Aews of the Meek.

XXXVIIIth 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. He wished it hastened in view of the new call for 300,000 recruits. After an earnest debate, he was so far successful that a motion for a reference of shooter in Weitzel's skirmish line, ran into the outer ditch of the fort and brought off the flag.

Second—The dispatch-bearer, who was sold to be killed, int the fort, and his horse, brought out by one of the men, was killed, that 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 sharpfar shooter in Weitzel's skirmish line, ran into the outer ditch of the fort and brought off the flag. far successful that a motion for a reference of the resolution to the Judiciary Committee was defeated, 15 to 19. No direct vote on the resolution was reached.

Jan. 6—The petition of the Mother Superinted at the Sisters of Chapity, praying

intendent 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. The Senate concurred in the report. The bill defining certain points of procedure in trials for treason and other crimes, was passed. Among other things, it gives in trials of treason, the privilege of twenty peremptory challenges of jurors to the defendant, and five to the jurors to the defendant, and here to the government. The day was chiefly spent upon the bill dropping from the rolls officers of the army who, without being disabled, have been three months unemployed. The Military Committee reported adversely upon it, chiefly on the ground that the President already possesses discretionary power in the case. The passage of the bill was urged on the ground that this power is not exercised with ground that this power is not exercised with sufficient promptness. It was at length interactively postponed, 28 to 8. A joint resolution from the House, of thanks to General Sherman and his army, was passed without dissent, when the Senate adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENATIVES. Jan. 5—Mr. Stephens made another effort to reach the gold gamblers, by offering a re-solution instructing the committees on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to prevent combinations for raising the price of coin and depreciating the value of the lawful money of the United States. The resolution lies over. A motion, calling for legislation to break up the recruit-ing brokerage system was adopted. Jan. 6—The House unanimously adopted,

and sent to the Senate for corcurrence, a joint resolution of the thanks of Congress to Major-General Sherman and his army, for their late gallant, and well conducted exploit. A bill for the promotion of knowledge by the suspension of duties on imported paper was intro-duced and reported to the committee on Ways and Means. [The present duty amounts to an absolute prohibition, and is of course worthless for revenue. Its only practical effect has been to throw up the price of news-papers, books, &c., to their present prices.] The joint resolution from the Senate, initiating the process of a general emancipation by an amendment of the Constitution, was brought up and debated through the day, the brought up and debated through the day, the debate at length running into a sharp personal controversy between Mr. Schofield of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Brooks of New York. Jan. 7th—The Secretary of War having failed to comply with a resolution of last month calling for copies of the order Dec. 1863, that recruits to fill up old organizations should be mustered out of the service with their regiments, calling also for a copy of the letter to Gov. Andrew, and asking whether the principle therein announced has been applied to all soldiers mustered in to fill up

THE WAR.

applied to all soldiers mustered in to fill up old regiments, the House adopted a resolu-

tion, directing the Secretary to inform it why the call was not complied with, and now to

furnish the papers and information asked. The emancipation amendment subject was resumed, and debated to the hour of ad-

THE SOUTHWEST. destroy such property and stores as might be there. Pollard when reached was found to be evacuated, and a large destruction of railroad, including depot and cars, was made; also a a great amount of grain and government stores, and 2000 stand of arms. On returning expedition encountered the enemy, and a sharp engagement ensued. The colored infantry made a successful charge, led by Col. Robinson, who fell, shot through the thigh, when half way across the bridge. After Robinson was wounded the command devolved upon Lieut. Col. A. B. Speerling, Second Maine. A second attack was made by the enemy, which was repulsed, and the rebels scattered through the woods with heavy loss, including Col. Olmstead, their leader, who was killed. Seven of the enemy's flags were captured, and the expedition was not again molested during its return. Our total loss during the time the expedition was out was estimated at 75 killed, wounded, and missing.

and missing.

A despatch from Decatur, Alabama, Dec. 29th, states that Gen. Stedman, of Thomas' army had transferred his command to the south bank of the Tennessee, a short distance above, two nights previous, and thrown it upon the town. The enemy, under Hood, made a rapid retreat. Our cavalry, under Col. Polly, Tenth Indiana, captured two twelve-pounder guns, their horses and caiseous and also took a number of prisoners.

sons, and also took a number of prisoners.

A Tennessee correspondent, in the Cincinnati Commercial, of Jan. 4th, speaks of some new strategy of Gen. Thomas as being in the wind. He says that we may expect our next news of this commander from another direc-The sick and wounded have been sent to Nashville, and the whole army is put in

Another raid, sent out from the Gulf Department, is heard of through a Memphis perature of the earth has not diminished date of Jan. 3, as follows: "General Dana has received information from his cavalry force, sent from here on the 21st of December, that they struck the Mobile and Ohio Rail road five miles below Corinth, and had, on the 27th, utterly destroyed it to below Okalona. Twenty-nine bridges, a good deal of trestle-work, thirty-two railroad cars, three hundred army wagons, and four thousand carbines were destroyed. Forrest's camp of dismounted men at Everona was dispersed. Six officers and twenty men were captured. The expedition did not lose a man. Gen. Grierson has orders to destroy the road as far as Meridian, and release our prisoners at Catawba, if possible."

EXPEDITION AGAINST WILMINGTON.

The assertion that any of our men entered the fort, is a mistake, created by a false

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,

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 reinforce-ments 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 demon-stration against the fort as not abandoned and that its reduction may be expected at no distant day. We wait.

LATEST.

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 Branchville.—Thirty millions were subscribed to the gold-bearing bonds of the Government catha 6th and 7th inst., after which they were withdrawn from the market.—Congress is still tinkering at the whisky-tax.—Secretary Stanton, General Meigs, Collector Draper. of New York, and others have gone to Savanhah. 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. 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 7000. General Lyon has managed to escape pursuit, and is sate 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 leal about it.

CONGRESS.—The Senate, on Monday, passed the bill giving freedom to the wives and children of colored soldiers. The House debated 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 Washsouth. He had formerly a charge in Washington city.—Four blockade runners, said by 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.—Charleston is reported to be deserted of all its inhabitants who are able to leave. Great distress prevails, the necessaries of life being scarcely attainable at any price. Almost no business is do ing. except what is connected with blockade ing, 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 A successful Union raid from New Orleans forfeited their rights by disloyalty, will be into Alabama was accomplished near the compensated.—There is much excitement into Alabama was accomplished near the middle of last month. The force consisted of about two thousand men, including the Second Maine Cavalry, First Alabama Cavalry, egranted, but in anticipation, a number of Fourteenth New York Cavalry, and three cond Maine Cavalry, First Alabama Cavalry, Frouteenth New York Cavalry, and three regiments of colored troops, with two pieces of artillery, under command of Col. G. D. Robinson, of the Ninety-seventh Colored Infantry. The object was to sever telegraphic and railroad communications at Pollard, and to pirate is on the seas. Shenandoah, formerly and stores as might be a British steamer sailing under the name of the Sea King. She has already given an earnest 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 prices, 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 temmore than 1-306th 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 PRONOUN-WHY IT FAILED.—The N. Y. Tribune of last Friday, has a Norfolk letter of January 2, on this subject, which throws the blame upon—the navel officers rather than upon General Butler. We give the concluding sentences:

"The EDITORS OF LIPPINGOTT'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 appearance that they will be clear. Philadelphia, announce that they will be glad to receive any items of information that may rumor started among the soldiers at the close of the reconnoissance. The true statement revision of the work.

of the incidents that gave rise to the rumor | INITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Cash Acknowledgments up to December 31, 1864.
Three Ladies, through a member of St.
Andrew's Church, Philadelphia, \$3 0 Andrew's Church, Philadelphia,
Ladies' Christian Commission and Loyal League, Bethesda, Pa. per Mrs. L.
W. Brosius,
Ladies' Aid, St. Georges, Del., per John
P. Bellville,
Cortland Reformed Dutch Church Sabbath school, East Haverstraw, N. Y.
per S. B. Dyckman,
Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Pa. per
Rev. Mr. Deament,
A Friend, per Rev. J. Truckett, 200
Holy Trinity Church, West Chester,
Pa. per Rev. John Bolton, 62 43
Baptist Church, Willistown, Pa. per
Rev. Sugerbeer,
Per W. E. Barber, Treasurer.
Union Church, Copenhagen, N. Y. per Union Church, Copenhagen, N. Y. per Rev. Mr. Place, "Cash," New Haven, Ct. "Cash," New Haven, Ct. Christian Commission, Detroit, Mich. per E. C. Walker, Union Collection, Unadilla, Mich. per W. J. Nutting, New York Central Branch U. S. C. C. New York Central Branch U. S. C. C. per R. S. Williams, Treasurer:
Sale of Chapel Tent, 26th Regiment
New York Volunteers, 164 00
Ladies' Aid Soc'y, Clayville, N.Y. 98 57
Dr. Fowler's Church, Utica, (to purchase Chapel Tent,) 275 61
Miscellaneous contributions, 961 82—
Mrs. Sallie L. Crozer, Philadelphia, for chapel fly.

chapel fly, J. R., Philadelphia, Cadiz Circuit, Wis. per Rev. E. McGinley, Army Committee, Bethlehem, Pa. per Rev. S. Wolle, Collection at meeting Lancaster, Pa. Collection at meeting! Lancaster, Paper Mr. Hubley, Central Congregational Church, Philadelphia, (add'l, for purchase of chapel tent,) per Rev. Edw. Hawes, Ladies' Auxiliary Christian Commission of the M. E. Churches, Philadelphia, per Mrs. E. Long, Treasurer: Mount Zion Church, Manayunk, 220 00 St. John's Street Church, 100 00

St. John's Street Church, 100 00 Green Street Church, 8 71 St. Paul's Church, 43 00 Trinity Church, 285 73.
Spring Garden Street Church, 36 00
Nazareth Church, 6 00
Wharton Street Church, 37 00 Haines St. Church, Germantown, Union Street Church, ... Hestonville Church, ... 25 00 6 00 Hedding Church, Ebenezer Church, 10 00 Salem Church, 45 00-Collections at Meetings held by Frank Schluembach: Bath, Pa. Freemansburg, Pa. Catasaqua, Pa.

Beading, Pa. 37 00
Bethlehem, (part collection by Rev. S. Wolle,) 20 00
Hazleton, Pa. 45 00 Nazareth, Pa. . Allentown, Pa. . Sundry collections, Ladies' Aid Society, Hartsville, Pa. per Ladies' Aid Society, Hartsville, Pa. per Miss Davies, Presbyterian Church, Lower Tusca-rors, Pa. per J. Buck, add'l, G. W. Sixton, Collection at Meeting at Spartansburg, Pa. 1980

Pa. 19 80 Express charges (to be deducted), 1 30— Per Lewis Ketchum. Presbyterian Church, Southport, N. Y. per Mrs. Dewing,
First Presbyterian Church, Mantua,
West Philad'a, per Horace Hill,
M. E. Churches, Watertown, N. Y. per
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Henry Ross, Palestine, Ohio,
Congregational church, Summer Hill,
Ill., per S. R. Thrall,
Dr. William P. Vail, Johnsonburg, N. J.
First Presbyterian church, Wilmington, Del., per Rev. C. E. Kellogg,
Luther Smith, Canajoharie, N. Y.
O. S. Presbyterian church, Harrisburg,
Pa. per J. McCormick, Jr.

Pa., per J. McCormick, Jr.

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Ladies' Aid Society, Athens, Pa., per
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United Presbyterian church, North Argyle, N. Y., Collection, Warsaw, Ohio, Mrs. Sarah Williams, Hillsville, Penn-10 00

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Brackett's Bridge, 980
Floyd, 980
Salsbury, 980
Salsbury, 3960—
Per Rev. James Erwin, Rome, N. Y.
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Ladies' Christian Commission of Clinton St. Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, (additional),
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B. A. W. Bruehl, Cincinnati, Ohio, Festival Soldiers' Aid Soc., Spring, Pa. Christian Commission, Sacramento, Cal. per Dr. McDonald,
Proceeds of sale of Syrian curiosities
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Syria, W. G. N., Philadelphia, add'l, Citizens of Windsor, N. Y. per A. W. Coburn, Evangelical Lutheran church, Myers-Evangelical Lutneran enurca, Myes-town, Pa. per Rev. L. G. Eggers, Proceeds of a Thanksgiving supper at Pawlet, Vt. per Miss Julia Robinson, St. Matthew's Lutheran church, Philadelphia, per Martin Buhler, T. N. Patterson, Shawmut, Elk co. Pa.

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30 00

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STORES. The United States Christian Commission begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional stores, up to January 1, 1865:

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Wilkesbarre-Presbyterian Sunday School, per Mr. O. Collins, 1 box.

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NEW JERSEY.

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E. W. Rogers, Sec'y, 1 keg, 2 boxes.

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Newton—1 box. Newton-1 box. NEW YORK.

New York-Branch U. S. C. C. per Dr. N. Bishop, New York—Branen U. S. C. C. per Dr. R. Bishop, 20 packages of papers. Buffulo—Branch U. S. C. C., 10 packa's papers. Owego—Per C. A. Winthrop, I box. Buffulo—Ladies' Christian Commission, per Mrs. G. F. Gindley, 5 boxes and 14 packages shipped from Buffalo.

Waterford—Aid Society, per Mrs. G. W. Eddy,

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Winsted—1 barrel.

New Haven—Christian Commission, per H. N.
Whittinsby, 2 barrels; Ladies' Seminary, 1 box. RHODE ISLAND. Pawtucket-Aid Association, per Providence Branch, 2 boxes.

CANADA WEST. Toronto-American Soldiers' Aid Society, per Miss A. B. Foltz, 1 barrel. OHIO.

Cincinnati — Branch United States Christian Commission, 4 boxes, 2 packages of papers. UNKNOWN. 2 barrels, 1 box clothing, 1 box pads, 1 box GEORGE H. STUART,

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