BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

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Latest News by Telegraph TO THE BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FROM WASHINGTON

Communication from Gov. Sharkey

THE MISSISSIPPI CONVENTION.

The Adoption of the Constitution.

DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WIRZ TRIAL

Some of the Large Fish to be Brought Up.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept 8.—The following has been addressed by the Provisional Governor of Mississippi, to the Secretary of State:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE.
JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 22, 1865.

The Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Sec'y of State:

Sir: I have the honor to lay before you a copy of the Constitution of Mississippi as amended, together with copies of the several ordinances adopted, which I hope will be satisfactory.

Respectfully, your obd't, serv't,
WM. L. SHARKEY,
Provisional Governor, of Miss.

To which the Secretary of State has replied:

To His Excellency W. L. Sharkey, Provisional Governor of the State of Mississippi.

Sir:—Your letter of the 28th ult. accompanied by a copy of the amended constitution of Mississippi as adopted by the recent convention of the State has been received and will engage the early attention of the President. I have the honor to be your Excellency's obedient servant,
W. H. SEWARD.

THE WIRZ COMMISSION.

Col. Chipman, the Judge Advocate of the Military Commission, said to-day that while the atrocious criminal was responsible for a great many crimes, there are others above and higher than he that the Government will seek to hold responsible for greater crimes. This was the theory of the Government and the purpose of introducing the record evidence this afternoon before the Military Commission. Among those present among the reporters was the Hon. Arthur Rinard, a member of the British Parliament, and Lewis J. Jennings, correspondent of the London Times.

FROM TEXAS.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—The steamer Meteor brings New Orleans dates to the 1st. The papers contain the following items:

General Hamilton has ordered the necessary steps for the call of a State Committee.

Ex-Governor Murrah of Texas died at Monterey, on the 6th ult.

The Houston papers are filled with notices of robberies and burglaries. A band of desperadoes under one Iraquis, are depredating extensively in Gillad county.—One wagon train they captured contained merchandize valued at $30,000. The goods were taken to Goliad and put into a store and sold in open day by the robbers.

The Indians have come within thirty miles of Austin. Higher up they are murdering men, women and children indiscriminately.

The cotton crop is seriously injured by the worm.

Wigfall has gone to Mexico.

The venerable Judge Burnett, the first President of the Republic of Texas, has consented to go to Washington and make an appeal in behalf of Jeff Davis.

THE EXPLOSION ON THE NORTH-WESTERN TENNESSEE R. R.

NASHVILLE, September 7.—The explosion to day on the Northwestern Railroad was a terrible affair. The train consisted of eight cars and one passenger coach. There were nearly two hundred persons on the train. The two foremost cars contained powder, shot and shell, and it is supposed that sparks from the locomotive communicated to the powder through cracks in the car, causing the explosion. Seven persons were killed outright, and nearly all received more or less injury.—The fireman was killed and the engineer badly wounded. The conductor was but slightly injured, and also Mr. Vakenburg, Assistant Superintendent of the Telegraph Company. All the cars were blown to pieces, except two in the rear. The engine was totally wrecked. The concussion was terrific and shook the buildings in the town as if there had been an earthquake.

FROM CALIFORNIA—THE STATE ELECTION.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 7.—The election throughout this State yesterday, passed off quietly and the vote was light. The principal counties return Union men to the Legislature. San Francisco elects 7 People's Independent Union members and 7 Democrats. The vote was 9000 less than that of last November. The result is regarded as unfavorable to J. B. Fulton and T. S. Phelps, both aspirants to succeed Mr. McDougall in the U. S. Senate, and hoping to secure the delegation from the city. Neither of them get any votes here.

News from New Westminster says that the telegraph is now complete 370 miles northward from that place.

COLORED TROOPS IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Sept. 8.—Major Gen. J. M. Palmer has organized the ten regiments of colored troops now serving in the department of Kentucky into one Division of three Brigades, and Gen. Jas. S. Brisline has been assigned to the command of the Division, with Brevet Brig. Gen. J. P. Wade, Cols. A. Porter and J. McArthur, for Brigade Commanders. All the white troops in the department are to be mustered out. Gens. Palmer and Brisline are the only general officers now on duty in Kentucky.

STEAM BOILER EXPLOSION—LOSS OF LIFE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—The boiler of the Manhattan Soap Company's manufactory on Stone street, burst this afternoon, killing two persons and wounding three others. The building is considerably damaged, as also the one adjoining.

From Fort Monroe.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIAL OF JEFF. DAVIS.

FORT MONROE, Sept. 7.—The Government carpenters were set at work a few days ago to convert the old telegraph office inside the fortress into quarters for Jeff. Davis, but yesterday orders were issued to stop that work and to prepare Carroll Hall building, which is inside the fortress. From this it is presumed the trial of Jeff. Davis will take place here, and hence these preparations.

A man named Watkins shot a Lieutenant who was in command of the guard at Bermuda Hundred, last Monday. Watkins has been arrested. He was one of Lee's rebel soldiers.

Thirty-five convalescents were sent homeward to-day from Hampton Hospital. About 1,800 sick and wounded still remain.

The heat continues intense in this region. Yesterday, at Norfolk, the thermometer reached 102 degrees.

FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Sept'r 8th.—The steamer Costa Rica, from Aspinwall on the 31st ultimo, brings $938,000 in specie. Some excitement has been caused by the Government appropriating a couple of American vessels for transportation.

The steamer Ariel arrived with troops for San Francisco on the 25th. The conduct of the troops on landing was disgraceful.

From Central America the only important item is that Barricas, ex-President of Salvador, is on trial, with a probability of being convicted and shot, in violation of an agreement not to take his life given to Nicaragua when he was given up.

The revolution in Peru is still progressing, and the rebel fleet had entered Callao, and was awaiting a reply from President Pezet to their ultimatum before attacking the town.

THE MURDER OF PROVOST-MARSHAL CROUSE.

BEDFORD, PA., Sept. 8.—John P. Reed, Jr., indicted for the alleged murder of Provost-Marshal Jacob Crouse, has been released on bail. Reed's counsel were ready and anxious to get to a trial, but the prosecution refused to do so and obtained a postponement.

Mengel Reed who was arrested for treason on the oath of a brother of Crouse's and carried to Pittsburg, has been returned to this place.

THE OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

OMAH, Sept. 7th.—The overland telegraph line to California is now in excellent working order. There are no Indians on the route and no further troubles from that source are anticipated.

News is expected daily of a battle between General Connor's forces and the Indians on or near Big Horn river, a branch of the Yellow Stone river in the Rocky Mountains.

FROM SAN SALVADOR

NEW YORK, September 8.—News from San Salvador has been received to the 21st ult. The Republic is tranquil.

An autograph letter of President Johnson to President Duenas is published in the San Salvador papers, dated July 20th, and is in reply to a letter addressed to President Lincoln. The President congratulates Duenas on his elevation to the Presidency of San Salvador, and assures him of the kindly feeling of the United States toward their sister Republic.

INDICTMENT OF EDWARD B. KETCHUM.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—The Grand Jury came into the Court of General Sessions this afternoon, and presented twelve indictments against Edward B. Ketuchum, charging him with larceny and forgery. Ketchum will soon be called upon to plead to these charges.

NEW HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL RACES.

CONCORD, N. H., Sept. 7.—About ten thousand people were present yesterday at the New England Agricultural Fair now in progress at this place.

Amongst the special attractions was the trotting match between stallions for premiums of $150, mile meats, best three to five. Three horses entered, with the following result:—

First heat "Ethan Allen," first; "Fearnaught," second; "Ticonic," third—Time, 2.33.

Second heat—"Fearnought;" first; "Ethan Allen," second; "Ticonic," third. Time, 2.40½

Third heat—"Fearnought," first; "Ticonic," second; "Ethan Allen," third.

The winning horse is about six years old.

THE INDIANS.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Sept. 7.—The Indian Commission held a preliminary session to day. The Commission was composed of fifty persons, including Colonel Wells, Superintendant of the Southwestern Indians, Thomas Wistar, of Philadelphia, General Parker, of General Grant's staff, General Herron and General Harney, the President's representatives.

Representatives were present from the Seminoles, Cherokees, Creeks, Chactaws, Washitoes, Osages, Senecas and Wyandottes.

There is a bitter feud between the rebel and loyal and the full and half-blood Indians, which will interfere seriously with the work of the Commission. The Indians will object to the emancipation of their slaves.

HABEAS CORPUS CASE.—Our readers will remember that in 1861, Miss Laura Keene, daughter of Vachael Keene, Esq., was induced to marry clandestinely a man named D'Unger, who is, we understand, a graduate of the Eclectic School of Medicine, of Philadelphia. The marriage, as usual, produced a breach between the bride and the family. Some weeks ago, for causes not yet fully made known, the wife abandoned her husband, and with her child returned to her father's house. The father of the child obtained a writ of *habeas corpus* for the purpose of getting possession of his daughter, a beautiful child of about two years old. The case came up for hearing on last Saturday, before his Honor, Judge Spence. Several witnesses were examined, but as it was important to obtain the testimony of several persons residing in Philadelphia, the case was postponed till the first of November next; the child in the meantime remaining in the custody of the mother. Wm. M. Goldsborough, appeared as counsel for the father. Wallace & Millbourne and Daniel M Henry, for the wife's father.—*Cambridge (Md.) Herald*

☞ A singular anniversary has lately been celebrated at Aix la Chapelle. A woman servant has completed the fiftieth year of her service in one family, and was presented on the occasion with a handsome gift from the magistrates of the town, in addition to many substantial marks of esteem which she received from her employers.

OLD POINT.

THE MYSTERIOUS TOOL BOX.

Arrest of the Shipper of the Body

HOW HE RUN HIMSELF INTO A TRAP

THE MYSTERIOUS BOX.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sept. 5.—[Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]—The box shipped from here last week via Harnden's Express, and represented to contain tools, and which, on its arrival at New York city, was discovered by the stench it emitted, to contain a human body in an advanced state of decomposition, is receiving further elucidation to day.

ARREST OF THE SHIPPER.

The shipper of the box was arrested this morning in rather a singular manner.—Ever since the receipt of the intelligence from New York that the box contained a corpse, the provost guard, detectives and express men were instructed to keep a look out for the shipper of the box.

This morning a man habited as a laborer entered Harnden's Express Office, and asked Mr. Webster, the agent, what he was to understand by the paragraph, he saw in the Inquirer concerning a box of tools marked J. Moulton, Webster, Mass., and instead of tools containing a dead body. Mr. Webster blandly responded that the paragraph in question was literally true.

The man then announced himself as the shipper of the box, and as such was recognized by the clerk who received the box. Mr. Webster at once sent word to the Provost Marshal's office, and a guard at once took the indignant interrogator into custody.

DEMEANOR OF THE PRISONER.

On finding himself in limbo the prisoner became very nervous in his manner. He was quite communicative, insisting that he had shipped a box of tools. He said that there was no one by who saw him pack the tools or select them for packing, or close the box; says he is a private soldier in the Third Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, and detailed as a worker in the engineer's department, and insists that by some hocus pocus his tools were changed into a corpse, and felt rather indignant that the Provost Marshal would not allow him to go at large on his statement. Several private witnesses were examined in the presence of the prisoner, and then he was locked up in the guard house of Fortress Monroe to await further developments.

FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CLEAR THE MYSTERY.

Major General Miles has telegraphed to the agents of Harnden's Express Company in New York, to acquaint the civil authorities of that city with the circumstances of the case, and to have the body disinterred and professionally examined. No further steps can be taken till thir request of the General is complied with.

A PERJURER SENTENCED.

Isaac Williams, formerly the occupant of the Booker estate, situate on Back River, in this county, has just been sentenced by a court-martial to undergo an imprisonment of three years and to pay a fine of one thousand dollars, for violating his oath of allegiance to the United States Government, which oath he voluntarily took. He rented an abandoned plantation from the Government and particularly enjoyed its care and protection; at the same time he solicited and received from Jeff. Davis & Co., a privateer's commission, and just previous to the fall of Richmond, he was perfecting a plan to seize the mail boats plying between Old Point and Baltimore. He was, while a tenant of the Government, a most persistent and successful blockade runner, conveying large amounts of supplies to the enemy.

A MISSISSIPPI LOYALIST'S SPEECH.

There was at least one loyal man in the late Mississippi Convention. This was a Mr. Crawford, a delegate from Jones county. One of his speeches was as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: Sir—I have come up here to express the feelings of my constituents on the great subject, I come up here, sir, to represent my constituents where I come from. People hoot and wink up the streets, and say, "there goes mossy back from Jones;" but, sir, I have no prejudices; I am disposed to treat my enemies in a more christian, a more missionary spirit than they treated me I am a mossy-back, sir, and I stand here to day to represent the county of Jones, otherwise known as "the free State of Jones." But let not people think to insult me with impunity. I love a dog for his faithfulness, but the yelping of puppies I despise. People said that the county of Jones, "the free State of Jones," seceded from Mississippi. Yes, sir, we did secede from the Confederacy, and, sir, we fought them like dogs, we killed them like devils, we buried them like asses—yes, like asses, sir! My people down there in the county of Jones did, in their sovereign capacity, *did* secede, and *did* become mossy backs, sir.—We did fight them like dogs and kill them like hellions—like hellions, I say, sir.—But I didn't come up here to gas, sir, and I surrender my rights to the floor, sir, expressing only the one sentiment, that I stand up for the county of Jones in general; yes, sir, I am for Jones all the time.

At another time, referring to the opposition to the Constitutional Amendment because it did not provide for compensating slave-owners, Mr. Crawford said:

The principle of the opposition to the section introduced in the report of the Committee seems to be remuneration. I agree to that amendment, were it broad enough, but in the essential all the provisos fall short. These provisos have only aimed at the remuneration to certain classes who have heretofore been the owners of African slaves, while I, Mr. President, represent women and children of the Caucasian race whose cries are now ascending in my down-trodden county for bread. Yes sir, in my suffering county of Jones to day, the wails of 300 widowed women and shirt-tail children are ascending before the God of right, and appealing in tears to the powers appointed for relief, yet in the midst of these facts it appears that the entire sympathies of this body are directed to that class who are presumptively suffering from the passage of the section under consideration. I appeal in honesty to this Convention to remember the white race, and not to be wholly absorbed in the African.

A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS.—Several enterprising "freedmen" have been engaged for some time past in a lucrative business hereabouts, which has put several dollars into their purses. They have succeeded in "nosing" out the several slaughter pens, which were used by the besieging armies of General Grant while around Petersburg, and exhumed large quantities of offal, which the butchers for want of time and transportation were compelled to bury. This offal is subjected to the boiling process, and yields most handsome returns in the way of tallow and soap-grease. The sales, we hear, will probably already aggregate two or three thousand dollars, and there are many deposits which yet remain undiscovered, and of course untouched. This is striking "life," or an oleaginous matter which is really as profitable, in a portion of Virginia where it was the least expected.—*Petersburg Express.*

THE WIRZ TRIAL.

VERY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTARY TESTIMONY.

LETTER FROM GEN. HOWELL COBB.

LETTER FROM WIRZ.

[From the Washington Star, 8th.]

This morning the Court met at the usual hour, when the prisoner was brought in, looking much indisposed, and on taking his seat at the table with his counsel, immediately rested his head upon the table and on his hands, in which position he remained during the reading of the minutes. After the proceedings were read, Col. Chipman stated that he had received the following letter from the accused:

OLD CAPITOL PRISON, WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., Sept'r 8th, 1865.—*Col. N. P. Chipman, Judge Advocate, A. D. C.*—You will, I hope, excuse my liberty to address you these lines, not knowing to whom to appeal. I am now a prisoner since the 7th day of May, 1865. I have been deprived of all the chances to receive the consolaters of religion—consolations ever necessary to anybody, and truly more to a man charged with crimes so heinous, so terrible that the mere thought of them make me shudder. Although I know myself full well that I am wrongfully accused, that an all-seeing and all knowing God knows my innocence, still I need some encouragement from others, not to sink under the heavy burden which is placed upon me. Under these circumstances I most respectfully ask that permission be granted to Rev. Fathers Wheeler and Hamilton to visit me, and administer to me such spiritual comfort as my unfortunate position requires. They are both men of integrity, and will not profane the occasion to see me do anything but what their duty as ministers of the gospel will permit.

Hoping that this request may be favorably received, and the permission granted, I remain, Colonel, most respectfully your obedient servant, H. WIRZ.

Colonel Chipman remarked that the two gentlemen named were here as Government witnesses, having been chaplains at Andersonville in 1864, and that with the permission of the Commission he would issue the necessary pass.

General Wallace said that he did not think the prisoner was in the custody of the Commission.

The Judge Advocate was directed to refer the letter to the War Department.

General Thomas said if the prisoner was more ill than yesterday it might be a saving of time to give a respite of one day.

Assistant Judge Advocate Hosmer said that the prisoner was in as comfortable a room as was in the prison. If he was not able to sit up he could lie down, but if he was not able to lie down and required medical attendance all the time the trial could not go on.

The examination of witnesses was resumed.

Lieut. Prescott Tracey sworn—Witness was taken prisoner on the 22d of June, 1864. Saw the accused give orders to shoot a man named Roberts, while going to the spring for a drink, in which he slipped and fell in. Roberts did not know the regulations. Wirz hollowed, G—d— you scoundrel, why don't you obey the rules? Yankee—that's what ailed the man—he killed and died in a creek. Witness saw man who died in the stocks, being put in one morning with face towards the sun, and being dead the next. Wirz never gave them a kind word; asked for rations, and Wirz said he would ration them to h—l. One of witness' comrades died of starvation, being reduced to a mere skeleton.

Wm. Crouse, 7th Pennsylvania reserves, sworn.—Arrived at Anderson ville on the 20th of May, 1864, and remained until December 16th, 1864. Saw Wirz knock man down, also saw men in stocks in July and August. A man who had been about two weeks in the stocks continuously died the next day after being taken out. Six men were hung on the 13th of July, 1864. Witness saw about 20 vaccinated, causing sores from their elbow up. Witness saw boxes and bags in the storehouse at the depot. Saw some of the sanitary goods on Johnny Rebs. Witness described five cases of shooting, one in June, another named Robinson, about July 27th, as he was getting water, and two in August, as they were getting water, and one in September, about the same place.

Colonel Chipman, Judge Advocate, offered the following letters in testimony:

HEADQUARTERS GEORGIA RESERVES, MACON, GA., May 5, 1864.

General S. Cooper, Adjutant General, Richmond, Va.—General: Under your order to inform myself of the condition of the prison at Andersonville, with a view of furnishing from the reserve corps the necessary guard for its protection and safety, I made a visit there and have just returned and now submit the result of my examination. There are now in the prison about three thousand prisoners in an area of less than eighteen acres, with a stockade around it about fifteen feet high. I presume the character of the prison is well understood at Richmond, and therefore give no description of it. The danger of the prisoners escaping is not so great as I had supposed. With a guard of twelve hundred men, four pieces of artillery, and a cavalry company, all apprehension of escape would be quisted. I have arranged to send the regiment of infantry there within the next week, which, with the detached companies of Col. Folson's regiment, will be ample infantry force.

Capt. Gamble's battery is there, but I would recommend that it be returned to Florida and Captain Fuller's battery be sent. My reason mainly for this recommendation is that Captain Gamble's battery is very well supplied with horses, and they are not needed at Anderson, whereas Capt. Fuller's horses have been so reduced that he is unable to move his battery in the field. The exchange of these batteries would be of decided advantage to the service. I recommend the cavalry company because its presence would have a salutary effect in restraining the prisoners from any attempt to escape, knowing the means were at hand to pursue them, and in the event of the escape of any considerable number, the cavalry would be absolutely necessary to their successful pursuit.

I took the liberty of making several suggestions for rendering the prison more secure, and if the tools could be had I would recommend that the entire prison grounds should be surrounded by fortifications, which could be put up by the troops, who a health would be promoted by the employment.

The most important change is the one suggested in the accompanying report of my Chief Surgeon, Dr. Eldridge, that is in the erection of hospital buildings outside of the prison. Upon that point there cannot be two opinions among intelligent men. It ought to be done at once, and such is the opinion of every sensible man that has examined the prison.

The prison is already too much crowded and no additional prisoners should be sent there until it can be enlarged. The effect of increasing the number within the present area must be a terrible increase of sickness and death during the summer months. I understand that an order has been given for enlarging the prison. If it was practicable to make another prisoner it would be much better, for I doubt very much whether the water will be sufficient for the accommodation of the increased number of prisoners.

The general management of the prison under Col. Persons is good, and he manifests a laudable desire to discharge his duties in the most efficient manner. The duties of the inside command are admirably performed by Capt Wirz, whose place it would be difficult to fill.

I still think that the rank of the commanding officer of the post should be a Brigadier General. In view of the number of troops that will be under his command, it seems to me he should have that superior rank over those who may be ordered to report to him.

I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of Dr. Eldridge's report.

I am, General, very respectfully, yours, &c.,
HOWELL COBB,
Major Gen. Com'g.

This letter is endorsed in red ink, "C. 1,194, G. 1 and A. and I. G. Received 26th May, 1864."

The enclosure referred to is the report of E. J. Eldridge, chief Surgeon Georgia reserves, dated May 6th, who states that he had examined the prison camp, found the prisoners in his opinion too much crowded for the promotion or even the continuance of their present health, particularly during summer months. The construction of properly arranged barracks would tend greatly to their comfort and health; but at present their shelters consists of such as they can make of the boughs of trees, poles, &c., covered with dirt. The few tents they have are occupied as a hospital.—The police not very good; is as well arranged as their crowded condition will admit. He found the condition of a large number of the Belle Isle prisoners on their arrival such as to require more attention to diet and cleanliness than to the actual administration of medicine.

The hospital being within the enclosure, it has been found impracticable to administer such diet as is required to the patients, or unless constantly watched the other prisoners steal such diet as is procured. There being another fine stream within a few hundred yards, he recommends another enclosure with additional buildings, to accommodate from 6,000 to 8,000 patients. The patients on admission to the hospital should be well washed and furnished only with a clean shirt, in which dress they would hardly attempt to escape. The doctor also urges that bathing pools be constructed in the main stockade.

Captain Wirz identified to the handwriting of Gen. Winder and Captain Wirz, and the following letter was offered in evidence:

CAMP SUMTER, Andersonville, Ga., May 8, 1864.—*Major:* I have the honor to make the following report in regard to Confederate States military prison at this post. I was assigned to the command of the prison by Colonel A. W. Persons, the commandant of the post, on the 27th of March, 1864, having reported to him for duty by order of General John H. Winder, commanding C. S. military prison. I found the prison in bad condition, owing to the want of tools, such as axes, spades and lumber, to erect proper buildings. The first commandant of the post, Captain W. S. Winder, and his successor, Colonel A. W. Persons, had left nothing untried to supply these so important articles.

Only two weeks ago I received axes, spades, &c., from Columbus, Georgia, and went to work cutting ditches, &c. I hope to have everything in the interior of the prison completed in two weeks. The bakery, which could not be completed for want of lumber, is now in operation. The necessity of enlarging the stockade is unavoidable, and I shall commence as soon as I can gather a sufficient number of negroes. I would most respectfully ask you to present to the authorities at Richmond the impediment thrown in my way by having the hospitals inside the prison.

The number of prisoners on the 1st day of April was 7,160; increased up to to day, from various points, 5,787; recaptured, 7—total, 12,954. The number of dead from the 1st of April to May 8, 728; number escaping, 13—leaving on hand 12,213. I consequently lost 6 prisoners.

I would also call your attention to the danger of having our present guard forces withdrawn and their places supplied by the reserve forces of Gov. Brown.

In conclusion, allow me to make a few remarks concerning myself. I am here in a very unpleasant position, growing out of the rank which I now hold, and suggest the propriety of being promoted. Having full control of the prison, and consequently of the daily prison guard, the orders which I have to give are very often not obeyed with the promptness the occasion requires, and I am of opinion that it emanates from the reluctance of obeying an officer who holds the same rank as they do. My duties are manifold, and require all my time in daytime and very often part of the night, and I would most respectfully ask that two commissioned officers (Lieutenants) would be assigned to me for duty.

I am, most respectfully, your ob't serv't,
H. WIRZ,
Captain Commanding Prison.

A discussion here arose as to the admissibility of these letters, during which Judge Advocate Chipman said that while trying the prisoner his object was to bring in larger fish who had a hand, and were in a measure responsible for the atrocities committed at Andersonville.

The remainder of the session was occupied with the presentation of record evidence, after which the Court adjourned.

EXPLOSION ON A PROPELLER.

A LADY PASSENGER MISSING—OTHERS WOUNDED.

Last Monday, the propeller Joseph B. Molleson, belonging to the Merchants' Transportation Company of Trenton, N. J., was demolished by the explosion of the boiler, about four miles from that city, when on her way to New York. The Trenton State Gazette says:

"A portion of the cargo was discharged, and about noon the boat was started ahead, but had not moved from Baker's Landing when the boiler exploded with tremendous force. A torrent of steam rushed through the vessel and up into the air, the force of the explosion casting barrels, boxes, planks, iron, fragments of machinery, &c., to a great hight in the air. The explosion was heard for several miles, and the column of steam, &c., was distinctly seen by boatmen on the canal, a mile and a half distant. The boat was set on fire and was burned to the waters edge. A storehouse on the basin was considerably injured, and houses in the neighborhood were shattered and glass, &c., broken by the force of the explosion.

"Horatio N. Moore, the engineer of the propeller, was very badly scalded and burned, and severely bruised. He was blown some distance from the boat, and thrown upon the landing.

"A lady passenger from Bound Brook is missing, and is thought to have been blown into the canal and drowned. A lad sitting near the lady when the explosion occurred says he heard her scream. The name of the lady is supposed to be H. Bodine, that being the name on the traveling bag she brought on board.

"The Captain of the Molleson—Jacob Eichman—was severely bruised, but is not seriously injured. He was thrown to the bow of the boat, where he was overwhelmed by planks, boards, bags of corn, &c., that fell upon him, and was so completely covered up that he was only discovered by his cries for help.

"The cook—a colored woman—was scalded about the arms, and was slightly bruised.

"The force of the explosion was very great, pieces of the boiler and machinery, planks, boxes, bags of grain, &c., being scattered in every direction for a considerable distance. The captain says that the engineer carried only 30 pounds of steam while in the canal, and was regarded as perfectly safe, a heavier pressure being used when in the river and bay.

"The loss by the destruction of the boat and cargo is estimated at $40,000, the boat being worth $15,000 or $20,000, and the cargo $20,000 to $25,000.

COLLISION ON THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD.

An accident occurred on the Camden and Amboy Railroad yesterday morning, between the trains that left Philadelphia for New York at six A. M. and a freight train on route from New York to Philadelphia, by which several persons were severely injured, but providentially escaped instant death.

The collision took place near Hightstown station, 14 miles this side of Bordentown. The Philadelphia passenger train was due at Hightstown at ten minutes past eight o'clock, but arrived there five minutes ahead of the regular time, but should have waited for the freight train to pass. The conductor or other person in charge, disregarding the time table, pushed on his train. The train had not proceeded far, when, going round a curve, the whistle of the approaching freight train was heard, but only in time to break the force of the collision which subsequently occurred.

The following persons were injured:—Miss Eliza B. Welles, Port Richmond; S. I. Mrs. Samuel Croft, of Philadelphia; Wm. Burke, of Philadelphia; Major S. B. W. Mischell, of Philadelphia; Alderman Welding, of Philadelphia; C. F. Rummp, of Philadelphia; Hugh Hummell, of Philadelphia; L. Thompson, of New York.

All of the above received severe contusions on the head and face, but providentially none of them were mortally wounded.

The accident provoked the indignation of all the male passengers on board the mail train; among whom were several army and naval officers; and if the culpability could have been fixed upon any person there is no doubt the summary punishment of Judge Lynch would have been inflicted.—*N. Y. Herald.*

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

The Celebration of the Twelfth of September at Towsontown—Reception to Returned Soldiers.—A grand reception to the returned soldiers of Baltimore county is to be given at Towsontown on the 12th. Large preparations have been made, and it is expected, should the day prove pleasant, that the largest concourse of people will be assembled at that time ever known in the history of public meetings in Baltimore county. The reception is to be held in a beautiful grove to the north of the town, belonging to B. H. Chew, Esq. The band of the 5th United States artillery, stationed at Fort McHenry, is to be present; also the Union Musical Association of this city, headed by Col. Wm. H. Hayward—Generals Hancock, Kenly and Denaison, Governors Bradford and Swann, and Lieut. Governor Cox, and other well known soldiers and civilians are expected to be present, some of whom will address the meeting.

A public dinner is to be provided, and all Baltimore county soldiers of veteran rank, who have honorably served their country in the last war, are earnestly requested by the committee to be present, and as far as practicable, be dressed in uniform. Preparations have been made with the Northern Central Railway to convey passengers to and from Rider's the nearest station to the town, at half the usual fare. Extensive arrangements have also been made with the Towsontown Railway Company to convey visitors to and from the scene of festivity. It will, no doubt, be a very interesting and pleasing affair. The Old Defenders will meet at the City Hall on the morning of the 11th, and after marching around the Battle Monument, will proceed to Govanstown where they will dine at Ritter's hotel, and spend the afternoon, most of them, at Towsontown. In the city the usual festivities will be enjoyed—such as complimentary suppers, &c.

Concordia Buildings.—There was last night a grand rehearsal with orchestra for the concert on next Monday, the programme of which we give for the benefit of our readers—part 1st:—Overture to *Fidelio*, by Beethoven; Piano Solo with accompaniment of Orchestra; Fantasia from the "Huguenots" Piano Solo, "Ueber der Erde," Male Chorus. Part 2d:—The "Bell," Poem by Fred von Schiller; Composition, by Romberg. Professor Lessahow will conduct the concert in person, and from the selection of the programme and the musical means engaged for the occasion, it seems that this concert will be one of the most classical and perfect musical entertainments Baltimore ever witnessed. But it is not more than just that some extraordinary efforts should be made for the dedication of the magnificent hall of the Concordia. Since its completion we have not heard a voice dissenting from the general admiration it creates, and it is saying not too much, if we say that in proportion to size and capacity, no city in the United States has to show a concert hall of more elegance, better taste and richer embellishments. The building and the whole enterprise is a success unparalleled in Baltimore, and the well wishes of the whole population are with the energetic members of the Concordia and its efficient officers and President.

The Confidence Game Still Successful.—Mr. William H. Kersey, of Picola county, Mississippi, who was stopping at Barnum's Hotel in this city, on Tuesday last, fell a victim to some confidence swindler to the amount of $90. Mr. Kersey kindly loaned the confidential gentleman the money on the pretence by him that he wanted it to pay the balance on a bill which the sharper presented in the presence of Mr. Kersey. The affair was communicated to the officers at Marshal Carmichael's office—but being sharp enough to carry on the confidence game is also sharp enough to evade the vigilance of our efficient detectives. The money is gone and the sharper is gone, and that is about the end of another case of those swind ing affairs getting to be so prevalent at the present day in this city, visitors seeming to put unbounded confidence in any person who they may chance to meet on the street or at the hotels.

Another Pounding.—About a quarter past 11 o'clock on Thursday night, as officer T. W. Sparkin of the Eastern district, was passing the intersection of Choptank and Bank streets, found helping on the commons near by a dead male infant, which had no elbow placed there at the instance of some unnatural mother. The officer removed the body to the station house, where Coroner Brewer was notified of the fact, but refused to hold an inquest. Those infant murders should not be passed by so lightly, but the most strenuous efforts should be put forth to ferret out, if possible, the perpetrators of a crime so horrible in its nature, and bring the parties to feel the penalties attached to so heinous an offence.

Narrow Escape from Drowning.—Yesterday afternoon, about half past two o'clock, during the shower of rain prevailing at the time, a little child about two years of age, named Burke, accidentally fell into a gutter at the corner of Caton avenue and Caroline street, and the current of water being so strong, was washed into the sewer at the corner referred to, and but for the timely efforts of officer George Swearer, of the Eastern district, assisted by Mr. Ankes, would probably have been drowned. The child was taken, after being rescued from its perilous situation, to the residence of its parents, No. 188 Canton avenue.

Fell from a Garret Window.—About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a boy named Warren Williams, aged about 7 years, living at No. 128 South Bond street, met with a painful though not serious accident, under the following circumstances: It appears that the boy was in the act of reaching out of the garret window of the house, in order to pro cure some leaves from a tree that stood near by, and getting too far out lost his balance and was precipitated to the pavement below. He was carried into the house and Dr. Denuelle summoned to attend him; the Doctor pronounced his injuries not of a serious character.

Robbery Fourteen.—The hardware store of Mr. E. S. Holmes, No. 44 West Pratt street, was entered by some party or parties on Thursday night, between the hours of two and three o'clock, evidently with the purpose of robbing the premises; but their nefarious design was frustrated by the appearance of policeman E. Miller, who was passing at the time. The worst he robbers becoming frightened, left in haste, failing to secure anything in the way of plunder.

Election of Officers.—At the regular meeting of the East Baltimore Union League held at Franklin Hall, Eastern Avenue, on the 7th instant, the following officers were elected for the ensuing six months, namely:—Henry O. Larrabee, President; Thomas C. McBurney, Vice President; John J. Griggs, Assistant Vice President; William L. Lowry, Secretary; Louis Balm, Assistant Secretary; James Holt, Marshall.

Assault and Breaking Furniture.—Officer Johnson, of the Middle district, arrested G. Harris, on Thursday night, charged with assaulting and beating John Hecht, who keeps a lager beer saloon at No. 141 West Lombard street. He is also charged with breaking the furniture of said Hecht. He underwent an examination yesterday before Justice Spicer, who committed him for the action of the Criminal court.

Heavy Fine.—A man named White was arrested and brought before Justice Logan yesterday, charged with having erected an improvement on his premises without the requisite permit from the Appeal Tax Court. After hearing the case the Justice fined him $20 and costs. We are informed that it is the purpose of the court to enforce the ordinance in all similar cases.

Hiding Over the Footway.—Joseph Rosenbomer was arrested on Thursday night by officers Chambers, of the Eastern district, on the charge of riding over the footway in violation of the 34 section of revised ordinance No. 32. Justice Whales imposed a fine of $5 and costs, and released the party on its payment.

Discharged.—John D. Merriken, who was arrested last week on the charge of opening a letter, during the month of March last, directed to Mrs. Hoott, had a hearing yesterday morning before Commissioner Hanna, which resulted in his discharge, there being no evidence to criminate him.

Scalded.—A little child of Mr. Alexander Hunter, residing at No. 63 Thomas street, was very painfully scalded or burned yesterday, about the face and neck by some fat, accidentally falling upon her. Dr. Delmelle rendered his professional services in alleviation of the sufferings of the little patient.

Improving.—John Hafey, who was stabbed at Camp Bradford, on Thursday, is pronounced by his physician, Dr. Delmelle, to be in an improving condition, and it is thought will recover.

Provost Marshal Case.—Carson H. Brummer, No. 243 Hanover street, was arrested for selling liquor to soldiers, and held for a hearing.

AMUSEMENTS.

Holliday St. Theatre.—The audience at the Holliday last evening showed no degree of abatement, hundreds still being drawn by the fascinating power of the enchanting "Witch." Miss Kate Pennoyer, one of the most petite dancerses ever appearing upon the boards in this city, who has appeared as the dancing sprite during the present week, in the rendition of the Ice Witch, has worked herself well into the good graces of the audience, possessing as she does that degree of perfection in the art calculated to take with any audience, and well deserves the shouts of applause so lavishly bestowed upon her. She is a young lady whose motto is "Excelsior," and certainly is very meritorious. All the pleasing attractions of the Ice Witch will be again presented at the matinee this afternoon, and also at the evening's entertainment.

Front Street Theatre.—Mr. Heller's third appearance in his *solo diabolique* at the Front last evening was witnessed by the same crowded audience, evincing the same degree of pleasure, occasioned by the funny sayings and doings of the unrivalled Heller. The new programme presented last evening showed forth still more the great magical power of this wonderful conjuror. He appears again this evening in the same *role* of curiosities as has characterized his every appearance during the past week. See him, if you are partial to sensationists.

Blind Tom.—This evening will be the last opportunity offered to our citizens to witness the matchless musical talent of the youthful prodigy, admired by so many during the past week, therefore fail not to see him. He seems to be certainly possessed of some magical power that guides his hands in the production of so many choice musical gems.

DESTITUTION AND SUICIDE.

A WIDOW POISONS HERSELF AND HER INFANT.

On the 1st of the month a widow, who gave her name as Mrs. Beatts, and said that her husband had fallen in battle, hired from Mr. Wm. E. Brinkenhoff, agent for the tenement houses in Eighth street, between avenues H and C, a cheap room, with bedroom adjoining, on the fourth story of No. 335 Eighth street. Having moved her scanty furniture into her new apartments, Mrs. Beatts was scarcely seen again by her neighbors, and they learned little of her history or condition in life beyond the fact that she was manifestly nearly destitute, and had a babe about one year of age. But last evening one of the tenants of the fourth floor, not having seen Mrs. Beatts since Tuesday morning, bethought herself of the key-hole in Mrs. Beatts' door, and, looking therein, saw that the door had been locked from the inside, and that the key was still in the lock.

This circumstance roused suspicion; and when repeated calls had failed to draw any reply from the inmates of the room, the neighbors' suspicions became confirmed, and they burst the door. Everything