

## Bayard's Last Speech.

We notice by Wednesday's papers that Mr. Bayard has made his final effort in the U. S. Senate, and declares therein his determination to resign. We consider this the best speech he ever made. Brava! say we, for Mr. Bayard! Farewell, a long farewell to his greatness. He reminds us of a large bank of snow melting away under the rays of a summer's sun; for as the rays of the Constitution continue to fall on him, in all their brilliancy, he finds he "can't stand the pressure" and therefore will retire.

## LOSS OF SLAVE LABOR.

The recruiting of slaves that is now going on in this County will, it is alleged, seriously injure the farming interests of Sussex. We can not believe that such will be the case. That a few may suffer inconvenience, it is true, but when these few are compared with the great body of farmers in our section of the State their number and their injury will become relatively very small, and when it is taken into consideration that slave labor is daily becoming less valuable and more insecure the damage "grows smaller and smaller, and beautifully less."

That any loss should occur we deplore, and hope that little as it may be the future will speedily remedy it. We do most confidently believe that the advantages to be gained by the industrial classes of our people, by the removal of slaves from our midst, will largely preponderate over any temporary evil that may for the time being incommode us.

The master who loses his slave will complainingly insist that because he has to hire a white man to work for him in place of his negro that here is a double loss. He sees in this new system of labor a bug-bear, which if he may not curse as abolitionism he will condemn as an innovation on the old time method, which he considers good enough for himself, if it was good enough for his father and grandfather. This opinion of the matter is the result of prejudice. In the first place, the profit that arises from slave labor is greatly exaggerated; the constant watchfulness which the master is compelled to exercise over his slaves makes him continually uneasy and unhappy, while the petty larcenies which the slave makes upon his master's property, largely diminish his gain; in the second place, the advantage of free compensated labor can not, when compared with the other, be too greatly estimated. He who works for money strikes a harder blow than the negro who works by compulsion; the farm hand who at the end of every month receives his wages, is more attentive to his employer's interest than the slave who only receives "hog and hominy," savored occasionally with curses and blows, while the satisfaction and contentment that settles around the farmer's home without his slaves, will more than compensate him for any adjacent temporary inconvenience. Besides why can not our farmers in Delaware work their farms without slave labor as well as the farmers of the free States. They can and will. Let this clog of slavery be removed, the influx of free labor follow its exit as speedily, it must; let this prejudice against a white man's working for his living be removed, and in less than five years our farming interests will be advanced to a higher grade, the amount and number of products will be increased, and some of our farmers, instead of waiting their time in complaining and cursing the abolitionists, will rejoice that their slaves are gone, and bless the republicans of this State for the stand they took in favor of making Delaware a free State.

## SIGHTS IN GEORGETOWN.

On Wednesday, of this week, we saw twenty-five negroes who had been slaves marching through the streets of this place under our flag and keeping step to the tap of the drum.

They had been bondsmen, they were then free; they had been chattels, they were then men; they had been slaves, they are now soldiers.

These negroes have been in our midst for several days as recruits, and notwithstanding the sudden change of their position and sudden removal of a life-time restraint from their conduct and action, they have not, that we are aware of, been guilty of any excesses. We trust that a new manhood has been infused into them, and that these bondsmen of old Sussex may yet so conduct themselves as to make even their late masters proud of them.

They have left their bondage and the curse and the blow behind them, and with an enthusiasm which even the Jeff. Davis Democracy of Sussex must admire, they were looking forward to a future which to them was more glorious than a month ago they ever dreamed of.

From infancy they had been trained to receive, without a murmur, the white man's scourge and to move with implicit obedience to the white man's command. Their whole life had been one of degradation. No hope of elevation was ever offered them, no prospect of an improved condition ever gladdened their hearts, until the

exigencies of this war offered them a musket and freedom. They made their choice between slavery on the one hand and the perils of the battle-field on the other. Is there anything to be wondered at in this? Grant, if you please, that all their masters were kind, yet they were masters and the negro was a slave. Nature has given to every human being, whatever his color or whatever his condition, an irrepressible longing after freedom. No man loves to be a slave or hugs with affection the shackles that bind him to his servitude. Even the very men who in Sussex county pretend yet to advocate slavery, will tell you if urged to the reply, that they can not blame the slave negro for insisting, and will stoutly avow that if they themselves were bondsmen in order to secure their freedom they would do likewise.

Many bloody battles of this rebellion are yet to be fought, and if the slave shall rise above the prejudice of the hour, and with a noble impulse and a daring heroism rescue his race from the charge of cowardice, in striking for the triumph of a free government over a slave aristocracy, we say God speed him on his mission and make him the avenging hand that will crush out this unprovoked and damnable rebellion.

## Local Affairs.

## General Agent for "The Union."

MR. ISAAC T. DEXTER has this day been appointed GENERAL ADVERTISING AND SUBSCRIPTION AGENT for "THE UNION." He will also collect all money due this office.

GEORGETOWN, DEL. J. P. MCGUIRE, Jan. 28, '64. Editor "The Union."

WE call attention to the letter of "Justice" from Milford, which relates to the continuation of the railroad to Georgetown.

MR. WILL "BLANCHE" send proper signature, as we recognize no communication without the true signature of the author.

ON the 13th inst., Joseph H. Lingo, a drafted man from Indian River Hundred, reported himself to Provost Burton, who took him to Wilmington. He passed the board, and upon paying \$300 was dismissed.

A RASH ACT.—Quite a stir was made among our sympathizing friends by the arrest of our townsmen, the Messrs. C. R. and John H. Paynter, late last Monday evening.

The circumstances leading to the arrest are well known here, and as their publication may tend to inform the public, and at the same time dispel any idea that the master has the least control over the slave subsequent to his enlistment, we lay before our readers the following statement:

The agent for the enlistment of colored troops within this State, recruited at this place on the 26th inst., several slaves, and among the number a boy named Louis, belonging to Mrs. Paynter. Previous to the enlistment of Louis, Mr. Hazard (the agent) informed Mr. C. R. Paynter that Louis had made application to be enlisted; Paynter told Hazard to wait half an hour and he would see him again, at the end of which time, Paynter said that his mother had no objection to the boy's enlistment; he was accordingly sworn in. After their enlistment most of the recruits were forbidden by their former owners to return to their premises, and were therefore subsisted by the agent, Louis with the rest. Thus matters remained until Monday, when, during the absence of Mr. Hazard, Mr. Caleb R. Paynter concluded to compel Louis to return to his former service. He accordingly approached the boy and ordered him from the rendezvous, compelling him at the same time to obey by repeated threats of violence, going so far even as to present a pistol at the boy's head. He conducted him to the stables, and ordered him to curry off his horse, using many terms of reproach because of Louis' enlistment. After the boy had finished his work he was severely beaten by Caleb, and on escaping from the stable was met by J. H. Paynter, who also flogged him.

The boy escaped and returned to the rendezvous, and on the return of Hazard, an affidavit setting forth the facts in the case was filed, and the consequent arrest was made by order of the Provost Marshal himself, who happened to be at the time in town.

After a hearing, the parties were released by their giving bond to appear before the Military Commandant, General Tyler, at his headquarters, within 48 hours after notice.

The course taken by the authorities in this affair is, in our opinion, both just to the Government and honorable to themselves; for whilst the offence was a grave one, and no doubt merited much more severe punishment, yet the determination of the authorities to defend all who shall place themselves under the protecting wings of the American flag, in their rights and privileges, is thus fully shown.

Should such an outrage upon the personal rights of these persons be permitted, no such thing as rapid enlistments from this class of men, in our midst, could be secured. For if one may restrain his former servant of his privileges upon the existing system of recruiting, even for an hour, so may another, and thus the entire order for their enlistments be rendered of no effect.

We are assured that every loyal citizen will approve of the course adopted by our worthy Provost Marshal, Colonel Wilmer, and we believe that it will also be acquiesced in by every intelligent Democrat, as they know that the continued enlistment of colored men will save to them, as well as to others, the severities of another draft.

The First Delaware Cavalry.—We are informed that Governor Cannon has received authority from the War Department, to increase the 1st Delaware Cavalry by the addition of another battalion. The Governor has appointed Col. John W. Andrews, to command, and Captain Yardley, as Major. Col. Andrews is an excellent officer, and has seen considerable service during the existence of the present rebellion as Colonel of the gallant

First Delaware. He participated in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and displayed all the marked abilities which pre-eminently fit him for the position for which he has been selected. Captain Yardley also connected with the First Delaware, and shared with it in the glories and hardships of several well contested battles. He is well fitted for the station of Major, and will make a good officer. Recruiting offices have been opened in this city, and other parts of the State, and we would advise young men who wish to enlist under the banner of their country to do so immediately and join this excellent corps. If you would get clear of a draft in our State, you must act promptly, as but a short time will elapse before an order will come to make it, unless our quota is filled by volunteers. In most of the other loyal States, the citizens are responding nobly to the call for volunteers, and we hope the patriotic sons of the Diamond State will remember the gallant deeds of their Revolutionary ancestors, and enroll their names at once. Those men who have served in either the Fifth or Sixth Delaware, who may re-enlist in this Cavalry will receive the bounty of \$402, as Veteran Volunteers. These brave men, when a hostile foe threatened our State, nobly left their fields and workshops, put their armor on and went forth to battle in their country's service, and we anticipate that a goodly number will join the First Delaware Cavalry, and strike a final and decisive blow at treason and traitors. Enroll your names immediately.—*Journal.*

Men in Sussex county who are desirous of joining this battalion, can now do so, as R. B. Day, late of the 6th Del. Vols., is recruiting a company for it—rendezvous, Georgetown.

Negro Troops.—Mr. Stephen T. Hazard, who is recruiting negroes in this vicinity, has succeeded in getting about 30 sworn in and taken up the road. Persons desirous of having the quota filled should see that all the able-bodied negroes, both free and slave, are recruited, and thus save the necessity of a draft.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES, for Coughs, Colds, Pulmonary and Asthmatic Disorders, have proved their efficacy by a test of many years, and have received testimonials from eminent men who have used them.

Godley's Lady Book.—This popular lady's magazine is again before us, and is as usual, filled with all that could be desired by the ladies of the present generation. The frontispiece is a splendid design, entitled "Young Love's Dream," and also the steel engraving, "St. Valentine's Day." This book cannot be too highly spoken of. Subscription price is but \$3.

Peterson's Magazine is again on our table. We find it filled with varied and choice articles. The engraving is "Baby's Turn." The February number of this magazine contains thirty-four articles, and sixty-nine illustrations. Terms per year are \$2.

The Gardener's Monthly.—This is the farmer's true friend, and all who have any desire to improve their land or their mode of farming, should be a subscriber to this work. Terms are but 1.50 per year. See advertisement in another column.

Farmer & Gardener.—This work is devoted to agriculture, horticulture, &c., edited and published by Wm. S. Young & Co. Terms \$1 per year; now is the time to begin subscriptions as the new volume has just commenced. See advertisement in another column.

The Portrait Monthly is with us. This is the eighth number of the work, and contains correct and beautifully engraved portraits of the most prominent persons of the day, together with a correct personal sketch of each. Published by T. B. Leggett & Co., 90 Beekman street, New York, at \$1 per annum.

Recruiting in Delaware.—A Company of the twenty-fifth United States Colored Troops, now at Camp Wm. Penn. has been ordered to Seaford, Delaware, to march from there to Wilmington, to recruit colored men to fill up the quota of the State. There are a great number of blacks, both slave and free, in the State who are anxious to join the service and help to place the old flag over the white Union and to make it a free Union. Many of the largest slaveholders in the State are much interested in the movement, and are giving their aid in the good work.—*Journal.*

Shooting Case.—On Wednesday evening last about five o'clock, a boy about 14 years of age named Francis Ready, shot another boy named Richard W. Crooks. The occurrence took place in the vicinity of Water and Lombard streets. The particulars of the case are as follows:—It appears that some four or five youths were out practising with pistols, Crooks got some short distance ahead of the others, when Ready raised his pistol, pointing it at Crooks, and fired, the ball taking effect in the leg of the latter, making a horrible, though not serious wound. The injured boy was conveyed to the residence of his parents, and medical aid called in. Capt. William Thatcher arrested the whole party, and handed them over to officer Legg, who committed them to the City Hall cells. They had a hearing before Mayor Turner, who held Ready to bail in the sum of \$400, to answer at the next term of Court. The other boys were held for the present. Ready alleges that the shooting was accidental.—*Journal.*

[Correspondence of The Union.]

## LETTER FROM MILFORD.

MILFORD, DEL., Jan. 18th, 1863. MR. EDITOR:—As your issue of the 15th inst. I see an editorial also a communication, in regard to the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, which is calculated to mislead or give a wrong impression as to the sentiments of the citizens of Milford and especially as to the present Board of Directors, in regard to the extension of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad. You speak of the particular interest which was manifested in the election of the present Board. I will agree with you as

to the interest so manifested, as many of the stockholders in this vicinity had learned, with utter astonishment, that certain directors had made a proposition to give the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, which had cost \$108,000, to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad or Delaware Road if they would pay the debt which was now standing against the Junction Road which is about \$18,000; and agree to run the Road as now run, as it was contended by the same parties that we could not run the Road if it was paid for; also the same parties, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, which agreed to take the Road, would not agree to make the Road to Georgetown; therefore not positively agreeing to benefit Georgetown, and really taking the stock away from the citizens of Milford, as Georgetown, and a part of the Road which cost \$85,000, and giving them nothing in return, which made the stockholders really give their stock away, and which we were not willing to do. We were willing to sacrifice a part of our stock, for finishing the Road to Georgetown, but was not willing to give our entire stock away, which was the proposition of some of our wise financiers, it is not their mode of doing business for themselves, therefore the citizens properly suspected that they had seen a new light and that there was some pay to certain parties who proposed to give away, that which they did not entirely own, and the people felt indignant at such conduct. These same parties who wished to give away the Road are not men who give away a dollar unless they have assurance of getting back principal with interest. I am sure that if the people of Sussex, as well as the citizens of Milford will bestir themselves they may be able to save the Road from a sale by the Sheriff, as predicted; and it is a libel upon the citizens of Milford to say they are opposed to the extension of this Road as they have tried every means and mode for to plan some way by which it may get extended, also to pay the present debt which was created by the same men who now wish to give the Road away, they have run the ship aground and though both to save wish still to stay aboard and sink the crew. We will admit that the Road finances are in a bad state, which we are in hopes that the present board will show plainly to the stockholders the exact amount of its liabilities, &c. I feel assured there are no set of men in Kent or Sussex who will strive harder to extend the Road than the present Board of Directors, and as to the plan of the sale of the Road, as spoken of, this idea was gotten up by certain parties here to prejudice the citizens of Georgetown against certain gentlemen of Milford, to satisfy a corrupt and malicious feeling, and to secure places which they considered honorable.

In regard to the change in the Board of Directors, there have been changes at every election I believe since the first, equal to the present. The change which was made at the last election was also entirely compulsory, as Mr. Campbell, who was elected, was elected stock away, also Hon. Judge Houston and Jesse Sharp, Esq., who were all Directors for the last year, (and could not of course be Directors having no stock), therefore there were no persons turned out of the Board except Mr. Fiddeman and Curry. The two last gentlemen were the only ones turned out, therefore you will see it was a necessary change except the two last named which for reasons the stockholders saw fit to leave out of the board for the present. Therefore there is no great wrong done to these gentlemen, as they have served the public for some time and without pay, and it was considered that they should be relieved. Your correspondent says at the meeting the opinion prevailed that the stockholders must sacrifice their stock. I differ with you, some may think so, but I with many do not. I feel somewhat like Moses when the Red Sea was on the one side and Pharaoh on the other, he said "stand still," I say exert yourselves and see what can be done, "Never give up the ship," is the watchword. Let us try once more our Legislature, there are many warm hearts in that body toward old Sussex, and I think they will do her justice and save our cherished hopes and you will yet see the iron horse snorting and blowing and making old Sussex ring with his hoarse neigh. Go to the Legislature and tell them your situation, go like the impotent widow to the unjust Judge, and it is likely they will give you something to get clear of your importunities. The cause is just and should be maintained, and my word for it, you will find Milford with every director here doing all they can to help the extension of the Junction and Breakwater Railroad. JUSTICE.

## THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

## First Session.

In the U. S. Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Brown presented a memorial of sixty-three members of the Missouri General Assembly protesting against the confirmation of Gen. Schofield as Major General. Mr. Wilson, of the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the establishment of a uniform ambulance system. The Chamber of Commerce of Milwaukee petitioned for a modification of the Reciprocity treaty. On motion of Mr. Sumner the President was requested to furnish all the information in his possession in regard to the recent conflagration in Santaago. The resolution providing for a Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was passed. The resolution requiring Senators to take a prescribed oath was taken up and discussed at great length. The Senate adjourned without finally voting on the resolution.

## The House of Representatives referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs a bill introduced by Mr. Schenck to equalize the grade of lieutenants in the navy. The bill amending the act of the confederation was discussed at some length, but no final action was taken.

The report of ex-Governor Wright, Commissioner to the International Fair, at Hamburg, was sent to the House by the President. The House then went into Committee of the Whole and considered the Excise Tax law. Numerous amendments were rejected. The tax upon spirits was fixed at 60 cents. An amendment that whiskey or any other spirits on being mixed with other spirits and sold as whiskey, brandy, rum, wine, &c., shall pay an additional tax, was adopted. Without any final action upon the bill the House adjourned.

In the U. S. Senate, on Thursday, Mr. Sherman presented a report from C. Munroe Newton, of the Agricultural Department, adverse to the proposed tax of twenty per cent. on leaf tobacco. The resolution requiring Senators to take an additional oath was then taken up and discussed at length. Mr. Saulsbury obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned until Monday.

The House of Representatives authorized the appointment of a new standing committee of five members, to be entitled the Committee on a Uniform System of Weights, Measures and Coinage. The consideration of the joint resolution amendatory of the confederation act was resumed, but no final action was taken. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to amend the internal revenue act. An amendment that all cotton in the hands of manufacturers, heretofore exempted, shall be taxed two cents per pound, was adopted. An amendment that all spirits imported prior to the passage of the act, shall pay an additional duty of 40 cents, was also passed.—The bill was reported to the House, and was ordered to be printed, as was also a substitute intended to be offered by Mr. Stevens.

The U. S. Senate was not in session on Friday, having adjourned until Monday.

The House of Representatives had under consideration the bill to increase the internal revenue, as reported from the Committee of the Whole. The amendments taxing spirits 60 cents; adulterations sold as brandy, whiskey, &c., an additional sum of 20 cents; cotton in the hands of manufacturers on the first of October, 1862, and prior thereto, two cents per pound, and spirits imported prior to the passage of this act an additional sum of 40 cents, were passed. The substitute of Mr. Stevens, which was nearly the same bill as reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, was rejected, and the amended bill was finally passed. The consideration of the joint resolution amendatory of the Confiscation act was then resumed, but no final action was taken.

Mr. Ward, of New York, introduced a bill providing that soldiers honorably discharged within two years from the date of their term of service, in consequence of disease contracted in the service, or other cause, shall be entitled to the same bounty as the same class of persons who are discharged after a service of two years. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. The House then adjourned until Monday.

## [Correspondence of the Journal.]

## DELAWARE LEGISLATURE.

DOVER, JAN. 21, 1864.

Our State capital at this time is in a ferment of excitement, owing to the immemorial number of divorce cases that are claiming the attention of our legislators. Never in the history of our State has there been so many petitions from persons sighing for single blessedness as at this time. One would almost suppose from the applications for divorce that we had become a community of licentious, profligate brutes. The fact of the matter is that it is a disgrace to Delaware. Many of the reasons that are assigned by the petitioners are of the most trivial character, and the parties should be kicked out of the legislative halls. But we presume that the applicants know that the majority are corrupt on other matters and consequently likely to aid them in their efforts to rid themselves of their partners for life. Among the divorce cases is one from Henry Stout, asking to be divorced from his wife. Of the merits of this case we have nothing to say, as it is now undergoing an examination. The two houses have been in joint session two evenings, listening to evidence in the matter. Both parties are represented by counsel and I expect that the decision will be just and proper, whatever it may be.

Yesterday Mr. Allen, of Sussex, introduced a bill for the benefit of the State of Delaware, which is nothing more nor less than an act to inflict on the people another gigantic swindle. The parties asking this grant, we believe, hail from that hotbed of all villainies, New York city. They offer a heavy bonus for its passage, and fears are entertained that it will succeed. Their emissaries are here boasting and feasting the members in a grand style, which may exert a great influence in its favor. I am also told that George Read Riddle, of your county, and other prominent politicians, are using their influence to pass the bill. It will, I feel sure pass the House and the only hope of the moral portion of the community is that it may be defeated in the Senate. Let the opponents of this villainous system of robbery, be up and doing, and leave no honorable means untried to defeat it.

An effort is being made to pass an act to prevent manufacturers from throwing any deleterious matter into any stream, the waters from which are used for household purposes. A committee of the council of your city, consisting of Philip Plunkett, Dr. J. Wilson and Joseph W. Day, are here urging its passage. No good reason can be given why such a salutary measure should not pass, while on the other hand many strong arguments can be adduced in its favor. I think it will become a law.

The following act has passed the Senate: An act to divorce Charles H. Cattell and Ann B. Cattell. The following have passed the House: An act to enable Mr. Daniels to locate certain vacant lands in Broad Creek Hundred, Sussex county; an Act to lay out a street in Seaford.

Mr. Gemmill from the committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as refers to the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, reported on Tuesday, and recommended a compliance with the Governor's recommendation. They also offered a joint resolution, as follows, which was laid over until Tuesday next:

Resolved by the Senate, &c., That the State Treasurer be and is hereby directed to

pay to the order of Governor William Cannon, the sum of \$425, being Delaware's quota for the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

It is hard to tell when the Legislature will adjourn. Mr. Gemmill offered a resolution on Tuesday, to adjourn on Friday, but it was voted down.

DOVER, JANUARY 25, 1864.

A petition was presented to the House, on Wednesday, signed by a number of your citizens, praying the General Assembly to pass an Act repealing the law requiring the prepayment of tax before voting at the election for municipal officers of Wilmington. It was read and referred. This is a Copperhead move as far as I understand and they hope to secure a victory at your municipal elections if the Legislature will open the doors, and not require prepayment of tax as a qualification for voters. Your city council finds it hard enough now to collect the taxes, and if this measure should become a law, I have not the least doubt, it would be utterly impossible to collect more than one-third of the sum assessed. So far as the result of the election is concerned, it will make not a whit of difference as there is such a strong Union preponderance that no system of legislation can change the political complexion of your gallant Union city. I hope the Legislature will kick this petition out, as it would be very destructive to the best interests of your thriving and beautiful place.

The bill introduced by Mr. Duncan, to define and prevent certain nuisances has passed a first reading, in the House, and I am inclined to think will become a law. It imposes a fine of \$500 or \$1000 on any person emptying chemicals, dyestuffs, &c., into streams furnishing water as a drink or beverage to villages, towns and cities. The penalty to be collected by indictment.

The Lottery bill has been read a first time. It is to establish a lottery on the payment to the State Treasurer the sum of \$288,000 by William S. Spaulding, of Washington city, Thomas Hinds, of Wilmington and Henry P. Goutte, of Baltimore. They are to pay two instalments of \$9,000 each on the first of October and April of each year till all is paid. In consideration of this amount, Delaware is to become a grand reservoir, from whence they are to send out their swindling schemes and policies to defraud the people of the country. We hope for the fame, honor and credit of our State, that our legislators will not prove so recreant to their trusts as to pass this infamous bill.

Mr. Tatum has introduced a bill in the Senate to amend an act in relation to free negroes and mulattoes, passed March 18, 1863. This bill is to repeal the law in regard to taking colored servants out of the State and keeping them out longer than five days. The act of March 18, 1863, is a disgrace to the State, and we regret that Mr. Tatum did not make an effort to have the whole thing wiped from the statute book.

A bill has been reported to provide bounties for volunteers. It provides that the State Treasurer shall borrow at necessary times, upon credit of not more than six years, \$100,000 at six per cent. The Treasurer is to receive for his services one-eighth per cent. of the money obtained. Every person who shall on or before March 1, 1865, voluntarily enlist in the military service of the United States for three years or during the war, and who may be duly credited to this State under the call of the President of the United States, shall receive \$400 bounty. Robert K. Robinson, Evan C. Stutsenburg, James Bradford, to be commissioners for the purpose. They are to sit once a week in Wilmington.

This bill will no doubt pass. We are glad to see that even a measure in this shape—although open to many serious objections—is about to become a law.

The following bills have passed the House: A further supplement to an act entitled an act incorporating a Bank at Milford, under the name of the present Directors and Company of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank of Milford; bill to straighten a road in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex county; bill to change the name of Wilhelmina Stevens Henry, to Maria Margaret Ashton Henry; bill to revive and continue in force an act entitled an act to enable Waiman Jones to locate certain lands in North West Fork Hd., Sussex county, and complete his title to the same, passed February 15, 1859; bill to amend an act to authorize the Recorder of Deeds, of Kent county, to copy indices; bill to authorize John M. Rawlins to change the location and straighten and shorten a public road in N. W. Fork Hd., Sussex county; bill to authorize George W. Dickson to make an index to the old marriage record in the court house of Kent county, from the year 1847 to 1861; bill to amend an act entitled an act to incorporate a Bank in the town of Seaford, Sussex county, under the name of the Diamond State Bank, vote on passage of bill, yeas 20, nays 1.

## LATEST NEWS.

## From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, 1864.—We have had a week of old-fashioned legislation, with some good speeches, some constitutional arguments, some spicy debates, and some votes which have rather astonished the politicians. Judging from present appearances, the session will be closed in June, although much depends upon the early spring campaign in Virginia.

The Senate has discussed, day after day, the "test oath," which Mr. Bayard hesitates to take. Now, it is of very little consequence to the country whether that gentleman does take that oath, or whether he refuses to take it, and forfeits his seat. But the oath, as now given the statute book, is a strong barrier against the return here of those now in rebellion, to play their game over again. As the oath now stands, every Congressman, before he takes his seat, must swear that he has never, by any act of his, committed an act of hostility to the Union, thus furnishing additional security that he will never violate his oath by acting falsely to his country or to his Government.

It is establishing as a principle that any man who has borne arms against this Government, or yielded aid and comfort to this atrocious rebellion, is unworthy of a seat in Congress. Of course this is a damper on the hopes of politicians in Dixie; and their attorney, Reverdy Johnson, is working hard to have it set aside, pleading ingeniously, as every lawyer knows how to plead, for the return of the prodigals to the fleshpots of Congressional patronage.

## THE TAX ON WHISKEY.

While the Senators have been discussing the Constitution, the Representatives have been debating about whiskey—said to be good for the constitution. Some of our Philadelphia orators have at times waxed slightly personal, and the discussions have been very spirited. Thad. Stevens, who is Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, wanted to tax whiskey henceforth distilled sixty cents per gallon. This would have permitted the speculators, who have been hoarding up spirits in bonded warehouses, to have taken them out at the old tax of twenty cents a gallon.

But Fernando Wood, of New York, said not if you tax what whiskey is to be made sixty cents a gallon, tax what has been made the same. If any has paid a tax or import duty of twenty cents a gallon, say on forty cents additions. In short, may every gallon of liquor for sale, foreign or native, whether held by distillers, or merchants, or speculators, pay sixty cents a gallon. This Thad. Stevens resisted, but Fernando triumphed.—Now it remains to be seen what the Senate will do. The new whiskey tax will, it is estimated, put fifty millions into the Treasury.

## PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD.

The Naval Appropriation Bill, as reported to the House, gives, for repairs of dry-dock, \$72,627; for pitch house, \$1,625; for dredging, \$6,023; for repairs of all kinds, \$34,000, and for repairs of damage by fire, \$10,000. But the inflexible guardians of the public purse expunged the estimate of \$269,000 for a floating dry-dock, although we have several monitors so long that they cannot enter any one of the dry docks now built.

Congress is asked to purchase—at a price not exceeding \$80,000—two lots of land extending from Front street to the Commissioners' line in the Delaware River. This is a sop to compensate for the indirect refusal to accept League Island, and to establish a Navy Yard for the construction of ironclads. Unmindful of all arguments presented in favor of League Island as a proper site for this much needed public establishment, the Committee of Ways and Means follow the lead of old Commodore Smith, and, by way of appeasing Philadelphia, recommend the enlargement of the present yard.

## PLAN OF THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.

It is said that a New York correspondent has narrowly escaped being sent to Fort Lafayette, for disclosing the project of making a simultaneous double advance on Richmond—one direct from here, and the other by the Peninsula. If this can be done by a sufficiently large force, the stars and stripes will soon float over what is now the rebel Capital.

Yet it hardly seems probable that the rebels will have previously evacuated Richmond. Virginia is naturally well-fitted for defensive warfare, and it is very evident that Lee's army is disposed to recommence hostilities as soon as the mud dries up, especially if that be before the return of the re-enlisted men from their furloughs. Besides, many of the regiments now at their homes will return to the Army of the Potomac recruited to their full strength.

## EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

General Ben. Butler has been up here, to consult with the high officials of Government about the exchange of prisoners. If our authorities really desire to exchange prisoners, Gen. Butler can do it, but he must do it in his own way—man for man and officer for officer—and neither be hampered by red tape or trammelled by orders from Washington.

Well acquainted with the South and with the Southern politicians, Gen. Butler is the man to bring them to time, and now that he has laid his programme before them in power, it is to be hoped that it will be approved, and that President Lincoln will clothe him with plenary powers to negotiate and to conduct exchanges.

If the President will but do this, it will not be long before the poor fellows now languishing on Belle Isle or in the Richmond tobacco factories will be restored to their families, and will soon again be beneath the old flag, ready to punish those who so cruelly treated them.

## THE HOUSE ENROLMENT BILL.

The substitute reported to-day by Representative Schenck, from the Committee on Military Affairs, for the Senate bill, amendatory of the enrolment act, makes the quota proportionate to the number subject to the draft. If the quota shall not be filled by the first draft, it allows to be employed as substitutes persons not liable to draft at the time, or who are not already in the service. Additions to the existing enrolments shall be made of those omitted before; viz: young men arriving at the age of twenty and persons who have been in the military service less than two years, and all persons of foreign birth who have ever voted at a State or territorial election. Any man drafted may, within eight days, elect to enlist in the naval service; but pilots, engineers and masters-at-arms in the naval service may not be drafted. None are exempt except those physically disabled, the President of the United States, the Vice President and heads of the executive department, Governors of States, men in the naval and military service and those who, having served two years, are honorably discharged. Persons procuring substitutes are exempt only from that draft, and in no case for more than a year, when the names are again placed on the enrolment list. The bill proscribes the penalty of a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding five years, for resistance to the draft. It retains the \$200 commutation required by the old bill, and makes the lowest limit of income, in cases of physical disability \$1,500 instead of \$1,000 per annum. It does not exempt clergy men or allow the commutation or exemption of able-bodied men.