

our writers generally omit our state debts, and in estimating the taxes we pay, too, they generally overlook the State taxes. We ought to look our difficulties full in the face.

At the close of last year the debts of the State were \$204,921.27; they must be now much more. To these, too, we must add the debts of the cities. The annual interest on the absolute debts of the State on the 1st of January was \$1,385,665, and the annual expenditures of the State, exclusive of debts and schools, was \$4,885,000.

Mr. Harris, of N. Y., reported a bill to prohibit the sale of liquor to soldiers in the District of Columbia. The bill is an amendment to the former bill on this subject, and prohibits not only the sale to soldiers, but drinking on the premises. The penalty is a fine and imprisonment. The bill was passed.

Mr. Harris, of N. Y., reported a bill authorizing the appointment of a general court martial in time of war, &c. Mr. Holman, of Ind., introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to report a bill amending the present laws so as not to exclude in the appointment of chaplains any religious societies. He mentioned that at present Jewish Rabbis are excluded, notwithstanding there are large numbers of Hebrews in the army.

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and in quantity not exceeding the length of the bullet. This cartridge is perfect in its shape. It has an expanding action, and is rammed home; when, with a cap fired, the charge is fired. The explosive material is water-proof, and is not affected by moisture. It has a penetrating power equal, if not superior, to the best gunpowder.

Such interest is excited by the circulation of a pamphlet explanatory of Secretary Chase's system of finance, the arrangement and details being so clear that by its adoption not only would the strength of the Union be increased, but the country rendered entirely independent of foreign capital.

Two vessels, loaded with forage for the Government, arrived at Annapolis yesterday, and two to-day, having successfully run the blockade. These are the pioneers of the army, to arrive, under contract with Col. Ingalls during his recent capture.

Of over forty overcoats thrown away by the retreating rebels at Drainesville, only two were found. The rest were left behind.

Col. Thomas Francis Meagher has been appointed a Brigadier General of Volunteers. Should Col. Corcoran be re-elected to the position, Mr. Meagher will occupy a similar appointment upon him.

It is said that on the night before the expedition to Centerville, the rebels were called to the enemy at Centerville, and that a brigade left there about the same time ours left their camp. Hence the meeting and the fight.

The Grand Army of Kentucky. It is estimated, from statistics that are reliable, that Gen. Buell has, to-day, an army in the field of not less than one hundred and ten thousand men, to which the States of Indiana and Ohio contribute in the aggregate about 100,000 men, and which they will add, by the consolidation and dispatch of regiments, fifty thirty thousand men more.

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PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES.

The PRESBYTERY OF OHIO will meet in the First Church, on Tuesday, the 29th of December, at 8 o'clock P. M. W. B. MOULTON, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF ST. CLAIRVILLE will meet in the First Church, on Tuesday, the 29th of December, at 8 o'clock P. M. JOHN MOPPAT, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF SALISBURY will meet at Salisbury, on Tuesday, the 29th of December, at 8 o'clock P. M. W. WOODEN, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF RICHLAND will meet in Mt. Vernon, on Tuesday, the 29th of December, at 8 o'clock P. M. JAMES HOWLAND, Stated Clerk.

General News.

Holiday Books. See advertisement of J. P. Hunt.

"National Illuminating Oil." This Oil, advertised in another column, has been fully tested in our own family, and found to be all that it is represented. It is certainly an article that will fully satisfy the consumer.

The Wonderful Lamp, or Light for the Darkest Path." This little volume of 299 pages, is one of a "Series for Young Men," published by the Board of Publication in Philadelphia. Its leading object is to illustrate the influence of the Bible upon human character, and the transforming power of its teachings. It is a lamp upon its own human feet, and a light upon its own path. The work is written in the form of narrative. The characters are well and skillfully drawn, and happily adapted to exhibit the power of Divine truth upon the heart, and the disastrous effects of refusing to admit this heavenly light in the soul, especially adapted to the young, and to the indigent and suffering poor. Let it not be overlooked by those who are seeking for a "guide" suitable to be presented to their young friends, or their afflicted neighbors, at this season of the year. D.

Pittsburgh. Col. Wynnep's Cavalry Regiment, from Harrisburg for Louisville, passed through our city last week, taking steamer on Saturday. The Gazette thus speaks of the excellent arrangement, by our citizens, for supplying the immediate wants of the passing soldiers:

"The regiment was received in a most hospitable manner by the Subsistence Committee, who had prepared for them a substantial repast at the city hall. Ten regiments of soldiers, of the length of the Hall, and at these eleven hundred hungry men were fed at one time! Some four hundred loaves of bread were distributed, with hot coffee by the hundred gallons, and butter, crackers, sausage, &c., in proportion."

A large number of ladies was present, and through their care, the steamer was most justly prepared and well served. The men ate like soldiers and behaved like gentlemen, and left the hall, full of praise for the ladies. Every regiment which passes through our city, either way, is entertained at the Hall, if our Committee is duly notified.

GEN. NOLAN'S BRIGADE.—We often hear of Gen. Nolan and his men, in Kentucky. They are at the post of danger, on the way to Bowling Green, ready to do their duty.

The Big Mountains.—Six of the immense mountains east of the Fort Mifflin, and shipped on board a vessel for the Brooklyn Navy Yard at New-York. These mountains are three feet and seven inches in diameter, and are three feet in length, and will throw a bomb shell thirteen inches in diameter. Their weight is nearly two tons.

LEAD OPENED.—The new railroad from Cresson to Ebensburg, was opened last week. Thirteen miles of the Clearfield and Tyrone road have also been opened—from Tyrone to Sandy Ridge. The road will be opened to Philipsburg early in the Spring, which will be its terminus until times get better.

Battle at Drainesville, near Washington. Washington, Dec. 20.—This morning, at six o'clock, the army of the Union, under the command of the Hon. General McClellan, proceeded in the direction of Drainesville, on a foraging expedition, and for the purpose of making a reconnaissance in that locality. Drainesville is about midway between McClellan's headquarters and Leesburg. On arriving in that vicinity they encountered the enemy, who had four regiments of infantry, composed of South Carolina, Alabama and Kentucky, with one battery of six pieces, and a regiment of cavalry under the command of Gen. Stewart.

The troops were ordered to advance, and the first line were Gen. Ott's brigade, the first regiment of Riles, and Estess's battery of four guns.

At four o'clock, after the action, McClellan sent two officers to count the rebels who were killed and wounded, and it was ascertained that twenty-two were killed, and the latter had been removed, making a total of seventy-nine killed and wounded. They also left nine horses killed or disabled.