

News of the Week.

XXXVIII CONGRESS—2d SESSION. SENATE.

Jan. 5.—The Senate re-assembled after the holiday recess. Mr. Wilson made a strenuous effort to obtain the immediate passage of the joint resolution offered by himself in December, making free the wives and children of slaves who enlist in the army.

Jan. 6.—The petition of the Mother Superintendant of the Sisters of Charity, praying for a remission of the duties on the material required for the dress of the order, which was presented and referred to the Finance Committee previous to the recess, was reported upon adversely.

Jan. 7.—The House of Representatives passed a bill to amend the act relating to the duties on the material required for the dress of the order, which was reported upon adversely.

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of the incidents that gave rise to the rumor is this: First—A shot from the ships of war cut the rebel flag-staff, and it toppled over and outside the fort. A gallant officer of the 142d New York, in Weitzel's skirmish line, ran into the outer ditch of the fort and brought off the flag.

Second—The dispatch-bearer, who was sent to be killed at the fort, and his horse, brought out by one of the men, was killed inside the fort, but one-third of a mile from it.

Third—The shot said to be fired by one of our men into a bomb-proof full of Rebels, was fired, not inside the Fort, but by a sharp-shooter in Weitzel's skirmish line, who fired through a sally-port in his front into an open bomb-proof at the opposite side of the fort, in which he thought he saw some Rebels.

Whether he hit any of them is not known, but it is known that not one of our men got inside the fort or any of its defenses.

While the transports were waiting the arrival of the war vessels during the first three days the rebels sent down heavy reinforcements to Sugar Loaf camp, in the vicinity of the fort; and these reinforcements were ready to assist the fort in case of an assault.

Gen. Butler's entire force was but six thousand five hundred men.

So much from the Tribune correspondent. By an arrival at Fortress Monroe, Jan. 2d, intelligence was received of the safe arrival of Admiral Porter's fleet in the harbor of Beaufort, S. C., with no loss from the storm, and comparatively trifling damage during the bombardment on Fort Fisher.

Later accounts represent the naval demonstration against the fort as not abandoned, and that its reduction may be expected at no distant day. We wait.

Meetings are being held in the principal cities of the North, in aid of the suffering people of Savannah.—Rebel papers say that General Sherman is advancing on Branahalla.—Thirty millions were subscribed to the gold-bearing bonds of the Government on the 6th and 7th inst., after which they were withdrawn from the market.—Congress is still tinkering at the whiskey tax.—Secretary Stanton, General Meigs, Collector Draper, of New York, and others have gone to Savannah. So also, though on a far different errand, has Mr. Alvord, of the Boston Tract Society.—The Missouri State Convention, Jan. 9th, decided to completely remodel the Constitution. Slavery will doubtless be abolished without the delay anticipated by previous action.—Hood's losses in his campaign, which was to place him victorious on the banks of the Ohio, were over 22,000 killed, wounded, prisoners, and deserters, and 68 guns. Union loss 7,000. General Lyon has managed to escape pursuit, and is safe in northern Georgia and Alabama.—Passports are required on the Canada frontier by our Government. The Canadian "sympathizers" are very angry, and bluster a great deal about it.

Congress.—The Senate, on Monday, passed the bill giving freedom to the wives and children of colored soldiers. The House declared the joint resolution providing for submitting the Constitutional amendment for the abolition of slavery to the Legislatures of the States. No conclusion was reached.

ITEMS.—The rebel Brig.-Gen. Cranberry, killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, was a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He had formerly a charge in Washington city.—Four blockade runners, said to be the Richmond papers to be well loaded with valuables for the army, managed to run into Wilmington as our fleet retired from before Fort Fisher.—Charlotte is reported to be deserted of all its inhabitants who are able to leave. Great distress prevails, the necessities of life being scarcely attainable at any price. Almost no business is doing, except what is connected with blockade running. Four blockade runners are in the harbor, loaded and ready for sea, waiting their chance.—The cotton captured in Savannah is to be sold on government account in New York. Owners who have not forfeited their rights by disloyalty, will be compensated.—There is much excitement among New York merchants about trade with Savannah. No permits have yet been granted, but in anticipation, a number of vessels have been cleared for Port Royal.—Within the week, rumors have been rife of the deaths of the Rebel Generals Price, Hood and Forrest, all probably unfounded; some of them certainly.—A new rebel pirate is on the seas. Shenandoah, formerly a British steamer sailing under the name of the Sea King. She has already given an account of her intended career, by the capture and destruction of five Federal vessels. Her commander is Capt. Waddell, not Semmes, as was first reported.

THE CABINET ORGAN.—For some years the best thing produced among the various forms of reed organs, melodeons, etc., has been the "Cabinet organ," made by Messrs. Mason & Hamlin, of this city. Besides the beauty and great power of tone for so small an instrument, furnishing the greatest amount of organ tone for the smallest price, it has the advantage of a double bellows, acted upon by two blow pedals. They have now added to the resources of the instrument a new one, wonderfully effective and wonderfully simple, which they call the "Automatic Bellows Swell." It is, in fact, a contrivance for swelling and diminishing the sound at pleasure, without the aid of a separate swell pedal, but simply by the same action of the feet which works the bellows by the blow pedals. With a little practice it operates to a charm, and the swell and "dying fall" of harmonies becomes as obedient to the performer's will and feeling as if the reeds were set to vibrating by his own breath.—Dwight's Journal of Music.

WE FIND IN AYER'S AMERICAN ALMANAC, (now ready for delivery gratis by the druggists) the remarkable statement that the temperature of the earth has not diminished more than 1-300th part of one degree Fahrenheit for 2000 years. To our enquiry how he could make such an assertion, Dr. Ayer writes us the following answer. "Hipparchus gives the exact record of an eclipse in his time. This enables us to measure with extreme accuracy the earth's diurnal revolutions since to any eclipse now. Diminution of its heat would, by concentration, shorten its axis, and consequently its time of revolution on its axis. The data show that this change has been only such as I state it, mathematically and indisputably true.—New York Journal.

THE EDITORS OF LIPPINCOTT'S PRONOUNCING GAZETTEER are busily engaged in revising that work, preparatory to the issue of a new Edition containing the last census returns, and such other changes as may be necessary to bring it up to the times. The Publishers, Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, announce that they will be glad to receive any items of information that may be useful in effecting a complete and thorough revision of the work.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Table listing contributions to the United States Christian Commission. Columns include names of donors, their addresses, and the amount of their contributions. Total amount listed as \$276,785.85.

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New Publications. NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE. THE MORE BLESSED; A Christmas Tract. MANLINESS; A small volume for young men and lads, showing in what true manliness consists. SUNSET THOUGHTS; A BOOK FOR THE AGED. SUGGESTIVE CHAPTERS FOR THOSE IN THE EVENING OF LIFE. ZULU LAND; OR, LIFE AMONG THE ZULU-KAFFIRS. GILLETT'S HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN HUSS; OR, THE BOHEMIAN REFORMATION OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. PHOTOGRAPHERS. WENDEBOTH & TAYLOR, PHOTODUPLICATIONS ON PORCELAIN, IVORY TYPES, PHOTOGRAPHS, CARTES DE VISITE. EDWARD P. HIPPLE, PHOTOGRAPHER. GERMON'S TEMPLE OF ART. O. B. DEMORAT, PHOTOGRAPH GALLERIES. ALBUMS. PATENT HINGE-BACK ALBUMS. W. G. BEDFORD, CONVEYANCE AND REAL ESTATE AGENT.

East India Coffee. DON'T FAIL TO READ THIS! COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! THE EAST INDIA COFFEE COMPANY, 154 READE STREET, N. Y. Kent's East India Coffee. Has all the flavor of OLD GOVERNMENT JAVA, and is but half the price; and also that. Kent's East India Coffee. Has twice the strength of Java or any other Coffee, and wherever used by our first-class hotels and steamboats the stewards say there is a saving of 50 per cent. Kent's East India Coffee. Is the most healthy beverage known and is very nutritious, and wherever used by our first-class hotels and steamboats the stewards say there is a saving of 50 per cent. Kent's East India Coffee. Three times a day without injury, it being entirely free from those properties that produce nervous excitement. Dr. JAMES BOYLE, of 156 Chambers street, says: "I have never known any coffee so healthful, nutritious and free from all injurious qualities as Kent's East India Coffee." Kent's East India Coffee. I advise my patients to drink it universally, even those to whom I have hitherto prohibited the use of coffee. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE NEW YORK EYE INFIRMARY says: "I direct all the patients of our Institution to use exclusively Kent's East India Coffee." Kent's East India Coffee. And would not be without it on any account." THE Rev. C. LARUE, an eminent clergyman of the M. E. Church, now stationed at Halsey street, Newark, says: Kent's East India Coffee. "I have used it nearly a year in my family, and find it produces no ache of the head or nervous irritation, as in the case of all other coffee. It is exceedingly pleasant, and I cordially recommend it to all my friends and their families." Kent's East India Coffee. Is used daily in the families of Bishop Ames, Bishop Walker and many of the most distinguished clergymen and professional men in the country. BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS! And beware that the packages are labelled KENT'S EAST INDIA COFFEE, 154 READE STREET, NEW YORK. As there are numerous counterfeiters abroad under the name of "Genuine East India Coffee," "Original East India Coffee," etc., put forth by impostors to deceive the unwary. In 1 lb packages, and in boxes of 25, 50 and 100 lbs, for Grocers and large consumers. Sold by grocers generally. Orders from city and country Grocers solicited, to whom a liberal discount will be made. Agents in Philadelphia, W. J. HESS & BROTHER, corner Girard Avenue and Front street, and HOEFLICH & MOHN, 15th Street. Sold by JOHN PARKER, corner of Eleventh and Market streets, Philadelphia. JAMES WEBB, corner of Eighth and Walnut streets. WM. PARVET, Jr., 124 Chestnut street, above Arch street. THOMPSON BLACK & SON, N. W. corner Broad and Chestnut streets. SIMON COLTON & SON, corner Broad and Walnut streets. Insurance Companies. INSURE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR OWN HOME COMPANY. AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY, Walnut Street, S. E. cor. of Fourth. INCURABLE FOR THE YEAR 1863, OVER \$200,000. LOSSES PAID DURING THE YEAR AMOUNTING TO OVER \$62,000. Insurances made upon the Total Abstinence Rates, the lowest in the world. Also upon JOINT STOCK Rates which are over 20 per cent. lower than Mutual Rates. THE TEN-YEAR FORFEITURE PLAN, by which a person insured can make all his payment in ten years, and does not forfeit, should he be unable to pay his full TEN years, is now a most popular method of Insurance. Insurers upon the MUTUAL SYSTEM in this Company, have the additional guarantee of \$250,000. CAPITAL STOCK all paid up IN CASH, which, together with CASH ASSETS, now on hand, amount to OVER \$800,000. The Trustees have made a DIVIDEND on all Mutual Policies in force December 31, 1863, of FIFTY PER CENT. of the amount of PREMIUMS received during the year, which amount is credited to their Policies, and the Dividends of 1860, upon Policies issued that year, is now payable as the Policies are renewed. THE AMERICAN IS A HOME COMPANY. Its TRUSTEES are well known citizens in our midst, entitling it to more consideration than these whose managers reside in distant cities. BOARD OF TRUSTEES. Alexander Whilldin, William J. Howard, Samuel T. Poole, George T. Bessent, John Alkman, Hon. James Pollock, Charles F. Headitt, Albert G. Roberts, Hon. Joseph Allison, P. B. Mingle, Isaac Hancock. ALEX. WHILLDIN, President. SAMUEL T. POOLE, Vice-President. JOHN C. SIMS, Actuary. JOHN S. WILSON, Secretary and Treasurer. CHARLES G. ROBERTSON Ass't Secretary. Dr. BEALE'S DENSERVO! Is a most invaluable, reliable and delightful preparation for the TEETH AND GUMS. To a great extent in every case, and entirely in many, it prevents decay of teeth. It also strengthens the gums, keeps the teeth beautifully clean and the breath sweet. It is highly recommended by both Doctors and Patients, and is believed to be as good a preparation for the teeth and gums as science and experience has ever produced. Prepared solely by S. T. BEALE, M. D., Dentist, 1113 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa. For sale by Druggists. Price \$1 per Jar.