

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, MARCH 18, 1863.

The War.

We have but little of importance to announce in regard to field operations. The enemy is represented as appearing in greater force on the Rappahannock, and to be materially strengthening his position at this point. General Hooker seems active also in preparing for important movements not far distant. It is to be hoped that the increased stringency of the regulations to regard for foraging, desertion, and discipline generally, will tell favorably on the efficiency of the Army of the Potomac.

Our troops experienced a slight reverse recently in the Department of the Cumberland near Franklin, Tenn.; though, in consideration of the odds of the engagement, our men did nobly. The rebel force numbered nearly 20,000 men, ours scarcely 4,000. Our loss was about 1,300, of whom 1,000 were taken prisoners. The rebel loss was estimated at double that of ours in killed and wounded.

We have cheering reports from the Army of the Mississippi, though we cannot represent them as wholly reliable. They are to the effect that the Yazoo Pass project has been completely successful, and that we have taken Yazoo City and captured twenty-six of the enemy's transports. It is also rumored that the evacuation of Vicksburg will very shortly take place. The abandonment of this stronghold cannot, however, be counted on except as a dire necessity forced upon the rebel occupants.

Our South-Eastern naval expedition seems thus far to have accomplished but little. Fort McAllister has not as yet been taken. We hope soon to hear good news from our ironclads.

Free the Blacks and Save the Whites.

We have a great antipathy to the shedding of human blood. We can approve of it only under the pressure of the sternest necessity. We feel bound to avoid it whenever we can without doing a solemn duty. We have advocated the prosecution of the existing war under the idea that it is strictly a defensive war, needful to protect our national life, and prevent still more fearful strife hereafter.

But the war is proving very destructive. Is there no way of making it less of? At the beginning, the enemy told us that slavery was an element of his strength. Many did not believe him. But he has proved it. To deprive him of his slaves, then, would be to weaken him; and so to save the effusion of blood. Why then should any of us object to the Proclamation of freedom? It makes our foes more determined, say some. No. This could hardly be. Their purpose, fixed and unalterable from the first, was success or extermination. But it divides the North, we are told, and so weakens us. Why should it divide the North? If it does so, with reason or without reason, it is bad, and should never have been uttered. But why? The Christian surely ought not to object to the annulment of the odious things which belong to slavery. And the patriotic American, the champion of freedom, cannot consistently object to the granting to all men the blessings of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Why then should Northern freemen be angry with the Proclamation? O, say some, it is impracticable. Then laugh at it. Do not get angry and divide and ruin your country about a thing as inefficient as "the Pope's bull against the comet."

But possibly it may not be entirely impracticable. Try it unaided effort at the North will not make it work. We think that such an effort would make it wonderfully effective. And union is a duty. Then, enforce the Proclamation. Enter the enemy's country; free his slaves at every step, taking them from him and making them your helpers; secure your position, and press on. Thus your foe will grow weaker every day. He will be less able to shed blood. Battles will become fewer and fewer, and less destructive of life, and soon they will cease. Thus will you have extended "the area of freedom," while you have gained your victory.

Try it. There may be wisdom in it. There is beneficence in it, and humanity, and religion. Try it. Free the blacks, and save the whites.

General News.

Death of Rees G. Flesion, Esq. On Monday morning, at 2 o'clock, Rees G. Flesion, Esq., one of the editors and proprietors of the Pittsburgh Dispatch, expired at his residence in Manchester, after a lingering illness. Mr. Flesion's mother was a sister of the late venerable Rev. B. Craig, whose death we reported in an early issue of this paper, and who served his apprenticeship as a printer with the Dispatch, and was subsequently removed to Greensburg, Pa., where, from about 1830 to 1836, he published the Westernland Intelligencer. He was subsequently engaged in other publications more or less successful, till 1850, when he and Col. J. Horron Foster purchased the Dispatch.

Capture of Yazoo Pass. Chicago, March 16.—A special Vicksburg dispatch, dated the 9th inst., says that General McClellan's troops were compelled to embark for Milliken's Bend, sixteen miles above this point, the levee having broken through in several places. The Yazoo Pass project is a complete success. Our gunboats arrived above Hannibal, Bluff, which is fortified against above transports up the Yazoo.

Arrest of Brigham Young Under the Polygamy Act. ILLINOIS CITY, March 16.—Judge Henry Fox, of this city, yesterday arrested Brigham Young, under the polygamy act of Congress. J. B. Gibbs, Marshal Gibbs served, without a writ, the writ of habeas corpus, and was immediately responded to. The writ was immediately served upon Gibbs, and the defendant personally appeared in Court. After a preliminary investigation, the Judge held him in \$2,000 bail, which was promptly given.

New-Hampshire Election.

The election was held in New-Hampshire on Tuesday for State officers and Congress. Returns from the State are as follows: Governor, John G. Woodbury; Secretary, Eastman; Treasurer, George W. White; Auditor, George W. White; State Council, John G. Woodbury, Eastman, George W. White, and George W. White; Representatives, George W. White, George W. White, and George W. White. The Republicans have elected two out of three candidates for Congress.

Curry's Normal Institute. Nos. 52 and 64 St. Clair Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. The Summer session will open on Monday, the 30th day of March, and continue twenty consecutive weeks. The Faculty is composed of Prof. R. Curry, A. M., Principal; James A. Woodbury, Assistant; Lucius Osgood, Professor of Education and Reading; Miss M. Stevenson, Professor of Book-keeping and Penmanship; W. H. Seale, Professor of Vocal Music; and the Rev. Dr. Curry, Professor of Sacred Music. The regular exercises embrace a critical study of all the branches required by law on the Professional Certificate, including a course of drill exercises in elements of Penmanship, Elementary Reading, Vocal Music, and Theory of Teaching. Special classes will be formed for the study of the higher branches. In list of model schools, pupils here enjoy peculiar facilities for visiting the city schools in all their grades, and becoming acquainted with leading teachers and their various modes of working.

A course of lectures will also be delivered during the term, and such additional professional assistance as may be needed, will be employed. It is important that persons wishing to attend should apply early, as the number of students is limited, and that they may enter their classes regularly and complete their course before the examination at its close. Price of tuition per term of twenty weeks, in advance, \$20. Good board and lodging can be obtained at private families at \$2.00 per week. For further particulars address the Principal.

Executive Mansion, Washington, March 10, 1863.

In pursuance of the twenty-sixth section of the act of Congress, entitled "an act for enrolling and appointing soldiers for Government service," approved on the third of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, I have the honor to inform you that the soldiers of the United States, who are to be returned to their respective regiments, and to do hereby decline and proclaim that all soldiers returning to their respective regiments shall do so without leave, or before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and that they will be considered as deserters if they do not do so. I do hereby declare and proclaim that all soldiers returning to their respective regiments shall do so without leave, or before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and that they will be considered as deserters if they do not do so.

Get a Sewing Machine. Housekeepers and others not yet supplied with sewing machines, should examine the splendid assortment of Wheeler & Wilson's machines now to be seen at No. 27 Fifth Street. There is no other like them in the city, and you will not find of the same quality and price elsewhere. Call and see them in operation; and you will not think of having them without them. See how accurate and fast they do their work, and how easy to use.

Pittsburgh Female College. The Pittsburgh Female College is just closing the term of its session. The number of students at the close of the term was upwards of two hundred pupils being in attendance. The trustees yesterday elected Professor and Mrs. Dugan, as teachers of the advanced classes for the ensuing term.

Important from Mexico. New-York, March 14.—The schooner War Eagle, from Matanzas, confirms the capture of that place, without opposition, on February 23, by two French gunboats. The French army commenced on march on Puebla on the 13th of March. Gen. Forey started with 25,000 men. It is presumed an attack would be made about the 1st of March. Gen. Forey has 24,000 men for its defence, and Gen. Sherman has 10,000 to 15,000 men reserved for other defenses.

Washington. The Senate has rejected the nomination of Gen. Horatio Wright, now commanding the Department of Ohio, to the office of Major-General. The House has passed the bill for the relief of the officers of the army, and for the relief of the officers of the navy.

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Pittsburgh Market. WEDNESDAY, March 18, 1863.

ASHES—Soft ash, \$3.00 per ton; Hard ash, \$4.00 per ton. COAL—Bituminous, \$1.50 per ton; Anthracite, \$2.00 per ton. IRON—Pittsburgh, \$1.50 per ton; Western, \$1.80 per ton. STEEL—Pittsburgh, \$1.50 per ton; Western, \$1.80 per ton.

MASS CONVENTION OF SABBATH SCHOOLS. The annual convention of the Massachusetts Sabbath Schools Association will be held in Boston, on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th inst.

PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE SOCIETY.—A branch of the Pennsylvania Bible Society will be organized in Pittsburgh, on the 23rd inst.

MOTHERS! MOTHERS! MOTHERS!!! Don't fail to procure Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children's Teething.

A COUGH, COLD, AND BRONCHITIS TREATMENT. This preparation is intended for the relief of Coughs, Colds, and Bronchitis.

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