

News of our Churches.

The Inauguration of Rev. Dr. Shedd as "Professor of Biblical Literature," and of Rev. Henry H. Hadley, as "Assistant Professor of Hebrew" in the Union Theological Seminary, took place in the Madison Square Church (Dr. Adams's), on Monday evening, January 11th.

Ministerial Movements.—Rev. Henry Darling, D. D., says the N. Y. Evangelist has accepted the unanimous call tendered him some time since by the Fourth Church of Albany, and it is anticipated that he will be able to enter upon his duties immediately. This Church is an important one in itself considered, and it is also our sole denominational representative at the ancient capital of the Empire State. The announcement will be gratifying to the Church at large.—Rev. C. C. Wallace, of Perth Amboy, N. J., was dismissed on the 29th ult., to take charge of the church, Placerville, Cal.—The Fifteenth Street Church, now connected with the Third Presbyterian of New York, have extended a unanimous call to Rev. S. B. Bell, D. D., who has supplied the pulpit for the past six months. One of the elders of the Church, Thomas R. Agnew, Esp., has just cancelled the floating debt of the congregation.—The New York Tribune says of this act: Thomas R. Agnew, merchant on Greenwich Street, corner of Murray, residing in the upper portion of the city, has bought the church on Fifth Street, between Broadway and Eighth Avenue, (the Rev. Dr. S. B. Bell's) for the purpose of presenting it as a New Year's present to the congregation, free of all incumbrance. He drew his check for the whole amount immediately on the presentation of the deed. This act needs no eulogy. Mr. Agnew's deeds of Christian beneficence are numerous, and are of the like character. He would seem to deserve the prosperity that attends him.—Rev. J. L. Landis has resigned his charge in Waverly, Luzerne Co., in order to labor, three months or more, in the army, as the providence of God may direct.

Congo, Seneca County, N. Y.—The pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ezra Jones, finds much to encourage his labors among this people in the history of the past year. During this time they have purchased and nearly paid for a good parsonage, and have made repairs on the same amounting to over one hundred dollars.

Wabash College.—The second term of this Institution commenced Jan. 5th. The first term has been a prosperous one with one hundred students. An excellent spirit of order has prevailed, accompanied with more than ordinary religious interest. President Tuttle is the right man in the right place.

A Good Offset to the Increased Cost of Living.—On New Year's night the congregation of the Presbyterian Church at Valatie, N. Y., "called" upon their recently settled Pastor, Rev. C. J. Berry—a graduate last May from Union Theological Seminary—and presented him with \$260. After music, speeches, refreshments, prayer, and a most cordial time throughout, they separated, leaving the "new minister and his wife" to felicitate themselves that their "lines had fallen in such" extremely "pleasant places."

Reformed Presbyterian.—Installation.—The Rev. Alexander Clements who has recently acceded to the communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, from the Presbytery of New York of the General Assembly, was installed Pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church in the city of Brooklyn, New York, on Thursday, Jan. 7th, 1864, by a committee of the Northern Presbytery. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. McLeod, from Ephesians iv. 11: "And he gave some apostles, and some pastors and teachers—for the work of the ministry." Rev. S. L. Finney delivered the charge to Pastor and people, and advantage was taken of the Synodical Fast day and the week of prayer to hold a union meeting of the Reformed Presbyterian churches under the care of General Synod, by which all were refreshed and strengthened. The new pastor begins his duties under favorable auspices. The attendance on the church has been largely increased since he commenced his ministry there, and the good people of the congregation are very much encouraged in their work. If fidelity to a good cause, and zeal and perseverance in its promotion deserve success, they will secure it. We commend them to the Head of the church from whom they have now received one of his ascension gifts.

NEW CASTLE, PA.

We learn that the week of prayer was observed by the churches of this place. The two Reformed Presbyterian Churches of New Castle and Neshannock, are under the care of Rev. J. Alford. The latter church, observant of the divine injunction to owe no man anything save to love one another, at a meeting held at the close of last year, paid up the salary of the pastor then due, and nearly \$50 more on this year; thus putting the pastor in the attitude they had previously occupied, not greatly to the discomfort of either party, we judge. Besides this, they presented him with money and provisions amounting to nearly \$50 more. The New Castle people, however, had been beforehand: on the evening of Dec. 10th they crowded into the pastor's house and left behind them \$50 in money, and additional matters worth \$20 or \$30 more. Nor is their liberality confined to their own circle. At a recent collection for the Alexandria Freedmen's Mission, presided over by Rev. N. K. Crow, \$90 was contributed with a prospect of raising it to \$100. To Neshannock belongs the credit of raising nearly two-thirds of the amount.

CITY MINISTERS.

We regret to state that Rev. E. E. Adams is suffering from nervous indisposition, the effect we imagine, of over-work upon a system enfeebled by an attack of typhoid fever which he suffered last summer. He is for the present unable to preach, though the best hopes for an early recovery are cherished.

Rev. WILLIAM PATTON of the Fifth Reformed Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, we are sorry to say, is also quite ill. He was laid aside fifteen weeks last summer by typhoid fever, and is probably suffering from a too speedy and active return to duty. No serious results, we believe, are apprehended.

THE ARCH STREET CHURCH have just voted to raise their Pastor (Mr. Conkling's) salary from twenty five hundred to four thousand dollars.

DONATION VISIT.

We understand that the friends of the Rev. W. J. Macdowell, of South Ryegate, made him a donation visit on the 25th ult. The day was fine and the people turned out en masse. A most excellent dinner was prepared by the committee of arrangements, of which over an hundred partook, and about a hundred were entertained at an evening repast. Every one seemed to vie with each other in kindness toward their new minister and his family. The donation amounted to nearly \$200. And this is all the more spirited on the part of the congregation, when it is considered that it is only seven months since Mr. Macdowell came amongst them; and during that time in addition to the donation and regular salary, the people have paid \$300 for improvements on the manse and barn; and between one and two hundred dollars for the Seminary, and \$54 for Home and Foreign Missions.

INFLUENCE OF THEATRES.

We noted, awhile since, the fact that the Young Men's Christian Association of Elmira N. Y., recently ordered of our Presbyterian Publication Committee six hundred and fifty copies of Dr. Brainerd's tract on the "Influence of Theatres," to be put in the pews of their Churches.

The point of the matter is, that the Pastor of a Congregational Church in Elmira, a member of a famous family, who is not quite sound on the theatre question, on entering his church on Sunday morning, found a copy of this pitiful tract in each pew, and two in the pulpit! We trust that he and his people are now orthodox on this subject.

THE WESTERN CHURCH.

We are pleased to notice that the congregations in attendance upon the services of the Western Church, corner of 17th and Filbert Sts., are very good. Much interest is taken in the earnest and able discourses of the pastor-elect, Rev. James S. Willis, and it is hoped that by the blessing of God, an enlarged measure of prosperity may now be enjoyed by the church.

"SANITARY AID."

Seldom have our eyes been gladdened with a more beautiful sight than was presented to their view last Monday evening, January 4th. The young ladies of Miss Smith's school, 1210 Spruce St., combined the beautiful, historical, ludicrous, and poetical in a succession of "tableaux vivants"—too fascinating to admit of any one being criticised more than another, though we must remark, that should the young lady who personated the Statue of Hope, continue as motionless the remainder of her days, her's will be a quiet life.

The young ladies have a sewing society, their object is to assist the "Sanitary." Theirs is self-sustaining, and their funds becoming rather low, they took this method of replenishing them. If we judge from the audience, their treasurer wears a smiling face again, and their busy fingers will soon be making stitches in red flannel. Great credit is due to Mr. Holmes for his artistic skill in grouping and arranging the figures.

CAPITAL, BRAINS, GRAVE.

A difference of opinion, and of measures arising in one of our large city churches, said one member to another, in relation to it: "Capital will conquer." "I tell you," was the reply, "it is written in all history, and true now as ever, brains shall conquer." My answer to both is, GRACE SHALL CONQUER brains, capital and sin, or the church is a bubble and a lie.

Domestic News.

The organization of State Legislatures and the issue of gubernatorial messages has filled up a large space of the news during the week. Whatever movement there has been among the military, is confined almost entirely to the Western armies. Even these have been on a small scale. The rebels seem to confine their operations to plundering guerrilla expeditions, while our forces are endeavoring to destroy them in every direction. Gov. Seymour, of New York, in his annual

message, has taken special pains to calumniate the President of the United States and his supporters. He asserts that the war is prolonged for the purpose of carrying out the Emancipation Proclamation policy of the Administration. All this, and many other portions of his message, is in perfect harmony with the previous views and principles of the party with which Gov. Seymour is prominently connected. The result of the Fall elections, throughout the Free States shows significantly whether the people have more faith in the wisdom and policy of the Administration than in Gov. Seymour and his friends.

In striking contrast with the message of Gov. Seymour is that of Gov. Curtin of Pennsylvania. Instead of conjuring up ruin and death throughout the country, he takes pride in referring to the general prosperity and wealth of the State during the past year. He comes grandly up to second the honest efforts of our President and his advisers to suppress the rebellion. He does not stop to find fault with the measures which have been adopted to more effectually destroy treason and rebellion, nor does he foolishly and wickedly speculate upon the chances of procuring a peace by dishonorable measures. His anxiety is how to fill up the old regiments and raise new ones, and how to provide for the families of those who have gone to serve our common country. The Governor concludes this patriotic and able State paper in the following eloquent terms:

"That this unnatural rebellion may be speedily and effectually crushed, we all lie under the obligation of the one paramount duty, that of vigorously supporting our government in its measures to that end. To the full extent of my official and individual ability it shall be supported, and I rely heartily on your co-operation. I am ready for all proper measures to strengthen its arms—to encourage its upholders—to stimulate by public liberality, to themselves and their families, the men who give to it their personal service—in every mode to invigorate its action. We are fighting the great battle of God, of truth, of right, of liberty. The Almighty has no attribute that can favor our savage and degenerate enemies. No people can submit to territorial dismemberment without becoming contemptible in its own eyes and those of the world. But it is not only against territorial dismemberment that we are struggling, but against the destruction of the very ground work of our whole political system. The ultimate question truly at issue is the possibility of the permanent existence of a powerful Republic. That is the question to be now solved, and by the blessing of God, we mean that it shall not be our fault if it be not solved favorably.

We have, during the past year, made mighty strides toward such a solution, and to all human appearance we approach its completion. But whatever reverses may happen, whatever blood and treasure may still be required—whatever sacrifices may be necessary—there will remain the inexorable determination of our people to fight out this thing to the end, to prevail and to perpetuate this Union. They have sworn that no one star shall be left from the constellation, nor its clustered brightness be dimmed by treason and savagery, and they will keep their oath."

Congress.

SENATE, Jan. 6th.—The Secretary of the Navy sent in the names of all naval officers who have left the Union service since Dec. 1, 1860, and entered the service of the Rebels. Mr. Powell offered a bill to prevent officers of the army and navy from interfering in State elections, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Petitions were offered from Iowa to change the enrollment law so as to include all foreign residents, from certain non-residents for exemption from the 320 commutation; from the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad Company for grant of lands. Mr. Wilson offered a bill restoring the \$400 bounty to veterans until the 15th of February, and a bounty of \$100 to negroes resident in States now in rebellion who may volunteer up to such time as the President may determine. On motion of Mr. Ten Eyck, who spoke at some length upon the subject, the President's Reconstruction Plan was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

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the Post Office Department was referred to the Finance Committee. The bill for continuing the bounties to volunteers was referred to the Committee on Finance, with the understanding that it shall be early reported. The message of the President, and documents on the same subject, were referred to the same Committee. The bill to enroll the National Forces was considered, and all the amendments of the Military Committee were adopted except that one repealing the \$300 exemption clause—that is to be hereafter considered. Mr. Howe offered joint resolutions declaring that as the traitor authorities hold in barbarous imprisonment our officers and soldiers, refusing to exchange except upon their own terms, are unable or unwilling to feed them properly, or even tolerably, and have denied them the charity sought to be bestowed by ourselves; that as it does not exceed 20,000,000 of people to permit their brethren to starve within one hundred miles of their own capital, the President be authorized to employ one million of volunteers to serve for ninety days, to be employed in supplying food and freedom to every captive in the Rebel hands, and plant the United States flag upon every prison—that the forces so raised be under command of Gen. Grant. The resolution was referred to the Military Committee.

HOUSE.—The Speaker announced as the Special Committee on a new railroad between Washington and New York, Messrs. Brantage, Randall, Brooks, Webster, Sloan, Alley, Farnsworth, Garfield and Vorhees. A bill to consolidate the statutes was referred. A bill was referred exempting the communications of the Soldiers Aid Society from taxation. Mr. Blair offered a resolution to ascertain the debts incurred by the several States in their efforts to suppress the insurrection, and declaring as the judgment of the House that all such debts should ultimately be assumed and liquidated by the General Government. Mr. Baldwin offered resolutions declaring the Jeff. Davis Government outlawed and having no power over the people of any portion of the country, and that any proposition to negotiate with the leaders of the Rebellion, as though they were entitled to bargain for and bind any whom they oppress, should be rejected without hesitation or delay. The resolutions were adopted—39 to 24. Among the Yeas were the following Democrats: Baily, Baldwin of Michigan, Brown of Wisconsin, Griswold, Holman, Kernan, Middleton, Odell, Stebbins, Sweat and Yeaman. Mr. Rodgers offered a resolution declaring for a vigorous prosecution of the war, but at the same time asking for peace, and conciliation and compromise, so far as consistent with honor and earnestly recommending the co-operation of the President and the Senate in sending Commissioners to Richmond in order that the war may be brought to an honorable end. Laid on the table by 78 to 42. Mr. A. Myers offered resolutions that we should forego all feelings of passion except such as are dictated by loyalty; all resentment except such as is due to treason; and that the war should be waged until traitors and their sympathizers are conquered into the Union, made obedient to the laws, take the oath of allegiance, and submit to the Emancipation and Reconstruction Proclamation; when this is done, the chief Rebels and traitors to be hung, and the war to cease. Sent to Reconstruction Committee. Mr. Broomall introduced a bill providing for the construction of a Navy-Yard and Depot on the Delaware River and Bay, and appropriating \$300,000 therefor. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. The House on the 6th inst. passed a bill to amend the statute relating to the sale and Diplomatic Appropriation bill. Mr. Brooks moved to strike off all but one Minister to Central American States. The motion was lost, and the bill passed.

SENATE, Jan. 6.—A joint resolution to give Great Britain notice of the suspension of the Reciprocity Treaty was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Resolutions were reported offering thanks of Congress to Gens. Hooker, Meade, Banks and Burnside, their officers and men. Mr. Wilson's bill to promote enlistments was introduced. It proposes that enlistments hereafter shall be for three years; that colored soldiers shall have the same supplies and pay as white men; that ten months pay shall be given in advance; that the wives and children of colored recruits be forever free; that chaplains absent by reason of wounds shall have full pay, and half pay, with rations, when absent from other causes; that each battalion of engineers shall be allowed an adjutant, a quartermaster and a commissary, to be selected from their lieutenants. Bill referred to Military Committee. Mr. Grimes offered a bill to alter pay in the army as follows: Major-Generals, \$4,000, with commutation for incidentals; \$3,000, without commutation, when out of command. Brigadier-Generals, same pay as at present when on duty; \$3,200 when in command of a regiment; \$2,500 when on duty in the field; \$2,500 when on leave or waiting orders. Colonels same as now when on full duty; \$2,800 when not in the field; \$2,100 when on leave. Lieutenant-Colonels, on duty not in the field, \$2,250; on leave, \$1,800. Majors, \$1,800; on duty not in the field, \$1,500 on leave or waiting for orders. Captains, \$1,500 and \$1,200. Lieutenants, \$1,200 and \$1,100. The bill was sent to the Military Committee. Mr. Wilson offered a bill repealing acts which limit the time for proceedings in certain cases in criminal and civil courts and courts-martial, and the time for any proceeding in forfeiture or confiscation. Mr. Hale moved for a select committee to examine into the efficiency of the steam engines lately constructed for the use of the Navy, the mode of procuring supplies, and the conduct of the Department generally, and that they have power to send for persons and papers. Hale, Grimes, Doolittle, Conness and Davis debated the subject, when it was postponed for the present. Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution providing for the expulsion of Senator Davis, of Kentucky, owing to the sentiments put forth in a recent resolution by the latter, which, in the opinion of Mr. Wilson, "incites the people to treasonable insurrection and rebellion." Stripped of its verbiage this, Mr. Wilson said, was the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Davis explained to the Senate that the language quoted in Mr. Wilson's resolution was a garbled version of his own resolution. What he (Davis) proposed was that the people should rise at the polls and take the power of this Government into their own hands. He (Davis) repeated that the terms of Mr. Wilson's resolution were against the terms of his own, and were false in fact. The subject was then passed over and the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill in amendment of the Enrollment Act. Mr. Sumner moved that no person shall furnish a substitute, the Government doing that work; \$307 shall be paid by every drafted man seeking exemption; if his income is over \$600 and under \$2,000 he pays 10 per cent more; \$2,000 to \$5,000, 20 per cent; over \$5,000 30 per cent. A long debate followed generally against striking out the \$300 commutation. Mr. Wilson made some important statements. He thought the Rebels had but 225,000 men, and that with average success the war would be practically over, or at least the Rebellion crushed, by October. He would have the time of enlistments fixed at eighteen months, and retain the \$300 clause. Without coming to a question, the Senate adjourned to Monday.

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in its march until Friday, January 1st, about 10 o'clock, A. M., when near Rectortown, on the border of Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, it suddenly encountered a large force of from 500 to 700 rebel cavalry, supposed to be a portion of General Rosser's Brigade. Our boys fought gallantly against such overwhelming numbers until fifteen out of the seventy-five were either captured or killed. The remaining eighteen made their way in safety to camp.

Several of those who escaped found their feet frozen when they reached camp. One poor fellow got his boots filled with water in crossing a stream, and when he attempted to pull them off, found his feet and ankles encased in ice! The boots had to be cut from his feet. Rectortown, the scene of this occurrence, is about forty miles from Harper's Ferry, and a locality proverbial for roving bands of guerrillas and other rebel cavalry. The military sagacity that could suggest such an expedition, with a handful of men, so far into the enemy's lines, without the hope of success and support in case they were overpowered, may well be questioned. Besides, the men had but a few days previously, come off a fifteen days' scout from the upper Shenandoah Valley, where they had been co-operating with General Averill in his great raid on the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad.

On the 8th of January, the garrison at Petersburg, Western Virginia, was surrounded. Fitzhugh Lee and Rosser are moving between New Creek and Petersburg. Imboden has been attacked at Winchester and driven back. While our prisoners in Richmond are, by rebel confession, wretchedly fed and clothed, the rebel papers there are telling the most absurd lies about our prisoners at that place. At Point Lookout, the Government at Washington is devising means to relieve the distress of the people in Virginia, whose substance has been wasted by the tramp of Lee's and our own armies, and the incidental hazards of the war. The inhabitants of the whole country from Washington to the Peninsula, are to share in such supplies of food as they choose to purchase, themselves guaranteeing its transportation; and further efforts are on foot to supply those who are poor to buy. If Moseby and Stuart do not steal the provisions sent to suffering rebel non-combatants, the United States Government will go far beyond the line of duty and the laws of war in feeding its enemies. No oath of loyalty is required, nor is it pledged that the bread and meat thus sold shall not go to support men actually in arms against the nation; in sober words, that this source of supply shall not be open, by purchase or otherwise, to the rebel army. Will the copperheads—London Times and all—who howl so dismally about Northern barbarity, note these facts? If they do, ten to one they complain that the United States does not give away a hundred millions worth of food without pay and without question.

Louisiana and Texas.—We have dates from New Orleans to the 31st ult. A secret expedition left there on the 30th, destination thought to be toward Mobile, probably to land and fortify at Pascagoula. New Orleans had been drowned out by heavy rain, December 28th,—nearly the whole of the city streets a foot or two under water. Nothing especially new in war matters. From the front the report is—"Army encamped; all well." The Texan refugees were freely coming in to swear allegiance. On the 18th, the bones of Captain W. W. Montgomery, of the First (Union) Texas Cavalry, a Union officer, captured and hung by the rebels, were picked up and interred in the Fort Brown, in presence of all our troops in Brownsville and a large concourse of citizens. General Dana, commanding 13th Corps, and Governor Hamilton were present. Governor Hamilton made a thrilling speech. The loyal Texans have taken an oath of vengeance on his murderers. Recruiting is rapidly going on. Rebel sympathizers are forced to fly into Mexico. At New Orleans, a mass meeting of all the loyal people in the State of Louisiana has been called for the 8th of January. The object was to take into consideration the formation of a Free State Government. Nearly enough are enrolled to enable the State to return to the Union under the President's Proclamation. Guerrilla firing upon boats along the Mississippi had almost entirely ceased.

North Carolina.—Recent intelligence from Newbern states that the expedition under Col. McChesney, of the First North Carolina Regiment, which left Newbern on the 30th of December, for Greenville, met the enemy on Thursday night, near Washington. Both parties were surprised. Lieut. Adams charged on and routed the enemy, killing a lieutenant and five men, all of whom were left on the field, and captured ten men, one cannon and caisson, and the horses of Starr's battery. Our loss was Lieut. Adams killed, and five men wounded.

Arkansas.—A despatch of the 6th states that General Kirby Smith commands the entire rebel force west of the Mississippi river, with his headquarters at Camden. His forces, which consist of about 15,000 rebels, are represented as being very active in raising and equipping the men with the object of attacking Little Rock, which they felt confident they could attack in force before their garrison was reinforced. Generals Marmaduke and Price have six to seven thousand men, mostly cavalry, and were located between Arkadelphia and Little Rock. The notorious Quantrill and Caffery had about 300 men each, and were camped on Bayou Bartholomew, back of Lake Providence. General Harrison is at Monroe, on Washita river, with 1,500 effective men, who were mostly from Arkansas and Louisiana; and, if they failed to hold Monroe, he would disband his forces.

Tennessee.—A dispatch from Cumberland Gap, January 6th, states that an overwhelming force, under Sam. Jones, attacked our troops at Jonesville, Va., on the 3rd inst., consisting of about 300 men. After a desperate resistance, our men surrendered, losing thirty killed, thirty wounded, one gun, and two small howitzers.

A dispatch from Cairo, of the 4th inst., says that Gen. Grierson, at last accounts, was pursuing Gen. Forrest south of Cold Water. Gen. Lee had reinforced Gen. Forrest from Oklaona. The guerrilla Gen. Richardson crossed our lines on the 28th of December, on his way South. All has been quiet in the interior of Tennessee since his departure.

General News.

The Ohio Legislature organized on the 4th inst. J. R. Bubbell was elected Speaker of the House, and Wm. E. Davis Clerk of the Senate. Governor Tod's Message is very brief. He says that the financial affairs of the State were never in a better condition than that the public debt has been reduced \$275,000, and that the militia system adopted by the Legislature last winter has proved a success. He recommends that the banking corporations now existing under State authority be given all reasonable facilities for closing their business.

He attributes the escape of John Morgan to negligence, arising from a misunderstanding between the civil and military officers at the Penitentiary of their respective duties. He calls attention to the bravery and gallantry of our soldiers in the field, and says that, although this wicked rebellion still continues, we can justly claim for Ohio a full performance of duty toward the effort to crush it. He says the number of troops raised since the beginning of the war is 200,671. The National Union members of the Penn-

sylvania Legislature met in caucus, at Harrisburg, on the 4th inst., and nominated officers. The absence of Senator White, who represents Indiana and Armstrong Counties, and who is now a prisoner in Richmond, leaves the Senate with a tie vote. This has been the occasion of much difficulty in the organization of the Senate. The copperheads who, with the presence of Mr. White, would have been in the minority, take advantage of his absence to shew their enmity toward the Government by refusing any concessions that might lead to a proper organization.

The funeral of Archbishop Hughes was held on Thursday, with all the solemn pomp and pageantry of the Roman Catholic Church.

Of course, all the priesthood and prominent lay members of the church were present.

The New York Tribune gives the following description of the Cathedral in which the services were held: On the occasion of the funeral the crowd was immense, all the streets near the place being full, and the church jammed to suffocation. Nearly the whole of the interior of the Cathedral was vaulted in black. The tall columns were draped with sable, relieved with white about the centers and capitals, and the walls were covered with black cloth. The organ gallery and chancel were also covered with the same material. The windows were crowded with black rosettes, and festoons were continued with white curtains over the side columns. The pulpit was covered with mourning, and the canopy was elaborately trimmed with white. The catafalque was ornamented with plumes and surrounded by a sable cross. The altar was elaborately decorated. The symbols of mourning were visible on every hand, and nothing was unavailing save the famous paintings so long the admiration of the lovers of art. Over the high altar was a splendid cross of japonicas. In all parts of the building were white rosettes and other ornamental figures.

Gov. Bramlette, of Kentucky, has issued a proclamation ordering military commanders, when loyal citizens are taken off by guerrillas, to arrest at least five rebel sympathizers in the vicinity for each loyal person captured. The annual rental of pews in Plymouth Church (the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's) took place on Monday evening, the 4th inst. There was a large attendance, and the bidding was spirited. The highest premium paid was \$200, by Mr. Horace Claffin; the next highest was \$180, at which price several were sold. The premium on about 70 pews ranged from \$20 to \$100, being about 50 per cent in advance of last year. Pews which last year brought \$25 now sold for from \$40 to \$50. The annual rental of the pews in about \$10,000. The premium in 1864 was \$10,054. This year the premium will reach about \$20,000, \$23,000. Nearly all the pews were disposed of.

Western exchanges and telegrams bring us details of the severe storm and cold in that part of the country. Ten colored soldiers were frozen to death at Island No. 10; three white soldiers were also frozen near Fort Pillow; a number of persons lost their lives near Cairo. The Mississippi river is closed, and the Ohio, although open, is full of ice.

General Butler has had several interviews with the President, Secretary Stanton, and General Halleck, and is understood to have received their endorsement of his proposed course with regard to the exchange of prisoners, and had full power given him to carry the same into effect. That all the rebel prisoners, about 38,000 in number, are to be transmitted to this Department by train, and retail measures, to a proper and legitimate tent, have been determined upon. There is also embraced in Gen. A. Butler's plan, a move in the game which the rebels little think of, and which cannot fail to bring them to terms. He has proposed a counter move to every possible contingency; and, whether they refuse to hold communication with him or not, the result will be the same.

Foreign.

The steamship Africa has arrived with news to Dec. 26th.

Great Britain.—The London Army and Navy Gazette says that the Messrs. Laird have refused several offers for the Mersey Rams, declaring that they are not for sale. It is understood that the United States Ministers, both at London and Paris, are making continued efforts to prevent the steamer Rappahannock leaving Calais for the high seas as a Confederate cruiser. Stores for the ship had reached Calais from England.

France.—The Corps Legislatif had debated the Loan bill at length.

M. Theiers and other opposition members spoke in favor of a pacific policy on the part of the Government. M. Picard censured the Government for the Mexican Expedition. The bill was finally passed by a vote of 242 to 14.

The Holstein Question.—At a meeting at Altona, in which thousands took part, Prince Frederik was formally proclaimed Duke of Holstein, amid the greatest enthusiasm.

The town was subsequently illuminated and great crowds traversed the streets singing the National Song of Holstein.

Order was everywhere maintained. Telegraph communication with Holstein became interrupted at noon on the 25th of December.

It was reported that the General commanding the Austrian troops at Hamburg had been recalled.

The Saxons troops entered Altona on the 24th of December.

The Danes left as the federal troops appeared. The Federal Commissioners in Holstein declare that they will assume the administration of affairs without prejudice to the temporarily suspended rights of the Sovereign.

Hungary.—The rumors of an insurrectionary movement in Hungary continued. Austria was taking precautions against such a movement.

Latest.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 26.—Evening.—All the markets are closed to-day, and the holidays are being celebrated everywhere.

The Danish Ministry have tendered their resignation to the King, and it has been accepted. England and Russia continue to exercise a pressure in Denmark on the Holstein question.

The passage of the steamship Scotia, from New York to Liverpool, is computed at less than eight days and twenty one hours.

Thackeray, the celebrated author, was found dead in his bed on the morning of the 24th inst. He was taken ill only the day previous. Effusion of the brain is the alleged cause of his death.

Six of the men who were enlisted to serve on board the Federal steamer Kearsage at Queens-town, and who were recently disembarked at that port, have been committed for trial. Affidavits were produced, showing that they had enlisted for three years for the purpose of fighting in the service of the United States.

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