 7th inst., the Governor, without waiting for the regular organization of the Senate, sent in to the Legislature his Annual Message. It is not very long, nor does it contain much of importance or general interest. The finances of the State are represented in good condition, there being a balance in the State Treasury of over 2,000,000, and the public debt has been reduced during the year to the amount of \$954,000. The Governor declares that Pennsylvania has sent to the aid of the Government of the nation 277,409 men. To the call made by him in June, when Lee was marching into the State at the head of the Rebel army, for volunteers to repel invasion, 36,588 of the men of Pennsylvania responded.

The special points made in the message relate to the payment of the interest on the public debt, and to the necessity of a revision of the militia laws. The Governor advocates strongly the payment of the interest on the public debt, not in coin, but in the national currency, and this on the ground of economy, the heavy premium on gold being thereby saved—a very large item. As to the militia laws, he asserts that we have none. He was compelled to call out the militia in each of the last two years, but those who came were not militiamen but volunteers. In truth it is shameful that we have no better military system. If our legislature haven't brains enough to desire a good militia law, why don't they, then, adopt either that of Massachusetts or that of Ohio. Both are said to be admirable. Ohio's militia law caught John Morgan. So long as the rebellion is not crushed, we on the borders of Pennsylvania, are in constant danger, and even if the great armies of the South were destroyed as such, innumerable guerrilla bands would spring up, composed of the elements of those armies, to harass and alarm us. We have a deep interest in a revision of the militia laws of the State and the adoption of a wise military code.

The Governor also recommends a general revision of the Revenue laws of the Commonwealth. In a period of twenty years hardly any change has been made in them. We appeal earnestly in behalf of the people of East Tennessee. This whole country, he says, has been laid waste by the contending armies. All that had been gathered for the approaching winter, has been destroyed or carried off, and now the women and children are starving. He calls attention to the fact that the agents of other States are seducing our citizens into

their service by large bounties and promises, and he recommends the passage of a law imposing the penalty of fine and imprisonment on such persons.

## ARE WE A DRINKING NATION?

A Frenchman once said the Americans were a "nation of one gravy." Would he not have been nearer the mark if he had called us a nation of drinkers? We drink upon every and all occasions. Not water. As a continuous beverage, water is not remarkably popular. Not water, but sundry and various spirituous and vinous fluids, whereof the custom house officials have never, within the memory of men now living, had official knowledge. But we drink notwithstanding. We drink morning, noon and night. We drink between times. We drink when we don't want it, and when we don't need it, in order to have a cargo on board when we do need and want it.

The American drinks his cocktails to drown his sorrows; he swallows them because he is joyful; he pours them down his throat when disappointed in business, and gorges upon them because he is prosperous. Friend-ship commences over a julep and ends in a smash. Jealousy broods darkly over the absorption of rum punch, and meditates suicide, murder or divorce, over the last lingering drop of a brandy plain. Hope bubbles eternal in sherry cobblers, and wit effervesces in champagne.

With us—for are we not a nation of drinkers?—a bargain cannot be settled unless it is settled over gin and sugar. No President, no Governor, no official can be nominated, much less elected, without the bar-least of crackers, and cheese, and the flow of whiskey. The welfare of the nation, the stability of the government, cannot be maintained without morning eye-openers, noonday tips and midnight night-caps. The goddess of liberty could not stand an hour without her "smile." The great bird can't fly without the benefit of a todd. We drink to get rid of the blues, and drink when we haven't them, to keep them off. We drink when we are dry, and get dry in order to drink when we are not dry. We drink to the memory of the departed at funerals, and drink consolation to the grief-stricken mourner. The mourners drink to the health of those that do not mourn, and those who do not mourn drink because—they must drink. Drink is the fundamental law of our social system, a part and parcel of our Declaration of Independence, and the bulwark of our nation's greatness.

"Take a drink!" will soon usurp the place of "E Pluribus Unum," and a bottle and glass occupy the hands of Justice in lieu of the scales and regulation sword. Schemes of gigantic import are concocted, war is declared and peace is made, by power of states manlike brandy and wire working whiskey. Our horn of plenty resolves itself into a horn of "red eye." We drink fast—Americans. We drink often and then drink again, that we may have an appetite for more drink. The inventive genius of the publican is continually striving to produce new fluid combinations with which to astonish and delight the nation of drinkers. The first greeting of a friend to one who has just returned after a year's absence—"take drink?" and the reply inevitably is—"well I don't care if I do." And drink they do. One sociable drink gives conversation a start; the second round brings up old times; the third, prospects of business; the fourth, sundry anecdotes; fifth, more anecdotes; sixth, maudlin declarations of eternal friendship; seventh, a desire to drink again; eighth, and up to the twentieth—a flow of spirits, and "we'll-hic—make-hic—er, a night of it, Hi boys—ho, boys—hic." Birth, marriage and death, all come and go with a drink. Surely, surely—are we not a nation of drinkers?

We guzzle and swill, and absorb and soak; we braudy it, gin it, wine it, punch it, smash it, whiskey skin it, and rum it, and rarely water it. The American drinker is copper-lasted, bolted with water tight compartments. The drinks he swallows in a year would kill him up, eat up, and consume a score of Englishmen. Verily, we say unto you, Oh! disciples of freedom and apostles of the star spangled eagle—you are a nation of drinkers. You punctuate your speeches, Oh! orator of the people, with a comma cocktail, a semi colon brandy, a colon whiskey, and a period of "high old time."

## THE NEWS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 7.—A despatch, dated Cumberland Gap, January 6th, says an overwhelming force, under Sam. Jones, made a descent, last Sunday, upon a small body of our troops stationed near Jonesville, Va., consisting of about two hundred and eighty of an Illinois Regiment, commanded by Major Biers, and eight men of Neill's Ohio Battery. A desperate resistance was made, continuing from seven A. M. to three P. M., and was followed by casualties on the field amounting to thirty killed and a like number wounded. We also lost one gun belonging to Neill's battery and two small howitzers. The attacking force numbered about four thousand men. The force captured were guarding the key to a re-

gion of country which was our main reliance for forage.

Harper's Ferry, Jan. 8.—Col. Boyd, who with a force of about eight hundred cavalry has been on a scouting expedition up the Shenandoah Valley, returned last evening. He past through Winchester, and advanced as far as Newtown, where he met a small scouting party of the enemy, under the notorious Guerrilla Captain Blackford, on their way towards Winchester. Blackford, who was found at a house in the village, was shot dead by one of our men, whom he had fired at and slightly wounded. A few prisoners were captured. Papers found on Blackford confirm previous information in regard to the number and position of the enemy, and it is thought that the rebels have given up any design of making offensive demonstrations in this or any other quarter for the present. Nevertheless, we watch them closely and keep well prepared to give them a proper reception.

New York, Jan. 8.—Special despatch to the New York Herald, dated Cumberland, Jan. 8, says:—The garrison at Petersburg, Western Virginia, was surrounded to day. Fitzhugh Lee and Rosser were moving between New Creek and Petersburg.

The enemy drove our forces out of Burlington, to day. Cumberland, Md., was threatened, and much excitement prevails here to night. It seems probable that we will be attacked here about to-morrow morning.

Passenger trains on the railroad have been stopped from running, the other trains, nevertheless, are moving.

The enemy yesterday captured a train of thirty six wagons.

The rebels are reported to be moving in three main columns.

Imboden has been attacked at Winchester and driven back. So far everything is in our favor. It has been snowing heavily all day.

## Message of the President.

The following is the message sent to Congress on the 5th, by the President of the United States:—

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:—By a joint resolution of your honorable bodies, approved December 23, 1863, the paying of bounties to veteran volunteers, as now practiced by the War Department, is to the extent of three hundred dollars in each case, provided that after the fifth day of the present month it shall terminate. I transmit for your consideration a communication from the Secretary of War accompanied by one from the Provost Marshal General to him, both relating to the subject above mentioned.

I earnestly recommend that the law be so modified as to allow bounties to be paid, as they now are, at least until the ensuing first day of February. I am not without anxiety lest I appear to be importunate in thus recalling your attention to a subject upon which you have so recently acted; and nothing but a deep conviction that the public interest demands it could induce me to incur the hazard of being understood on this point. The Executive approval was given by me to the resolution mentioned, and it is now by a close attention and a fuller knowledge of the facts that I feel constrained to recommend a reconsideration of the subject.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

## Proposed Amendments of the Enrollment Act.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Post, gives the annexed summary of the different amendments of the conscription law now under consideration.

The most radical amendment comes from the Military Committee and proposes to strike out the commutation clause altogether. Mr. Hendricks, of Indiana, proposes two amendments, one dividing persons liable to draft into two classes—the unmarried and married—and the other providing that in case the commutation clause is struck out, all married men may pay the sum of \$300 to the Secretary of War, for which sum they shall be exempt from service for the term of three years. It further provides that, if the person drafted be a laboring man, whose yearly income is less than \$400 per year, and if his unincumbered property be less than \$700, he shall be permitted to commute for the sum \$150.

Senator Howe brings forward a novel proposition, which is, that in any given district the commutation money shall be equally divided among those persons who are drafted and enter the service, the money to be paid in three installments; at the end of each year's service.

Senator Wilson has offered an amendment, providing that all persons in the rebel States who choose to volunteer into the service may do so, being entitled to all the benefits and privileges of existing laws, selecting what regiments they will join.

It is probable that the commutation feature of the existing law will be retained in some shape. If it should be rejected, then it is possible that one of Mr. Hendricks' amendments would receive consideration—that permitting married men to pay \$300 or \$500, receiving therefor a certificate of exemption for three

years. If the commutation clause of the enrollment act is abolished, two more important amendments will be adopted, one giving the drafted persons thirty instead of ten days in which he may procure a substitute, if he is so disposed, and another providing that any drafted person may offer a colored man as a substitute.

## Losses and Captures During 1863.

General Halleck's report furnishes the following estimate of our losses and captures during the year 1863:

During the year our losses were:

Killed.....	10,079
Missing.....	20,676
Wounded.....	51,718
Guns.....	42
Small arms.....	8,840

And 10,296 men reported under the heads of "losses," killed and wounded," or "killed wounded and missing."

Our captures were:

Colors.....	52
Prisoners.....	89,788
Guns.....	266
Small arms.....	44,829
Boats.....	158
Cattle.....	5,648
Horses.....	1,175

Besides in one place "large stores," in another four thousand four hundred pounds of powder and 150,000 rounds of cartridges, and in another, in the language of General Grant, "arms and munitions of war for an army of sixty thousand men."

From this it appears that our loss during the year in killed, wounded and missing, was ninety-two thousand and seven hundred and seventy men.

If the rebel's "killed and wounded," of which we have no account in this report, bear the same proportion to "prisoners" that ours do, their loss during the year must have been enormous, reaching to over three hundred thousand men.

## PASSING EVENTS, &C.

Some of our friends have been enjoying themselves hugely, in skating upon the Secord Dam.

Our enterprising friend A. W. WELSH, has received another lot of goods. Call at his new Hardware Store.

SAMUEL MYERS, of Chambersburg, offers at private sale his farm on the Conococheague Creek, now occupied by J. G. SHREVE. See advertisement.

The rabbits, poor souls, have a hard time of it just now. They are hunted up and chased by men, boys and dogs. Our sportsmen have got a great many within the past two weeks.

We are prepared to print Sale Bills in the neatest manner. We would be thankful for patronage of this kind. Will not our friends exert themselves in our behalf.

Rebs in G.—HUBBARD has again resumed his humorous sketches of the "Rebel Invasion." It will be found on the first page of this week's paper. The part to be given next will amuse and interest more than one "skeladder."

Sacramental.—Communion services were held in the Lutheran Church on last Sabbath.

Next Sabbath the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in the German Reformed Church.

Sleighing.—Sleighing has been very good on the turnpike roads, and tolerably so on mud roads, during the past several days. We hope our subscribers may all have many pleasant sleigh rides, even if printers are not quite so fortunate.

At Home.—The friends of Lieut. Wm. STIRT, of company A, 1st Pa. Artillery, had the pleasure of meeting him last week. His company are on duty at Portsmouth, Va.

Our old friend L. H. FLETCHER, of Lancaster city, spent the holidays among his friends and acquaintances in this place.

Reserved Seats.—Mr. Editor.—In your last article upon the "Dramatic Entertainments," you complimented the plan of selling "reserved seats," in justice to the Dramatic company, I would beg leave to state, that this plan was recommended by "outsiders" themselves. If it did not work favorably the blame does not entirely rest upon one party.

Old Joke Verified.—

"Says Tom to Bill, pray tell me, sir, Why is it that the devil,

In spite of all his naughty ways, Can never be unwell?"

Horse on a Visit.—A spirited horse attached to a fine trotting buggy, came down town a few days ago, on a tour of observation. After running about the streets awhile, and into places not intended for animals of his kind, he succeeded in leaving a large part of the buggy behind him, and brought himself up in the yard in the rear of the Pilot office. Our devil suggests that the horse being the property of a quondam Editor, was doubtless waiting for copy.

TO ANY ONE who doubts whether the Southern Confederacy is designed by its architects, to be an aristocracy of the worst kind, we commend the following passage from the Richmond Whig: Speaking of the proposed universal conscription there, it says:—

"The equality of every man," ergo, "all must go to the field!" Is not our war based on the principle of fact, which all history has demonstrated as a truth—THE INEQUALITY OF MAN—for policy, we say of races.

Across the River.—Some fears were entertained several days since, that the rebels under Gen EARLY, would make a demonstration upon Martinsburg and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. But they have not yet reached that vicinity, nor even Winchester.

Great preparations have been made by the Union Generals, and the host under Jubal, (not him that was "the father of such as handle the harp and the organ,") will find it impossible to overcome the AVERTIT ites who are mighty men of valor and of great renown.

Military.—Most people seem to have a taste for the military. The most sedate and venerable gentlemen ride at a gallop—in true army style.—They have army bits in their bridles, and spurs on their boots, and ride upon cavalry saddles, or at least, with cavalry stirrups. Half of the men and boys wear the army blue, and gilt cord and acorns on their hats. As to smoking, why everybody that is anybody, smokes the pipe, to be sure. In walking every one, too, keeps step by the left—left. Reader, do you object? No, nor we.

Cold and the Soldiers.—The soldiers encamped at Moss Spring have experienced a good deal of cold. In expectation of being ordered off at an early day, winter quarters have not been put up, nor has sufficient preparation been made for the severe weather of the beginning of January. Some of the soldiers have been tendered, and accepted lodging at the farm houses in the vicinity of the camp, while others have found quarters in the new school building in town; still there are some, however, detailed every evening to guard the camp, who do not have so comfortable accommodations.

The officers and men of this company are perfect gentlemen. We have not witnessed a single case of disorder or insubordination among them since they have been here. Our people, we are sure will not refuse them any kindness. When Capt. Ball's company does leave, it will bear with it the respect of this community.

A Duty.—The icy hand of winter is upon us. But, many sitting by warm fire-sides, care little about the frost, the snow, the shrill winds without; and much less about the sufferings which the rigors of this season entail upon a certain class in every community. We mean the poor, who suffer hunger and cold. If there is still in existence a society in this place which has for its object the relief of the poor, there is a wide field open for active exertion. But whether there is such a society or not, every person who possesses an ordinary part of this world's goods, should feel it his or her duty, to relieve some one who is less fortunate. There are women in this town, who have families to provide for, although they work industriously whenever they have bodily strength to do anything, yet are hardly able to make the poorest kind of provision for those dependent upon them. Their neighbors should look after and help them. There are, too, some families left behind by those now in the military service of our country, who need assistance. Shall the citizens of this prosperous town let them suffer? There are, doubtless, others who would highly appreciate a little help bestowed upon them.

There are other means of accomplishing the desired object than by contributing large amounts of money, to be paraded before the community to show how liberal we are. Some little favor done, some article of food or wearing apparel sent just at the right time to those in need, will do a great deal towards relieving poverty of its worst pangs.

Don't look to rich neighbors to commence first, for rich people are generally slowest in such matters; but if you can do anything or give anything, no matter how small, to any suffering but deserving family or person, go at once. Your example will induce some one else to do likewise.

Our remarks need not be confined to the town; out in the country where are rich lands, full barns and princely mansions, we doubt not that even there, in some out-of-the-way place or forsaken nook, there are some who need help. And shall no portion of last year's rich crops be devoted to this purpose? Or shall accumulating piles of money grow larger—and the poor grow poorer, and starve if they must? No. It ought not so to be.

We like not that kind of philanthropy which is exhibited in making large contributions to church or public purposes, that will meet the public eye, for the purpose of creating a false reputation for liberality. They who give quietly but promptly to their fellow-men in distress, deserve the greater praise. Remember, "A cup of cold water," etc.

If we succeed in getting a proper interest in this matter, we have accomplished our purpose. Let each one ask, What can I do?

## THE ALTAR.

MARRIED.—At the residence of the bride's father, near Shady Grove, on the 31st ult., by the Rev. J. W. Wightman, Mr. David F. Stoner, of this vicinity, to Miss Frances Mary, daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Gordon.

## THE TOMB.

DIED.—Near the Welsh Run, January 6th, 1864, Mrs. Mary Ann Young, aged 81 years, 3 months and 18 days.

## FARM AT PRIVATE SALE.

I will sell my Farm in Antrim township, Franklin county, Pa., on the Conococheague Creek, 8 miles from Chambersburg; 3 miles from Greencastle, containing 200 ACRES, 50 Acres in MEADOW and about 50 Acres in TIMBER, or in small lots to suit purchasers. One of the best Grazing farms in the country, and nearly all timbered over. If not sold by Monday, 18th of January, will be sold at Public Sale in front of the Court-House, in Chambersburg, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock. For particulars see hand bills, or enquire of J. G. Shoble on Farm, or SAMUEL MYERS, Chambersburg.

Terms—One-fourth in hand and balance in two or three payments, with interest. [Jan 12-13]

NOTICE.—Whereas, Letters of Administration, on the Estate of Henry Miller, late of Greencastle, deceased, have been granted to the subscribers, residing in Greencastle; all persons indebted to the said estate, are hereby requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims or demands against the estate of said decedent, will make known the same without delay, to MARY MILLER, AMANDA T. MILLER, Greencastle, Jan. 12, 1864-64. Adm'r.