The Free Press.

GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT,
Editors and Proprietors.

BURLINGTON
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THE WEEKLY FREE PRESS

Is published every Friday morning, containing the news of the week from all parts, interesting correspondence from the army, and local and general intelligence.

TERMS.

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GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT,
Editors & Proprietors

For County Commissioner,
EDMUND WHITNEY
OF WILLISTON.

Votes

For County Commissioner may be obtained at the FREE PRESS OFFICE.

Votes for Town Officers printed to order.

We call the attention of our subscribers to the terms of subscription at the head of the paper.

Those of our subscribers who have agreed to furnish us with wood are requested to deliver it at once.

Ebb-tide.

Two months ago the hopes of the loyal North were at high-water mark. The rebels had been whipped at Chattanooga. Their runs and prospects of foreign aid had been stopped. A winter of starvation and ruin was setting in on them. We were filling rapidly our final call for volunteers to close the fight. The people, discounting all the trouble to come, jumped eagerly to the conclusion that a few weeks or months would see the crumbling of the Southern Confederacy; and all the talk was of re-construction, and the terms that should be granted to vanquished or repentant rebels.

But two months have brought an obvious change in popular feeling. It is plain that the rebellion, certain as its ultimate failure is, will yet fight with the desperation of the wild boar at bay. Its leaders are determined to maintain the contest till the result of our next presidential election is decided—the result which is to determine whether they can treat for peace with their *friends* at the North, and come back into their old places of influence and power in the Union, or whether they must fly from the country they have well-nigh ruined or hide in obscurity while the Government fills the places of power and trust in every southern State, with loyal men. In spite of desertions and discouragement, Jeff. Davis possesses the power to recruit his armies, and to plan offensive campaigns for the spring. President Lincoln has found it necessary to order a new draft, to supply the deficiencies of former calls. Plenty more of hard fighting and bloodshed is obviously coming. The hungry and howling politicians of all parties, are busy as bees with schemes which have regard solely to personal and party profit, country or no country. The opponents of the Administration and of the War have taken courage and are plotting treason with fresh activity. There are ominous symptoms of division among the supporters of the Government. Bills are being crowded through Congress which must give fruitful capital to the howlers, whether they are signed or vetoed by the President.

These and such like indications are of course noted by the people at large, and many a true man whose heart beat high two months ago, is now looking out with clouded brow and anxious heart. There is danger that a reverse to our arms, such as may come any day,—for there is no certainty in war,—may make an ebb of popular confidence and courage as great as was the flow that followed the storming of Mission Ridge.

Against all possibility of such a revulsion every patriot should strive, with earnest and constant effort. Let each animate his own faith by recalling the substantial progress we have made thus far, and by remembering that as in the past, so in the future, over all reverses, in spite of divisions and discouragements, the war must go on.—Whether it takes one year or ten it must and will be fought through, to final and complete victory for the cause of Union, Liberty and equal rights. Whether it shall take one year or ten is simply a question of the amount of harmony and singleness of purpose in our people. Let all as heretofore, join hands to *push on the war*; give hearty support to the Administration, which represents the Government, by support of which alone can we now support the Government, and which in every department is laboring earnestly and honestly for the salvation of the Country and the good of the Republic; labor to furnish men and money still as they are called for, and refuse to be drawn aside from the one great business and purpose of the country, by political schemers, and we shall soon reach the end all good men desire.

Congress.

It appears that the Senate and House are not so nearly in accordance on the provisions of the amended enrollment bill as we supposed. The Senate declines to adopt the amendments of the House, and holds on to its own. Probably the bill will have to go through the hands of a committee of conference, before an agreement is reached. A general feeling of congratulation appeared in the loyal papers on the announcement of the passage of the bill by the House. The delay to pass the bill works serious injury to the public service. Every day lost in this way tells against the prompt completion of the ranks of the army for service. We think however the bill can hardly fail of enactment in some shape before the week is out.

The revenue bill also hangs by the way in the House, which appears to be as unwilling to adopt the Senate's proposed amendments of that bill as the Senate is to adopt the House amendments to the Enrollment bill. The fact is each bill is a bill of many details, and therefore furnishes ground for numerous differences of opinion. Such bills always make slow progress.

The Ariel, from California, brought four millions and a half in gold to New York, Monday.

The thermometer was twenty-five degrees below zero at St. Paul, Minnesota, Tuesday.

The guerilla exploit on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the evening of the 12th, appears to have been a sheer case of bold highway robbery. Not over forty (some put the number below twenty) persons were engaged in it. They stopped the train by means of the usual signal for that purpose, and armed with swords and revolvers entered the cars threatening instant death to any one who should show any arms in resistance—demanded the money and valuables of the male passengers, paraded them in a line on the outside of the cars and then jumped on their horses and made off in the darkness. They were dressed in U. S. uniforms. Several of them were captured within a few hours, Gen. Sullivan having dispatched a large mounted force in different directions in their pursuit. Some of the passengers were robbed of large sums of money—from $1000 to $4000; and the whole amount taken is reported at about $30,000, besides some jewelry.

The feeling among the citizens against the acts of these robbers is very strong, and even vindictive. The Unionists and rebel sympathizers alike agree in this respect. In no sense of the term were their operations of a military character. They did no injury to the road, mails, express or wires, but merely robbed the passengers.

The parties who committed this robbery are sons of some of the chivalry and rebel sympathizing Baltimoreans. Beside Baltimore-born robbers, there were engaged some of the sons of the wealthy and heretofore respectable residents of Jefferson and Berkley Counties, Va. It is said that there were in the party the sons of Marylanders and distinguished gentlemen living in and in the neighborhood of Cumberland.

"Workings of the Prohibitory Law."

An communication with the above title, and signed "License" appears in the *Times* of Wednesday morning. It admits that for the first few years after the prohibitory law was enacted, "a less quantity of liquor was sold, and there was less intoxication than before." But gradually a change came on. It says:

"The town agents became more liberal, and the quantity sold increased and intoxication followed, until now, in this place, the annual sales amount to $12,000, at an average profit of 50 per cent. Occasionally the ultras flare up, lecture the agent, and for a season he hauls in his horns and 'corks up;' but when the watch is called off their guard, the corks are again drawn and pop goes the liquor again."

We do not know about the figures given; but that there has been a large increase of sales, and a laxness on the part of Town Agents, here and elsewhere, which ought not to have been, is beyond all doubt. We suppose by "*ultras*" the writer means those who wish to have the law administered strictly and fairly, according to its plain purport. The natural remedy for all this delinquency is obvious enough, *viz.*: to elect officers, from the commissioner down, who will be earnest, faithful and watchful, and let all the lovers of good order and sobriety in the community *insist* upon it (not once in a year—but at all times) that the law be regarded as it ought to be, and that wilful infractions of it shall be punished. If this were done, intemperance, with the host of private and public woes in its train, would no longer increase; but rapidly diminish.

The opinion of the article to which we refer, as to the best way of maintaining a town agency,—that is, by paying a salary, say of $100 to some one who would connect the agency with his other business and be restricted to selling at mere cost of liquor and charges—may or may not be sound. We do not need to discuss that question. But the oddity of the thing is that while the writer says that would result in a great diminution of sales—"would test the law and ought to satisfy all concerned, especially the law abiding citizens"—he adds "this course of executing the law to the letter would be most likely to cause its repeal and a license law to be enacted in its stead." Can any mortal see how that should follow—unless it be the case that those who wish to sell liquor to make money and those who wish to buy liquor to drink, out-number those who wish to have both the sale and the use restricted?

The *argument* of the article in the *Times* is of a piece with the *conduct* of those who propose to get up an opposition ticket for County Commissioner, and for Town Officers in this town, just to show, as they say, that they are in favor of a license system, and eager to have the prohibitory law repealed, though they profess to expect their candidates, if elected, to be faithful in carrying out the provisions of the law, as it now is. Both are absurd.

It is possible that a few real friends of temperance, from some confusion of mind, will be caught in such a snare; but the great body of the community will not be. It will be understood, clearly enough, that the active ones in this movement will be those who have been steady violators of the law as far as they dared; those who are anxious for a license system because they hope under it to make money by the sale of liquor to all who can be allured to buy; those, old and young, who are already on the high road to ruin and do not wish any obstacles to be put in their way; and those thoughtless ones, mostly young, who wish to enjoy the hilarity which attends the frequenters of the bar and the social gathering around the bottle—as giddy flies like to hover around the flame by which they are sure in the end to be destroyed.

The *Times* of Saturday morning says:

That our neighbor of the prohibition press may not again mislead its readers into the belief that the TIMES is opposed to the re-election of Mr. Huntington as First Constable, we again declare that this journal from proprietor to "devil," favor that estimable gentleman's re-election. Unlike our friends of the "League," we do not oppose a competent man's election to a town office, because he does not agree with us. We might also state that we have no knowledge that the body of the opponents of the prohibitory law in Burlington have any intention to "bolt" Mr. Huntington.

We have not misled our readers into any belief about the *Times*. We have not said or intimated that the *Times* was opposed to Mr. Huntington's re-election. We only said we presumed those who meant to oppose Mr. Huntington's re-election because he was not for substituting a license system for the prohibitory one, were of those whom the *Times* called "independent citizens."

The *Times* is quite right to make so explicit an avowal that it intends to support Mr. Huntington's re-election. We hope all the "independent citizens," to whom the *Times* refers, will conclude to do the same.

THE MEETING OF THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE at the Baptist Church Friday eve'g, was fully attended. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Roberts. Henry Rolfe gave a few statistics, saying that from inquiry made during the past week he believed that there was now spent for liquor in Burlington yearly $75,000, and the value of the time lost thereby and other incidental losses to put at as much more. Yet some said the matter of liquor selling ought not to interest the public!

Rev. Mr. Webster of Bristol was called for and made some interesting remarks on the general subject of Temperance and the duties of community. Rev. Mr. Safford of Burlington followed saying that the friends of "a stringent license system" objected to the Prohibitory Law as too coercive. There were some when the rebellion broke out, vehemently opposed to coercing the rebels into submission; the nation now calls them copperheads.

Judge Bennett, prefacing them with a few remarks, introduced the following resolutions.

Resolved, That, though we, by the third article in our Constitution, "stand pledged to act, *as individuals* and in *concert* in the public agitation of the subject of Temperance, and in securing the enforcement of the Prohibitory Law;" yet we repudiate the idea that this association was formed for any other purpose than the laudable one of trying to relieve this community from the alarming evils of Intemperance.

Resolved, That in all *moral movements*, union is *strength*; and hence the formation of this society; that we may bring into the field a *united moral action*, in staying the torrent of this mighty evil.

Resolved, That while we, *as individuals*, feel deeply the importance of electing men to office, in State and in Town, who are tried men, and who will, in our opinion, best promote the public good: yet we will at all times confine the action of this association to the legitimate object of its formation, to wit: *the public agitation of the subject of Temperance and the securing of the enforcement of the Prohibitory Law.*

Mr. Rolfe said that the subject of nominating a ticket for election at Town Meeting had never come up at any meeting of the League, or of its executive committee.

Rev. N. P. Foster congratulated the League upon having hold of the right end of the poker; for such an opposition showed that there was effective work being accomplished by the Temperance agitation. Referring to the License system, he showed what a comfort it must be to everybody, when the drunkard was made such "according to law!" He also showed the superior right of public good over any alleged natural right of the individual.

Prof. M. H. Buckham said the issue was now distinctly made and no man can now be silent.

He proceeded to show the deceptiveness of the phrase "a well restricted license system," the only restriction in effect being that but two or three men shall sell all the liquor and thus take for themselves the money spent in a hundred rum-holes.

Mr. Roberts after relating an occurrence showing the effect already of the movement among the citizens in favor of temperance, called on Mr. Huntington, who said it was a mistake to suppose the Laws would not be enforced, by any officer elected under them, if the people *willed* their enforcement. He was glad the question was at last settled that Huntington was a temperance man, and was also glad that those who opposed intended to do it openly. It was very apparent what the friends of a License System intended to do, namely: defeat Mr. Whitney's election as Commissioner, and it was for the friends of the Prohibitory Law to say whether it should be done. He mentioned a case which had come to his knowledge lately where a drunkard had obtained liquor from six persons, part of whom he knew to have been at the meeting of the "friends of Temperance" who had sent their delegate to him for his views. As to the enforcement of the Prohibitory law, some were afraid to inform of violations of it, for fear of injury done to themselves in consequence; a point wherein they greatly mistook. Rumsellers were not different from other men and no more likely to take revenge by injuring persons or property than others.

The resolutions were again read and adopted, after which the meeting adjourned.

The *Times* and the *Sentinel* have the following call at the head of their respective columns.

County Convention.

The Freemen of Chittenden County in favor of Temperance, the abrogation of the present prohibitory law and the adoption of a stringent license law are requested to meet in convention at the Town Hall, in Burlington, on Saturday, the 20th day of February, 1864, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of nominating a County Commissioner.

The *Times* especially goes in strong for the convention, to nominate a commissioner who accords in sentiment with those who are invited to assemble under the call. Of course they will expect their candidate, if they nominate one, to give his influence, as far as he dares, *against* the law under which he holds office.

On the 1st the first Constable of the Town of Burlington, Mr. Samuel Huntington, received a call from Mr. L. S. Drew of the American Hotel, to ascertain his views on the prohibitory law. He said in substance that a meeting of sundry persons had been held at the American Hotel and a ticket for town officers agreed upon, except constable; that if he, Mr. Huntington, would favor an alteration of the law so as to introduce a license system they were ready to support him for first constable, otherwise they should take up a candidate who would. He assured Mr. Huntington that there was no personal hostility to him, nor objection on any other account,—that the whole matter turned on his views as to the prohibitory law. Mr. Huntington assured Mr. D. in the most emphatic manner that he went for the rigid enforcement of the law, without fear or favor, and not for any change of it for a license system. Who personally composed the gathering spoken of by Mr. Drew, we do not know—we presume they were some of those whom the *Times* speaks of as "independent citizens" who are altogether opposed to having the subject of temperance "dragged into politics," not willing "to have their town officers dictated by any clique or association," as the *Times* says. We notice that the *Times* of the 12th expressly advocates a convention of those who are opposed to the law and in favor of having it changed for a license system, to nominate a commissioner "representing their views."

A BOOK NOTICE AS IS.—The Brooklyn *Union* comments thus upon a "sensation" novel:

The remainder of the book is wholly and hopelessly bad. The grammar is outrageous, the descriptions are false, the rhetoric is absurd, the plot is impossible, the characters are contemptibly crude, and the spirit of the book is so lacking in sincerity and fidelity that it is simply wicked.

A German who had fifty dollars in gold in a drawer in his work bench in Colt's Armory, had to leave it there at the breaking out of the late fire. On digging in the debris on the spot where the bench stood, the gold was found, last week, melted into one gnugget.

Vermont Items.

The population of the village of Rutland is 3,654, not including those in the army.

In the Baptist Society at Windsor, the owners of pews are giving them to the Society for its benefit, which hereafter are to be rented for that purpose.

A National Bank is to be established at Fairhaven, Vt., capital $100,000.

A Hook and Ladder Company was organized in Rutland last week. H. C. Landon, foreman.

F. H. Deane, of Cornwall, sold last week a lamb to James Pittsford, of Ohio, for $1,000.

The town of Woodstock offers $300 bounty for all recruits for regiments, to fill the quota of that town under the last call for 500,000.

The new barracks and hospital going up at Montpelier are designed for soldiers of the invalid corps.

The St. Albans *Messenger* says Gov. Smith has gone to visit the Army of the Potomac.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—The St. Albans *Messenger* of Tuesday says: This morning a freight train on the Vt. C. R. R. ran off the track about one mile North of Colchester, resulting in the death of Mr. Charles Rock, the Conductor. When found, he was under one of the cars, his neck broke and his head badly smashed.

U. V. M.—The regular studies of the Spring term in the University will commence on Thursday of next week, the 25th inst. As the continued illness of Dr. Torrey renders it necessary to make temporary provision for his classes, Rev. Mr. Worcester will take charge of the department of Moral Philosophy during the coming term.

A Card.

SWANTON, VT., Feb. 15th, 1864.

Messrs. Editors:

I beg leave, through your paper, to acknowledge my grateful appreciation of the strong sympathy expressed, and encouragement given, by the presence of a large number of friends, at a recent parish visit.

My hearty thanks are also due, and are hereby returned, to these kind friends, for a hundred dollars, put into my hands on the same occasion, as a token of their continued confidence and esteem.

That the richest blessings of Heaven may rest on each of the generous donors, is the fervent hope and prayer of

Their grateful Pastor,
J. B. PERRY.

We find in the *Vermont Chronicle* an official report of the late special meeting of the Vermont Historical Society. We condense from it the following, which was not included in the notices which we gave of the meeting soon after it was held:

The following persons were admitted to resident membership: John A. Conant, Edward H. Sheldon, David W. Prime, Chauncey W. Conant, Hiram Roberts, Julius E. Higgins, Lorenzo Bixby, Rev. Cornelius A. Thomas, D. D., Rev. William J. Harris, Rev. J. Newton Fairbanks, Rev. William Ford, all of Brandon; Hiram A. Cutting, Lunenburg; Rev. Andrew Oliver, Bellows Falls; Rev. C. R. Batchelder, Manchester; Rev. John W. Chickering, Jr., Springfield; John J. Dewitt, Esq., St. Albans; Henry W. Lester, Esq., Rutland; Hon. William M. Pingry, Perkinsville; Dr. N. H. Knowles, Lincoln; D. Gilbert Dexter, Esq., Wilmington; Rev. Gemont Graves, Northfield; Hon. William C. Kittridge, Fairhaven.

For Corresponding Secretaries.—Col. Andrew Warner, New York City; Col. Roby G. Stone, Plattsburgh, N. Y.; Dr. Edward Jarvis, Dorchester, Mass.; Rev. Edward Ballard, Brunswick, Me.; George M. Dexter and Charles F. Dana, Boston; Edwin W. Stoughton, New York City; Rev. William S. Perry, Newton, Mass.

Honorary Members: Hon. Isaac F. Redfield, Boston; Hon. William M. Evarts, New York.

A Committee, consisting of Messrs. Edward J. Phelps of Burlington, Henry Hall of Rutland, and Geo. F. Houghton of St. Albans, was appointed to revise the papers left for the Society by the late Hon. Charles Linsley, and present them at the next meeting of the Society at St. Johnsbury, in June 1864.

On motions the Hon. Stephen Royce, of East Berkshire was requested to prepare a paper embracing his Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Vt.—The Hon. I. F. Redfield, of Boston, to prepare and read before the Society his reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Vermont.—Prof. William H. Parker, of Middlebury, to prepare a memoir of the late Hon. James Meacham—Hon. Asa Owen Aldis of St. Albans, to prepare a biography of the Hon. Samuel S. Phelps.—Rev. John B. Perry of Swanton, to prepare a biographical sketch of the late Ex-Governor Eaton.—Rev. Pliny H. White of Coventry, to prepare biographical notices of the Historians of Vermont, and to add thereto a complete list of the newspapers printed in Vermont—The Hon. Norman Williams of Woodstock, to prepare a biographical sketch of the late Hon. Titus Hutchinson; the Hon. Carlos Coolidge to prepare a biographical sketch of the late Hon. Jonathan H. Hubbard of Windsor.—Doctor John L. Chandler of St. Albans, prepare a paper comprising his Reminiscences of the most noted of the pioneer Surgeons and Physicians of Vermont.—And that the Hon. Jacob Collamer be requested to prepare a memoir of the Hon. Charles K. Williams of Rutland.

Sundry donations of papers and books were made to the Society; the usual votes of thanks to donors, to the citizens of Brandon for their hospitality and courtesy, and to the Railroad corporators for free return tickets, were passed.

The President announced that the next Special Meeting of the Society would be held at St. Johnsbury in the month of June, 1864.

REMARKABLE WEATHER.—Sunday night was very cold, so was Monday, and from appearances on the lake all looked to see the lake firmly frozen over next morning. But soon after night fall, the wind set in from the South and next morning showed the broad lake again clear of ice save in the bays. During the day the wind has again been from the North with slight snow-squall.

Thermometer Wednesday morning at 7 A. M. 12° below zero, with a strong northwest wind, and at 1 P. M. 6° below zero.

NAVIGATION CLOSED.—The steamboat Boston went into the harbor Monday mor'g, and unless a sudden change of weather occurs to drive the ice out of the Broad Lake, navigation is closed for the season. Last year the Boston made her last trip Jan. 22d.

NOTICE PAGE'S ADVERTISEMENT.—It is pleasant to think that he is again in business among us, and it will be undoubtedly profitable, both for him and the public too.

BOY SOLDIERS.—A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, writing from Blain's Cross Roads, Tenn., says:

Across a little creek is a place they called Shieldstown. The spirit of war is among the boys, six, eight and ten years old, and the fight raged fiercely between the Shieldstowners and Knoxvillers. They used slings and minie balls, which they used with great dexterity. They had campfires built along in a line. Every morning each party appeared on its own side of the stream, drawn up in array. Ammunition was distributed out of a bag, 15 rounds to the man, and they commenced. Old soldiers of the 9th Corps, who have been through many a storm of shot and shell, kept at a respectable distance, as they hurled their minies with vigor. One day the Shieldstowners made a charge at the single plank that crossed the stream, the Knoxvillers ran, all

Thirty-Eighth Congress—First Session.

SENATE, Feb. 15th.—The resolutions of thanks to Gen. W. T. Sherman and the officers and men of the Army of the Cumberland was passed.

A report from the Secretary of War was received in answer to a resolution relative to officers' commutation, quarters and fuel. It shows that there are 387 officers here drawing such commutation, viz.: 9 Major Generals, 18 brigadier Generals, 34 Colonels 18 Lieut. Colonels, 24 Majors, 126 Captains, 43 Lieutenants, 24 Surgeons, 12 Assistant Surgeons, and 78 Paymasters.

Mr. Howe presented a memorial from the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, representing that within a few months more than twenty-five million dollars worth of metals have been mined and are waiting egress, and asking aid for the construction of a wagon road with military protection through Central Minnesota. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill equalizing the pay of U. S. soldiers.

Mr. Wilson moved to strike out the clause in the bill of the Committee, giving the colored troops the same pay, etc., except bounty, during the whole time they have been in the service, and insert, "after the 1st day of Jan. 1864," which after considerable debate, was adopted. Sundry amendments were offered and rejected.

Mr. Cowan offered a substitute for the bill as amended, that from and after the passage of this act all soldiers of the United States of the same arm of the service, shall receive like compensation. Mr. Cowan supported his amendment at some length, claiming that the negro must be regarded as a citizen under the Constitution, as he received the protection of the laws.

Pending the question on Mr. Cowan's proposition, the Senate adjourned.

SENATE.—Feb. 15.—A bill was introduced and referred to the military committee providing for rank and pay of chaplains in the army, to be the same as Major of infantry and defining his duties.

The bill granting a pension to John L. Burns for patriotic services at Gettysburg was passed.

The bill for the enrollment of the national forces with house amendments was taken up.

The Senate refused to recede from its provisions by a decided vote, and the bill goes back to the House.

The deficiency bill was then called up but no important amendments to it were offered. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Stevens from the committee of ways means reported a bill authorizing the appointment of an assistant Register of the Treasury; also a bill extending the time for the withdrawal of goods for the public stores and warehouses.

Mr. Stevens also reported a bill from the select committee on the Pacific Railroad granting public lands to the People's Pacific R. R. and Telegraph Co., by the northern route.

Mr. Wallace, delegate from Idaho Territory, introduced a bill, to establish a mint in that Territory.

Mr. Arnold of Ill. offered a resolution declaring that the constitution shall be so amended as to abolish and prohibit slavery wherever it exists in the nation.

Mr. Arnold's resolution was adopted, yeas 78 nays 62.

The House then took up the Senate's amendments to the Internal Revenue bill.

Mr. Stevens moved a concurrence in the Senate's amendments, which he said was a better revenue measure than the bill as it passed the House.

Mr. Fernando Wood replied, maintaining the justice of taxing the spirits now on hand.

The debate on the distillery tax lasted until adjournment.

DRUNKEN SENATORS.—It would be really amusing, if it were not thoroughly disgusting, to witness the drunken vagaries of Senator Richardson of Illinois, as he reels about from place to place in the capitol building; drunk at morning, drunk at noon, and drunk at night; drunk in his seat, and drunk out of his seat; drunk at assembling and drunk at adjournment. As he passes the street corners, the little boys point their fingers at his bloated features and mock his unsteady gait. It is sad, indeed to look at him rolling, rather than walking to the Senate chamber, and to think that he should have a voice in the enactment of laws to govern a great nation. Citizens of the United States ought to take pride enough in the highest legislative body in the land, to see that worthless drunkards are excluded from it, and when one gets in occasionally, the press ought to write him out, or if that will not do, the people ought to kick him out.—McDougal of California, and Richardson of Illinois, are the only habitual drunkards of the Senate. McDougal is harmless in his cups. He goes out horseback riding, falls into the gutter, and the small boys rally round him, and have a little fun at his expense. He seldom troubles the Senate chamber with his presence. Richardson, however, is disgusting in his bacchanalian revelries—always obtrudes himself upon the Senate when scarcely able to stand erect—always unfortunately for himself and for his State, in his seat, to be pointed at from the galleries, and to have his name given in reply to the oft-repeated question, "Who is that drunken fellow over there?"—*Wash. Cor. Cincinnati Commercial.*

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—On the 9th instant a terrible accident took place at the bridge over Credit river, on the Grand Trunk Railroad. The bridge is one hundred and twenty-five feet from the surface of the river. In the morning—as the Toronto *Globe* says—as a freight train from Sarnia was approaching this bridge, it was noticed by those on the train that an axletree of one of the rear cars was broken. The engine driver, on being notified of the fact, at once whistled 'brakes down,' but owing to the ice on the track and the train being on the down grade, the train could not be stopped as quick as under ordinary circumstances. At the time the defect in the axletree was discovered, the train was within about two hundred yards of the bridge and going at the ordinary rate of speed. The persons on the train did all in their power to stop it. All their efforts, however, were unavailing, as the train still kept moving, and in a few moments entered on the bridge. The engine and the tender and a number of cars passed onward in safety, but just as the last two cars came upon the bridge the coupling of the forward one broke. In these cars were the conductor of the train and two brakemen. Immediately on the parting of the train the last two cars ran off the track, dashed through the side rail of the bridge, took an awful leap into the air and fell, with a fearful crash, into the river beneath—a distance of one hundred and twenty-five feet. They were, of course, smashed to atoms, and the three unfortunate men were mangled in such a horrible manner as to be scarcely distinguished as human beings. Their arms, bodies, heads and legs were cut, smashed and crushed into one sickening, awful mass of creeping, jellied flesh and bones. The head of the unfortunate conductor was, at first, nowhere to be found, but after searching awhile among the ruins, pieces of skull, face and brain, all that now remained of it, were picked up and gathered together. There can be no doubt that the accident resulted from the axletree, as all that portion of the train before the broken car passed safely over the bridge.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF CHARLESTON.—Jeff. Davis sheds crocodile tears over the "cruel fate of women and children in Charleston exposed to murderous fires." Yet it is only six years ago—it was on the 11th of February, 1858—that the present Arch-Rebel, then a Senator from Mississippi, in defending Gen Harney from a charge of having had Indian women shot down, said:

"As to the killing of women and children, that is the result of all combats where they are together. A city was never bombarded in which women and children were not killed. In the memorable bombardment of Vera Cruz, the troops being generally under the wall, the non-combatants, the women and children, were the principal sufferers; but that was not the fault of the army. They had an end to achieve, and were to achieve it by such means as were within reach. They did not wish to kill the women and children, but they could not avoid it. It is true of all battles when towns are besieged. It is impossible that it should be otherwise. Surely the Senator does not mean to do injustice, and make an accusation, especially at this moment, against our own army, when the result belongs to the nature of the case."

Surely what was true in 1858 is true in 1863. The Union forces before Charleston have an end to achieve, and are to achieve it by such means as are within reach.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.—The Senate military committee voted Monday morning to non-concur in the House enrollment bill. This will send the bill back to the House for a committee of conference.

The Supreme Court of the United States on Monday refused the application for a writ of *certiorari* in the case of Mr. Vallandigham, on the ground of want of jurisdiction.

The President's recent call for 500,000 men is intended to include the last draft and to clear up arrearages.

The Senate's special committee on slavery have decided to report a bill legalizing the President's emancipation proclamation.

The Senate manifests a disposition to reduce the general expenditures by discussing the best way to reform its contingent expenses.

The Committee on ways and means of the House have just reported a bill to sell $12,000,000 of gold. Mr. Chase says he will have even more than this much to spare on the 30th of June 1864,—the close of the fiscal year.

An immense 20-inch-bore Rodman gun was cast at Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 11th. It will carry a solid shot of 1,000 pounds or a shell of 750 pounds. Report says it is to be mounted on one of the forts in New York harbor.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Feb. 8.]

It is reliably estimated that during the past week over 100 Jews, principals or substitutes and others, have come on to Richmond from the South, put up at the hotels, and disappeared by the various underground routes to the North. How they go is known only to themselves and their agents; but it is true they have gone and are still going. Ten Jews left one of the principal hotels on Sunday morning. They are mostly of the wealthy class, and ten thousand dollars is frequently tendered for a safe passage to the Potomac. It is intimated that persons in the guise of farmers are their most successful accomplices. They come to Richmond with marketing or a load of forage, and carry out a load of blockade-runners concealed in their vehicles, making a more profitable speculation on their outward than their inward trip, as all pay—and pay heavily, too.

Numbers have been overhauled on their journey through the lines by the detectives, and are now resting in Castle Thunder, but more have succeeded in escaping.

A 200-pounder Parott shell exploded last week in Charleston in the blacksmith's shop connected with one of the foundries, wounding six of the boys employed in the shop—one mortally, one seriously and four slightly. The alarm bell in the steeple of the First Station partook of the general alarm on Sunday, and rang itself hoarse, cracking its throat in the attempt to call out the militia. Its tongue could hardly articulate a sound yesterday, and the bell will be of little future service in ringing the hours or sounding fire "alarms." "So much for over-exertion."

[From the Wilmington (N. C.) Journal.]

Gradually the constant dropping of the enemy's shot and shell *is beginning to tell upon the lower portion of the city of Charleston*. Their chief spite, from what we can learn, appears to have been turned against Broad street; at least its effects are most apparent in that vicinity. The street is considerably encumbered with bricks and other debris knocked out by the enemy's projectiles. *It will take much time and money to repair the damage.*

ESCAPE OF FEDERAL PRISONERS FROM RICHMOND.—A Richmond paper of the 11th, found on the person of a deserter who came into our lines, states that 109 officers have escaped from Libby Prison by digging a tunnel under the street for that purpose. It is supposed that the prisoners had been engaged upon the work for at least a month. They were missed at roll-call, and forthwith troops were dispatched in various directions to capture them. Four were overtaken on the Williamsburg and Hanover Courthouse road. The others, it is suspected, were secreted in the neighborhood of Richmond. The guards were arrested on the belief that they were in collusion with the prisoners, but were afterwards released, the subterranean mode of escape having become known. The paper says that Neal Dow was not among the runaways, but was probably waiting to accompany the next batch.

A JOKE WHICH HAD A SERIOUS TERMINATION.—Some silly young men think it is "a capital joke" to publish the marriage of two parties who perhaps have no idea of uniting their future lives. Often this is "done for fun," sometimes maliciously. Every newspaper is liable to be imposed upon in this way, in spite of all precaution. It is well for those who are thus disposed to perpetrate a senseless joke to know that the newspapers and the public have some protection in the law. A few days since a fraudulent marriage notice was sent to the *Boston Journal* and the *Taunton Gazette*. The matter was placed in the hands of Deputy Sheriff Thayer of Taunton for investigation, who traced the fraud to Samuel W. Day of Mansfield. Day was arraigned before the Police Court in Taunton on Saturday, and pleaded guilty to the charge. The case was continued for two weeks, at the request of the defendant, for sentence. This case should be a warning to others who are tempted by exuberant silliness to violate the law, as well as the personal rights of others.

Boston Journal.

A meeting of loyal citizens was held in Memphis on the 10th, to consider the propriety of calling a convention of the people of West Tennessee for the purpose of promoting joint action in the re-establishment of a State government.

FIRES.—A fire in Earl's Hotel, corner Centre and Canal street, New York Tuesday, caused great panic among the boarders, and damaged the house about $5,000. Insured.

The Onondaga County Penitentiary at Syracuse, took fire at noon Thursday, in the workshop which is entirely consumed and the main building about gone. Loss, $35,000 to $40,000, upon which there is a small insurance. The prisoners were all taken to the Court House.

The Montreal *Witness* asks for a scientific explanation of the fact that this has been the mildest winter ever known in Lower Canada, and the severest, perhaps, ever known in the western States, and even as far south as St. Louis and Washington.

The stables of the White House at Washington were burned Tuesday evening, with 5 horses. The carriages were saved. It was nearly an hour before any engines got to work on the flames, by which time the building and contents were destroyed.

CURIOUS. A Memphis dispatch to the Chicago *Tribune* says that, on the 6th inst. Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, through his agent, paid his United States tax on property in that city, amounting to over one hundred dollars. This clearly indicates that, even if he has faith in the establishment of a Southern Confederacy, he has no hope that Tennessee will constitute a portion thereof.

Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner regularly pays the assessment on his real estate in Chicago.

Colenso, Bishop of Natal, has been deposed from his office, and prohibited from ministering in any part of the province of Cape Town, unless he retracts his heresies before the 16th of April.

Persons from Idaho Territory state that at this time no less than fifteen millions of dollars' worth of gold, in dust and nuggets, is in the hands of miners, traders and others at Bannock and Virginia City, awaiting shipment.

The camels imported for the government six years ago, and since then kept near the Tejon reservation on the plains, have increased from fifteen to thirty-seven. They are now removed to Benicia, California.

News of the War.

The reports from rebel papers of a fight near Clinton, Miss., on the 4th inst., are confirmed by officers just from that point.

Our troops charged the rebel battery and lost 15 killed and 30 wounded. Among the wounded is Col. Rogers of Ill. The enemy were driven off and our forces proceeded toward Jackson.

Gen. Sherman's headquarters are reported to have been at Jackson, on the 7th. He has since been heard of Brandon.

Gen. W. L. Smith's cavalry left Memphis on the 11th inst. in the direction of Collierville. The entire line of the Memphis & Charleston R. R. was evacuated by our forces on the 13th, it having been held six months merely to aid Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition to get a good start. Gen. Sherman considered that the holding and garrisoning of the road has been a source of weakness to us. He does not favor guarding railroads, unless they are of vital importance.

On the 13th Captain Madison of the 2nd Tenn. heavy artillery, (colored) was shot through the shoulder and severely wounded by a citizen a short distance below Columbus Ky. Six citizens of the vicinity were arrested and will be held as hostages for the man who did the shooting.

A dispatch from Admiral Lee, at Newport News, says: The Pequod has arrived and brings the report of the destruction of four blockade running steamers—the Hatfield on the 4th of Feb. by the Sassacus; the Dee on the 5th of Feb. by the Cambridge; the Emily and the Fannie and Jennie, by the Florida.

The following dated Chattanooga Feb. 12, is of interest:

Gen Logan left Hunteville, Ala., some days ago with the 15th army Corps, to act in conjunction with Gen. Sherman.

The cavalry expeditions under Gens. Grierson and Smith, crossed the country from Corinth, moving southwardly.

It is understood that these columns are intended to act in conjunction, the one to attack and the other to cut off Polk's retreat and disperse the cavalry of Forrest, reported as scouring Central and Northern Mississippi.

A great flank movement on Johnston's army is intended.

The army at Chattanooga at t is time is in motion for Tunnell Hill and Dalton. Its movements may have been delayed by circumstances unknown to us, but it is under marching orders.

A despatch from Fort Smith, Ark. Feb. 13th says:

Col. Phillips, commanding the expedition in Indian Territory, reports to Gen. Thayer that he has driven the enemy entirely out of that region, and that in several skirmishes he has killed nearly 100 rebels and captured one captain and twenty-five men.

Two Union officers, a captain and lieutenant, arrived at Fortress Monroe Sunday on the Yorktown mail boat, having effected their escape from Libby Prison.

The steamer S. R. Spaulding arrived this afternoon from Beaufort, N. C., with about 50 rebels who fell into our hands during the recent raid about Newbern.

All was quiet at Newbern when the steamer left.

In the Admiralty Court at Halifax, Feb. 15 Judge Stewart gave the final decision in the Chesapeake case. The vessel and cargo are restored to their original owners.

A Memphis dispatch of the 12th says that Gen. Smith's cavalry expedition camped last night at Holly Springs and will probably be next heard from through rebel sources.

A private letter, dated Vicksburg Feb. 8 from an eye-witness, says that Gen. McPherson's corps crossed the Big Black river 15 miles east of Vicksburg on the 7th. Gen. Hurlbut's corps took a parallel route from Vicksburg and crossed at Messenger Forks.—Each column was 14 miles long. The force sent up the Yazoo was to prevent a flank movement to cut off our trains. The ironclads will try to reach Grenada to co-operate with Smith's cavalry and drive Forrest's rebel command towards Canton, where Bishop Polk's conscripts are said to be fortified with cotton bales.

A Leavenworth dispatch says that advices from New Mexico to Jan. 31st, state that Col. Kit Karson has pursued the Navajo Indians, killing 23 and taking 156 prisoners. The expedition was very successful.

Gen. Blunt was preparing to leave F