News of the Week.

CONGRESS.

Senate.—Dec. 12—Mr. Cowan, of Pennsylvania, presented a petition asking for a high tariff on imported goods. A bill was introduced to grant the right of constructing a telegraph line from New York to the West Indies. A resolution declaring the rebellion subdued, and restoring the writ of habeas corpus throughout the country, was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The resolution from the House to appoint a committee on the late rebellious States was taken up, and after striking out that part which provides that no members from such States can be admitted until the committee has reported, was adopted. This leaves each House free to act without waiting for the other, and removes the necessity for Executive approval. A resolution calling for information as to whether the rebellion is suppressed, and for the reports of Government officers and agents who have visited the states in revolt, was passed.

Dec. 13.—A resolution was adopted, calling for information whether there were any persons employed in any of the departments who had not taken the oath of allegiance. A bill was presented abrogating all laws of States lately in rebellion, which make an inequality of civil rights among their inhabitants on account of race or color; pending the discussion of which the Senate adjourned.

Dec. 14.—A resolution favoring the eight-hour system for laborers on Government works, was presented and laid over. The death of Hon. Jacob Collamer, late a Senator from Vermont, was officially announced, and eulogies on the deceased were delivered by Messrs. Foot, Harris, Johnson, Fessenden, Dixon, Riddle, and by Mr. Poland, the successor of Mr. Collamer, after which they adjourned until Monday.

Dec. 18—Resolutions and bills were introduced when the Senate went into executive session.

House.—Dec. 12.—A communication was presented from the Governor of Virginia, enclosing an act of the Legislature favoring the repeal of the act of 1862, consenting to the division of the State, and the formation of West Virginia. The Military Committee was instructed to report upon the propriety of granting bounties to the soldiers who enlisted in 1861 and 1862. Mr. Raymond presented the credentials of persons elected to the House from Tennessee, and moved that they be *referred to the joint committee on* the subject of the late Confederate States. Considerable debate ensued, but the motion finally prevailed—yeas 125, nays 42. The claimants were also granted the privilege of the floor. The Committee on Territories were instructed to give the name of Lincoln to one of the new Territories.—The chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Bidwell, of California, is one of the largest, if not the largest farmer in the United States. He owns 26,000 acres, a large proportion under cultivation, 1,000 acres in wheat, on which he raised this year 38,000 bushels.

Dec. 13.—A resolution was passed instructing the committee on the Lincoln memorial to consider the expediency of providing for the completion of the Washington monument, so that it could be dedicated to commemorate the virtues of both Washington and Lincoln. The Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to inquire into the expediency of creating the eight-hour law. The committee on Pacific railroad were likewise instructed to inquire into what action is necessary to expedite the work. Mr. Farnsworth introduced resolutions declaring that impartial justice demands that our Government should secure to the colored soldiers of the Union the same rights and privileges as are accorded to other citizens of the United States. A motion to lay them on the table was defeated by a vote of 42 yeas to 113 nays. They were referred to Mr. Stevens' select committee. It was resolved that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to consider and report whether any inhabitants of the rebel States are entitled to compensation for loss occasioned by the Union armies; also, that the same committee inquire into the expediency of reporting an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting any State from making any distinction of color in giving the elective franchise.

Dec. 14.—The Speaker announced the committee on the part of the House to inquire into the condition of the late so-called Confederate States:—Messrs. Stevens of Pennsylvania, Washburne of Illinois, Morrill of Vermont, Grider of Kentucky, Bingham of Ohio, Conkling of New York, Boutwell of Massachusetts, Blow of Missouri, and Rogers of New Jersey.

It was resolved that with the agreement of the Senate the House would adjourn from Dec. 20 to January 9.

Appropriations for repairing the White House, and for pensions were voted. The House by an unanimous vote of 153 yeas passed the following resolution.

Resolved, That treason against the United States is a crime that ought to be punished.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Republican institutions can find permanent safety only upon the basis of the universal intelligence of the people: and *whereas*, the great disasters which have afflicted the nation and desolated one-half of its territory, are traceable, in a great degree, to the absence of common schools and general education among the people of the lately rebellious States: therefore,

Resolved, That the joint committee on reconstruction be instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing in this capitol a National Bureau of Education, whose duty it shall be to enforce education without regard to race or color, upon the population of all such States as shall fall below a standard to be established by Congress, and to enquire whether such a bureau should not be made an essential and permanent part of any reconstruction: also,

Resolved, That all papers which may be offered relative to the representation of the late so-called Confederate States of America or either of them, shall be referred to the joint committee of fifteen without debate, and no member shall be admitted from either of the so-called States until Congress shall declare such States or either of them entitled to representation.

Dec. 18.—The credentials of J. M. Johnson, of Arkansas, were referred to the Select Committee. A resolution declaring it an assumption of power for the President to extend the elective franchise to persons in the States was tabled. The President's message was debated.

The Congressional Oath, passed July 2d, 1862:—"I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power or constitution within the United States hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Oregon Conference.—The minutes of this conference, show an advance in almost every department. The number of members and probationers is 3028, which is an increase of 121. There are thirty-five churches and twenty-two parsonages, the former being one, and the latter four more than last year. There are sixty-seven Sabbath-schools and 2632 scholars; an increase of fourteen schools and 215 scholars.

The Two Million Fund.—The Methodists in this country propose to raise two millions of dollars next year for benevolent purposes, as their centennial offering. One rich man among them has already subscribed *a quarter of a million*, to begin the endowment of a theological seminary! He will put it on a complete foundation. A good beginning.

Statistics of the M. E. Church.—The *Advocate and Journal* gives, in advance of the publication of the General Minutes of the M. E. Church in the U. S. for 1865, some important statistical tables. The total membership, probationers included, is 929,259, against 928,320 reported in 1864. This exhibits an increase of 939, a figure which, so far as it *is* an increase, is gratifying, but which falls much below the expectation of those who, from the frequent reports of the wonderful spread of that church, have been led to expect an enlargement at least correspondent to the growth of population. There are 7175 preachers, of whom 6014 are "effective." The increase of "travelling preachers" of all classes is 354. This does not include local preachers, where an increase is also reported. The number of churches reported is 10,041, being 21 more than were reported last year. In the benevolent contributions there has been an enlargement of more than one-fifth.

Revival in Virginia.—Rev. James A. Davis, pastor at Timber Ridge and Liberty, Virginia, reports to the *Religious Herald* about two hundred conversions in connection with protracted meetings recently held in the two churches. One hundred and forty have already come into communion by baptism. Quite powerful revivals are also reported from Bedford, Charlottesville, and churches in Culpepper county.

Items.—From New York, revivals of much interest are reported as going forward in the Second Street M. E. Church, and at the Bank Street Mission.——A revival is in progress in the M. E. Church in Bridgewater, Mass.——On Oxford circuit, in the neighboring county of Chester, the work of God has been considerably revived. At one appointment (Mount Rocky,) the membership has increased from twenty to fifty-seven.——Large and numerous revivals in the Methodist churches in and around Washington city, are reported; also on Patapsco and Montgomery circuits in Maryland.——In Genessee College, Lima, N. Y., and Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, the work of salvation is going forward among the students.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

The very valuable correspondence from Nevada, which we have published in the *Commercial List* for a number of weeks, is meeting with the attention it deserves. These letters undoubtedly furnish the best history of the location, value and future prospects of the various silver bearing ledges of the Reese River region, the most prolific of rich lodes in Nevada. *Mining Register.*

OUR NEW SERVANT.

BY GRACE GREENWOOD.

I think I must tell the children and their mammas of a wonderful servant we have had for about two months past. She is not Irish, or German, or African, but that exceedingly rare bird, a genuine American servant—handy, clever, and *cute*. Her virtues are manifold. In the first place, she is wonderfully quiet—going silently and steadily about her work—doing all that is required of her "with neatness and despatch." She is good-tempered—is never "on the rampage"—never insolent—never unkind to children. She has no followers—never goes off without warning; never wastes, never blunders, don't drink, and don't break the eighth commandment.

I call her a servant, but she seems to me more like a helpful friend, a kindly companion; and yet she is but a soulless thing, after all—a mere wonderful piece of human mechanism; she is—*one of Wilcox and Gibbs' admirable Sewing Machines.*

I was very late in availing myself of the services of this great, beneficent hand-maiden of modern womanhood. I have longed for one vaguely for years, and made many resolutions to procure one, but have refrained, from painful doubts of my own ability to manage a creature that seemed to me so "fearfully and wonderfully made." Being but modestly endowed with mechanical ingenuity and insight, I dreaded the trouble and vexation of learning to work *any* machine, and my inquiries of friends were always for the most simple invention. The weight of reliable evidence being overwhelming for that of Willcox and Gibbs', I at last decided upon it, procured it, am more than satisfied.

I began my acquaintance with it with some trepidation, but it soon put me quite at my ease. We were capital friends at once, and, as yet, have had no falling out. Together we fell right to work, and manufactured an article of clothing very creditable that very morning.

The simplicity of this machine is only equalled by the unerring accuracy with which it works. Our little daughter, after a very few trials, was able to manage it nicely, and the two are now on excellent terms. The only trouble is, that mamma cannot supply work fast enough. She laughs to see it hungrily devour the tedious long seams which were once her aversion, and then lick up the little seams, hems, tucks and fells with such apparent relish.

Ah, mothers and wives, when work presses—when muslins, linens and prints cumber your drawers, and little ones clamor for spring "toggery," the thought that in your sitting room waits, ever to help you, a silent, trusty friend, of forty sewing woman power, is wondrously sustaining, isn't it?

And while the novelty lasts at least, a sewing machine is a great incentive to industry in the family. Restless little girls delight in a kind of work so exceedingly like play; and boys even take to it, and think it "jolly good sport" to be able to manufacture their own shirts.

As for myself, I must confess I have not yet come to any real hard word with my machine. It still amuses me. I am still experimenting with it, and wondering at its Puck-like swiftness; I delight to set at a long seam, and see it go like a greyhound on the scent—like Flora Temple on the course. In short, I don't believe there will be any end to my enjoyment of my machine while the dry goods hold out.—*The Little Pilgrim*

[From the Evening Telegraph.]

Profits of Silver Mining.

Answers to Objections to Investments in Silver Mining Property—Distance—Transportation of Bullion Inexhaustability of the Mines—Silver versus Oil, Etc., Etc.

To the end that the value of the silver regions of the Eastern Pacific slope should be properly known and appreciated by our readers, we have endeavored in several previous issues of *The Evening Telegraph* to describe the extent, immense wealth, and inexhaustibility of the treasure regions of the Territories. That our efforts have not been without success is evident from the urgent requests which have reached us from various quarters and all branches of trade to continue and extend the valuable information thus furnished. We have, moreover, had the pleasure of chronicling the organization of several new mining companies, which have purchased ledges in the silver region, and gone to work in a systematic and energetic manner.

All this is encouraging, and it is the best evidence we could have that the business men of Philadelphia, as well as the capitalists, are not disposed to allow New York and Boston to appropriate the whole of the valuable property here offered, or reap the immense and legitimate profit to be derived therefrom.

The objections to investment in the gold and silver mining property now offered in the market, and to which capital is invited as a *sine qua non* of success, are neither few nor unreasonable, at first sight; but it is proposed to show that they are not insuperable or indeed really well founded.

DISTANCE FROM HOME.

One of the first of these objections offered is the distance to Colorado, Idaho, or Montana. Shrewd business men say, "It's too far off; I grant the wealth of the mines; I cannot doubt the evidence of reliable men, or the proof of returns in the amount of bullion shipped monthly; but I'm afraid to put my money where I can't look after it myself." Now this is reasonable and natural, but let us see as to the distance. We are within four days by rail of Atchison, Kansas, the grand starting point across the plains. From there eight days will put us, by daily stage, in any point of the Colorado mines, twenty days from Philadelphia in the mines of Nevada, and a like time by water from St. Louis in the mines of Montana.

"But stop," says the objector, "that is too long for our letters; we must communicate more readily." "Step into the American Telegraph office with me, my friend. It is now 12 o'clock noon by the ornamental clock there of the enterprising proprietor of our excellent daily, the *Ledger*. Let us send this dispatch:—'To Superintendent Franklin, Silver Mining Company, Canon City, Nevada. What is the mine doing?' 'Our dispatch has gone in its turn, has it not?' 'Yes It will reach Nevada at 9 o'clock, A. M., gaining just three hours in time, and be in the hands of our energetic superintendent actually before we sent it by the *Ledger* clock. When you are opening your business letters to-morrow morning his answer will be before you. Will not this do?"

TRANSPORTATION OF BULLION.

"Yes, but," adds objector, "how about receiving the gold and silver here when we mine it. It's all very fine to have a mine yielding under proper management, $5000 a day; but then your treasure has to pass through a wild uncultivated country, full of hostile Indians and white desperadoes, our chances for dividends will be slim." "Not so, oh! man of little faith" your superintendent ships his bullion, be it much or little, bars or tons, with our invaluable express company of Wells, Fargo & Co. By them it is safely transported from Nevada to San Francisco, deposited, if required, in the Mint, and by the first mail, certificates, entitling your company to its value in coin at the United States Mint in this city, are forwarded, and your stockholders get their dividends in that coin, with the additional advantage of the existing premium; or, your bullion can be sold on the spot, and your money paid by telegraph on New York or Philadelphia at an exchange of one per cent., and the cost of the telegram."

WILD CAT.

"That is satisfactory and better than I thought, yet there is another difficulty in my mind. I am told one-half of the mining property sent here for sale is what you Nevada men call 'wild cat,' with neither title to the ledge or silver in it if there was." "You never was in greater error. That irresponsible and unscrupulous speculators have placed worthless property on the market hitherto is true, but that the majority of that now offering, or indeed any of it is such, is not true. The mining laws of Nevada require strict compliance with their regulations, which demand record of discovery, a certain amount of labor on each hundred feet of every claim to be done monthly, and the expenditure of a certain sum before a fee simple can be obtained.

"The mining engineers of Nevada are honest and practical men, and will not furnish false reports. The assayers, whose certificates you can have with every claim offered, are among the best in the world, and you have also specimens, not selected, sent you in any quantity required, which can be assayed here and show for themselves. You are not asked to go into the thing blindfolded—send a man you can trust out there, if you have no faith in human integrity west of the Rocky Mountains, and within six weeks you can have his report by telegraph, and act upon it."

INEXHAUSTIBILITY OF THE MINES.

Admitting that to the objections above proffered there have been perfectly satisfactory answers rendered, it is not to be supposed that no others will be presented; on the contrary, a common obstacle is as follows:—"Even if these mines are as rich as represented, what guarantee have we that their wealth will not be exhausted in a short time?" To this query there is, fortunately, an uncontrovertible argument in reply—*no silver mine was ever known to be exhausted.* The mines of the Andes yield to this day as they have for centuries; the mines of Potosi, in South America, have been worked since 1545! The mines of Hungary still yield as they did when worked by the Romans before Christ. Man's efforts have not and cannot exhaust the prodigal gifts of a beneficent Providence. It is idle, therefore, and puerile to speak of the inexhaustibility of a region the mineral wealth of which has been known to man but five years! If in this brief period we have begun to learn the possibility of extracting enormous amounts of treasure from these hills, what may we not expect when only a quarter of a century shall have elapsed? The chance of any company or companies exhausting the ores of a fairly located group of veins is consequently about as probable as lightning in an unclouded sky.

SILVER VS. OIL.

And now rises the most frequent objection offered to investments in mines:—"I went into oil when it promised as much as silver, and have lost all I invested, and now am called upon for an extra assessment on my stock." Let us compare the two, and decide the case—Silver vs. Oil. Last fall and winter when the oil fever existed, and all that was necessary to raise half a million of dollars was to issue a prospectus, every one who had any money over and above what was actually needed in their business, took stock. In the first place land was bought, likely or unlikely to produce oil; next, money was squandered by bad management and rascality, then when the failure occurred, the whole "oil business" was denounced So much for the "bogus companies."

The legitimate and well-managed have paid a better interest than any other investment, save silver mining, yet known, but how much short of silver the best dividends from oil have been, we shall see. Four per cent. per month, occasionally passing a dividend, and sometimes through fortuitous circumstances declaring an "extra," has been the history of the best—the Columbia—and against this there have been a thousand failures with no dividends.

In silver mining the facts are as follows:—Gould and Curry Mining Company, organized within five years, on the Comstock lode, Nevada, each share representing a foot of ledge—sold at $10 per share—has since yielded $15,000,000; and for the year from December, 1863, to December, 1864, yielded $4,000,000, spending $1,000,000 in improvements. This company has declared dividends of $500 per share. "Savage," "Empire," "Belcher," "Crown Point," "Morgan and Muncy," and numerous others are paying dividends monthly ranging from $50 to $100 per share in coin, to Eastern holders, in New York. Of these, the Empire has paid $320 per share. Examination of the financial advertising column of the New York *Herald* will show this fact every month. So much for dividends.

Again, in oil operations, there is a great risk. A well must be sunk three, five, or eight hundred feet, before the presence of oil can be decided, and the whole amount expended may be—how often has been—lost. In silver mining the course of the vein is invariably traced upon the surface, and science and practical experience have demonstrated that rock yielding the slightest trace of silver, or its chlorides or sulphurets at the top, will inevitably prove enormously rich at the water-level—growing in value as the vein is worked.

There need be no doubt—no hesitation: there is no "striking silver," like "striking oil," and consequently no opportunity for swindling. Given a certain amount of ledge yielding ores, which will assay a given amount of bullion, and the result may be as readily computed, expenses estimated, and profits reckoned as in the investment of one thousand dollars at six per cent. per annum. Oil is vague, transitory, capricious, "one day she flows and then she's sulky," they tell you at the wells.

Silver is always there, responding to the blows of the miner's pick, in the ore, softening and becoming friable in the roasting furnace, crushed and disintegrated under the stamps, it is finally wedded to its "natural affinity," the quicksilver in the amalgamator—turning out at last clean and bright, in bars or coin, to pay our national debt, bless our people in adding to our wealth, and requiring no further manipulation to add its quota to our commercial value.

REVIEW.

We have in the foregoing endeavored to answer any objections which could be presented to the investment of capital in silver mining, and honestly beg to call the attention of all classes of our citizens to the importance of the subject. It is hardly necessary to add that everything stated as fact herein is based on actual occurrence, "the documents" for which are open for examination. In quoting prices asked for mining property, it is to be understood that in nearly every instance the original owners will take a large portion, if not all the purchase money in the stock of the developing company—the mines remaining in trust until developed. If, in our efforts to disseminate information relative to the mining interests of our Territories, we shall have succeeded in inducing the investment of capital therein, or the creation of one new enterprise, we shall have been rewarded.

Special Notices.

☞ **The Presbytery of Rochester will** hold its annual meeting in Brockport on Tuesday, the ninth (9th) day of January, 1866, at two o'clock P. M.
C. E. FURMAN, Stated Clerk.
BUFFALO, Dec. 15th, 1865.

☞ **The Presbytery of Cortland will** hold its next stated meeting at Lisle, Tuesday, the 16th of January next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.
H. N. MILLERD, Stated Clerk.

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