REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec., 1865. By officious crowds of reporters and through the secular press, you have doubtless received all the particulars and formalities connected with the late reassemblings at our National Capitol. Already have you learned about the opening of a new Congress, not in turmoil of motion and countermotion, with lengthy and stormy debate, but with unwonted facility and quietness. Heard, too, how, not by cunning, fraud, or bluster, the delegations from the rebel States got into Congress, but how they managed not to get in. Received, no doubt, and filed away, are Presidential message and Secretaries' reports—verbose and of such enormous length that not one in a hundred ever seriously meditates their perusal. Of all these things you need none of my writing.

RECONSTRUCTION

has been, is now, and likely to be for some months to come, the great problem in this centre of American wisdom. The President insists that the rebel States were never out of the Union. To reach such a conclusion, a large amount of metaphysical reasoning and profound thought was required. Newspaper reporters, with their accustomed inaccuracy, have given to the public that President Johnson was never at collegehardly at school-but picked up by odds and ends whatever of learning is in his possession This must be a great mistake. The depths of reasoning requisite to show the rebel States all in the Union these four and a half years past, bespeak the disciple of the most profound German metaphysician.

True, all the people of these States. men, women, and children, went fiercely out of the Union-declared themselves to be out, and actually staid out for four years and more. They organized another government, elected other officers, and took other oaths of fealty. All intercourse between them and the Union was effectually broken off. A long, fierce and bloody war was waged to maintain their severance. It cost the Union half | The decrease is 48,950. a million of her choice young men, with an outlay of thirty-five hundred millions in money, to whip back the vagrant States, like truant school boys, to their old places. Slender minorities from these revolted States have elected sham legislatures, who, though very reluctantly, have resolved that secession, with all its attendant acts, was and is a nul

Such profundity of reasoning and deduction are worthy of that held in an ecclesiastical body once heard of. A defunct college was to be resuscitated. Neither professors, students, building, library, or meney had belonged to it for years. A learned divine, however, insisted the institution was still in existence. In what manner? it was inquired. "In its Chairs." "What chairs?" "Why, its Chair of Rhetoric, its Chair of Philosophy, its Chair of Metaphysics, &c. Chairs were Chairs," he contended, whether any one sat upon them or not!"

THE RECONSTRUCTION

in which we have at present the greatest interest, certainly the most hopeful, and, when accomplished, will prove the ordinance prohibiting Slavery, 3696 to reject most enduring, is the education and consequent elevation of the Freedmen. At sequent elevation of the Freedmen. At document, declares his "unalterable purpose least twelve different denominations and to aid in upholding the supremacy of the laws benevolent associations from the North

have sent their teachers and moral rehave sent their teachers and moral representatives into this District, and organized schools and Sabbath instruction looking upon this great diversity as a for purposes of extortion, &c. Already the calamity, we rather consider it as betokening increased good to those intended to be benefitted. All the various types present to withdraw the military force. of Christian faith, which in their free exercise have made the North so great, may here blend in the elevation of this depressed race, and in the end lift it above any and all of the originals.

been formed for mutual co-operation, assistance, and improvement. At a meeting held a few days since, about eighty of these teachers and superintendents were present and representing all those Northern interests. Harmony interest. Northern interests. Harmony, interest, and intelligence characterized all the proceedings. At least one-fourth of the proceedings. At least one-fourth of the tion to the cause, (the attempt to overthrow teachers present were colored. Nor did the Union and Government,) and the gallanthis cause any apparent detriment to try displayed by her sons. Then a recess took place that all the members might be introduced to the General.

Unity of action, discipline, instruction and books were subjects of discussion. Measures for mutual improvement were also adopted. This seemed the more necessary, seeing these representatives of Northern education and religion find no countenance, co-operation, or sympathy from any former educational interests which are found here. From the old inhabitants generally, this educational crusade from the North receives the utmost contempt and loathing.

Time, patience and perseverance, with the judicious interference of Congress, will overcome all these hindrances. Never was good seed sown with better prospect for an abundant harvest. A. M. STEWART.

CHICAGO.—Rev. E. A. Pierce has resigned the pastorate of the Westminster Church in Chicago, preparatory to assuming that of Calvary Church in the

Our friend Samuel Loag, has removed his printing establishment to Sansom Street adopting the Constitutional amendment: Hall.

same city.

Aews of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

occurred for a monument to those who fell.——
The Spanish admiral off the coast of Chili has grossly insulted Mr. Nelson, our Chilian Minister. The entire diplomatic corps take sides with Mr. Nelson.—The rebel Captain Semmes is to be tried for having left the Alabama after her surrender to the Kearsage, and for afterwards engaging in hostilities against the United States.—The Provisional Governors of the Southern States are paid by the Government at the rate of \$3000 -The total amount of money disbursed by the Paymaster's Department from July 1st, 1861, to the present date, is \$1,029,-239,000. The total defalcations in the same Department for same period, supposing that nothing is made from sureties, (and it is be-lieved that more than one half will be collected from these sources) is \$541,000.—A. D. Richardson, Julius H. Browne, and Wm. E. Davis, the correspondents who were prisoners in Salisbury so many months, are among the summoned witnesses for the Government in the case of Gee, the late rebel commandant of that prison, who is now being tried at Raleigh, N. C., by a military commission, on charges of cruelty to prisoners.—Commodore Winslow, formerly of the Kearsarge, has been ordered to command the Gulf Squadron. The squadron consists of 20 vessels, carrying -Instructions have been issued by the Freedmen's Bureau throughout the South, prohibiting planters from turning off aged and infirm negroes, as contemplated, on New Year's day.—About 125,000 men are still in the service.—Mr. Seward has taken voyage South, some say to Vera Cruz.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—There is a very destructive flood on the Susquehanna. Millions of feet of lumber float down the stream past Wil-

New York.—The Stock Exchange, of New York City, did the handsome thing recently, in voting \$5000, as a Christmas present, to General Grant. The money is to be added to what is known as the Grant Testimonial Fund, which now reaches \$67,000. When

\$100,000 is subscribed, it will be duly presented to the General with "all the honors."

—Every inch of real estate south of the Park now is worth more than the gold you can cover it with. The scheme of an underground passenger railway beneath Broadway which was defeated last year by the Governor's veto, is again being agitated in this city.—In 1860 the population of New York State was 3,880,727. In 1865 it is 3,831,777.

New England.—A Boston paper says, "the dividends for the past six months already announced by manufacturing compa-nies in the New England States denote a degree of prosperity without a parallel."-By a large fire at Groton, Conn., Dec. 28, the immense steamer Commonwealth and a large railroad depot were destroyed. The loss was \$1,500,000.—A Social Science Association has been inaugurated in Boston.

Ohio.—The State debt is \$12,900,000, less by \$600,000 than last year.

Indiana.—The Indiana Legislature, before adjourning, passed resolutions in favor of hanging Jeff Davis.

Illinois has increased 500,000, or 33 per cent. in the past 5 years.* Virginia.—Nearly one hundred thousand

acres of abandoned lands in Virginia are being cultivated by the Freedmen, under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau. North Carolina.-The editor of the Char-

lotte, N. C., *Times* has been arrested for printing seditious articles.—Major Wickersham, of the Freedmen's Bureau, has ordered the chairman of the county court to revoke the sentence against McCoy and Walker, the negroes ordered to be sold into slavery for larceny, and says that, in default, all the members of the court shall be put under arrest. — The people of North Carolina have declared null and void the ordinance stances of disorder are mentioned as having of secession by a vote of 19,977 votes against 1940, and 18,527 votes were cast to ratify the said ordinance.

South Carolina. -Gov. Orr, in a recent interior "are replete with instances of violence and cruelty toward the freedmenmurders, whipping, tying up by the thumbs, for the colored population. Instead of defrauding of wages, overworking, combining antagonism between the whites and the blacks in this State is marked, and for the sake of peace and good order, it would be unwise at

Georgia.—Ex-Senator Iverson, of Georgia, is an applicant for pardon. He was one of the first to leave his seat in the Senate in

Alabama.—In passing the Constitutional Amendment, the Legislature voted that it be As a foreshadowing of this result, an association of superintendents and teachers of colored schools in the District has and Thomas were in Montgomery during the session of the Legislature and received no members rose to receive him; Speaker Cooper made a glorification speech of welcome; and Gen. Hampton responded, complimenting Alabama's exertions in, and devo-

> Florida.-The following is part of the new constitution of the State:—"All the inhabitants of the State, without distinction of color, are free, and shall enjoy the rights of person and property without distinction of color. In all criminal proceedings founded upon injury to colored persons, no person shall be incompetent to testify on account of Yet a person incompetent to take the test oath was elected Congressman.

Kentucky.—The Farmers' Bank of Kentucky had \$60,000 stolen from it by the Morgan raid. It recently sued a returned Kentuckian, who was one of Morgan's officers, attached his property, and recovered judg-

Tennessee.—A copperhead judge at Dandrige, East Tennessee, has arrested and imprisoned some Union soldiers who, under orders, had killed a guerrilla. The sheriff seized and imprisoned Gen. Thomas' messengers bearing orders for their release. Gen. Thomas has sent 200 soldiers to arrest judge, sheriff, and all concerned, and to free the Union captives.

Mississippi.—The President has ordered Gov. Sharkey to retire, and give place to the Governor elect, Gen. Humphreys.—The Mississippi Senate has adopted a resolution for the erection of a monument at Jackson in memory of the rebel dead.—The Legislature added the following proviso to its act "It shall not be construed into an approval offender.

or endorsement of the political principles or doctrines that the reserved rights of a State can, without the consent of such State, be usurped or abridged by the Federal Government, through the instrumentality of a Constitutional Amendment." Also, that the amendment shall not be construed to allow Congress to abolish slavery "where it lawfully exists in any State that may refuse to ratify the amendment." Secretary Stanton has set apart the ground upon which the Fort Pillow massacre

Texas.—Gen. Gregory, assistant commis-sioner for the State of Texas, reports that in the course of a journey of seven hundred miles in that State, he heard most favorable reports as to the crops. All had been harvested, and there was plenty for all.

California.-The Constitutional Amendment was ratified December 18th.—Cornelius Cole has been elected Senator from California, to succeed Senator McDougall.

THE CITY.

The Period of Sentences passed by Judge Allison, December 12, amounted to thirty-one years and one month. A burglar named Haggerty monopolized one third of the whole amount.—In Boston a prisoner was sentenced on the same day to twenty-five years imprisonment, for highway robbery by garroting.—December 13 Judge Allison sentenced one burglar to ten years' imprisonment, and another to eight years.—The question whether the city can obstruct the navigation of the Schuylkill by building a permanent bridge at Chestnut street, is before the U.S. Supreme Court at Washington. In Select Council, December 10, the sum of \$35,000 was appropriated for the erection of a new Court House on Independence Square.—The Union National Bank has declared a dividend of forty per cent., clear of taxes, out of the contingent fund—twenty per cent. being payable in cash, and twenty per cent, in stock of the bank at par. The Mayor has signed the bill fixing the tax rate at \$4.—Common Council, December 21, voted to approve the sureties of John Given, as City Commissioner.—The Academy of Natural Sciences has inaugurated an effort to raise one hundred thousand dollars for the erection of a fire-proof uilding.—
The funded debt of the city is \$33,722,000.
Nine hundred thousand dollars worth of indebtedness was cancelled during the year. -The Union League have spent ever one hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars on the property on Broad street. The League recruited ten thousand men during the last two years of the war, at an expense of a hundred thousand dollars.—Brig. Gen. Owen was assaulted by ruffians in Continental Hotel, Dec. 28, for leaving the Democratic party. The assailants, including a notorious alderman, escaped.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cnedit to the Freedmen.-In the inaugural address of Governor Jenkins, of Georgia, we find the following deserved tribute to the colored man: "Since the fiat of emancipa-tion, although sometimes unsettled in his purpose and inconsistent in his service by contract, (the natural result of a transition so thorough and so sudden,) I take you all to witness that, in the main, his conduct has been praiseworthy beyond all rational expec-tation." And he further said that, in his udgment, the "fidelity of the negroes in the past, and their decorum under the depressing influence of the present, are without a parallel in history, and establish for them a strong claim upon our favoring patronage." This is sensible and just.

Gov. Hamilton, of Texas, in addressing the colored people of that State, also said: "During that terrible struggle you remained quiet and peaceful spectators; although you knew that your freedom or continued slavery depended on the result. You disappointed both friends and enemies, by exercising prudence and forbearance and Christian reliance on the wisdom and justice of God's providence, which has elevated you in the opinion of good men in every part of the civilized world."

The conduct of the lately emancipated slaves about Christmas, when guilty fears of an uprising were lively among their old op-

A savings bank for colored people, established three months since at Louisville, now has \$30,000 of deposits.

The members of the Congressional Committee on Reconstruction intend to take testimony in the Southern States as to their condition. Senator Williams, of the Senate Committee, is now in Richmond, on a tour of observation.

Decease of Dr. Ducachet.—The Rev. Henry W. Ducachet, D.D., died suddenly in this city some time during the night of Wednesday, December 13. On the preceding evening he appeared to be in his usual health, and at the usual bedtime of the family, he was left in his study, reading, according to his custom; but in the morning he was found by Mrs. Ducachet on the floor of his study, dead Life appeared to have been extinct for several hours. Dr. Ducachet, although so closely identified with Philadelphia for a whole generation, was a native of Charleston, S. C., born in the year 1796. He was educated partly by private instructors and partly at a school well known to the Southern people in Episcopal Church, he was ordained in 1825, and after officiating in Salem, Mass., Norfolk, accomplished scholar, a thorough gentlemen, beloved by his congregation, not less for his kind and genial manners than for his piety.-Public Ledger.

Henry Winter Davis, the most distinguished of Maryland politicians of the present day, died in Baltimore, December 30, of pneumonia, aged forty-eight. His death will be deeply regretted by every friend of human rights. His last speech was one at Chicago

in defence of negro suffrage. The argument on the constitutionality of the congressional test oath is now going on in the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Reverdy Johnson argued against its constitution ality, Dec. 22.

FINANCIAL.

The internal revenue receipts of two days last week, were each \$1,200,000. The receipts for the week ending Dec. 23, amount to \$5,000,000. Total since the 1st of July, nearly \$171,000,000. The President's message had a favorable effect in England. 5-20's rose about two per cent.—The receipts from customs at the port of New York for the first five months of the present fiscal year exceeded by one million dollars the total receipts at that port during the years 1862 and 1864. The receipts from this source for the present month it is believed will amount to over ten millions.

FOREIGN.

Great Britain.—There have been further convictions of Fenians.—It is said that Stephens, the Fenian, having escaped to Rritish France, has been demanded by the British Government, on the charge of breaking jail, and that Napoleon has refused to deliver him, on the ground that he is a political

Spain.—A party has arisen in Spain in favor of funiting Spain to Portugal in one empire. — It is asserted that the mediation of England in Chilian affairs has been accepted.

at Vera Cruz, and war materials are continu-ally landed. The city is being fortified. Brazil - The American emigrants, chiefly Southerners, represented by Col. Wood, have elected a site for a town near Raragnora. It lies between two small rivers, and can have railway connection with the Capital. A vast tract of eight millions of acres of unoccupied

Government land has also been selected. Chili.-November 28th, the Chilian frigate Esmeralda captured at Papudo, a Spanish gunboat with 117 prisoners and the Spanish Admiral's correspondence. A Spanish launch with one gun and fifty men had also been cap-

Jamaica.—Governor Eyre, of Jamaica, has been suspended from duty. Sir Henry Stork has been appointed temporary Gover-

China.—Advices to the 20th of October say: —"The last stronghold of the rebellion in the province of Kangsi is reported to be evacuted. The insurgents, it is added, re treated to Fukeia. The Mahommedan rebels at Fung Kaun in Shensi, had surrendered, and were slaughtered to a man.

ITEMS. The name of Fenian, some people say, has its origin in the title of the Phoenix newspaper, of which some eight Col. O'Mahoney was editor. of which some eight years ago honey was editor.—Forty-one chronometers were recovered on the Shenandoah.—The funeral of Thomas Corwin took place in Washington, December 20 The remains were taken to Ohio. - John S. Rarey, the horse-tamer, has been struck with paralysis at his home, in Ohio.—The foreign importations in Boston for the year, amounted to nearly sixty millions.—The New Orleans papers published the President's measurement of the property of the proper sage entire by telegraph from Washington said to have been the first time this feat was ever performed.——Horace Maynard being asked what he thought of the prospects of the Tennessee delegation since the last action of the House, said he thought " Stevens had the whole Southern Confederacy in his breeches pocket, and meant to keep i there for a good while."—Gen. Eaton, of the Freedmen's Bureau, lately in charge of the negroes in the District and the adjacent counties of Virginia, has resigned for the purpose of establishing a newspaper at Memphis, Tenn.—It is said that two hundred thousand destitute freedmen will have to be supported by the Government during this winter.—Some Americans have recently constructed a telegraph across the Andes to connect various cities of Columbia, South America.—During 1860 the amount of cotton goods manufactured in the United States was equal to \$3 68 for each person. Thirty-six yards of woollen goods per head were also manufactured. —Gerritt Smith has begun a libel suit against the Chicago Tribune, laying the damage at \$50,000.

But four Southern Congressmen elect, it is said, can take the test oath. - The rebel Gen. Early has gone to Mexico.—Shad have appeared in Florida, and are sold in Savannah for \$1 25 a piece.—A citizen of Atlanta, Georgia, has sent the editor of the Wyandotte (Kansas) Gazette \$50,000 in rebel money, and in return wishes the paper for a ---Gen. Lee has not asked for par-

For the Ladies.



To the Ladies.

LOOR o'er the fashions which old pictures show, As they prevailed some fifty years ago; At least that phase of fashion which conveys Hints of those instruments of torture-stays! And then compare the old, complex machine, With that which in these modern days is seen No more by steel and whalebone is the chest, Or side, o. liver, terribly compressed; No more are curving ribs, or waving spine, For skill and relence both unite to show How much c i ealth to dress do women owe.

In Mrs. Sherman's Corsets, ladies find The laws of Health with Fashion's taste combined Supporting equally each separate part, They cramp no action of the lungs or heart: And no injurious ligature is placed To mar the flexure of the natural waist; Their fit is certain-and, what's sure to please In all positions there is perfect ease; The figures of the young they help to form, Aiding and not repressing every charm; Irregularities of shape they hide, So that by none can slight defects be spied, While e'en a figure, which is understood As being "bad," may by their help seem good; And matrons wearing them a boon will gain, The'r early symmetry they'll long retain.

insuring comfort, grace, good nealth, and ease, One trial is the only test they need, For then all others they must supersede: Fashion's demands with usefulness they blend, And so are truly EVERY WOMAN'S FRIEND!

Beware of spurious imitations.

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Mexico.—French troops are still landing t Vera Cruz, and war materials are continu-

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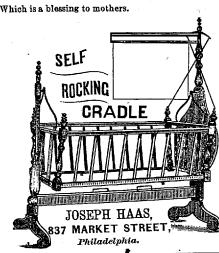
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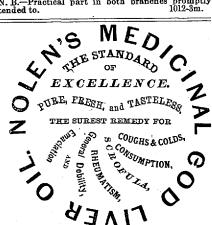
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A pamphlet, containing samples of both the Grover & Baker Stitch and Shuttle Stitch in various fabrics, with full explanations, diagrams and illustrations, to enable purchasers to examine, test and compare their relative merits, will be furnished, on request, from our offices throughout the country. Those who desire machines which do the best work, should not fail to send for a pamphlet, and test and compare these stitches for themselves.

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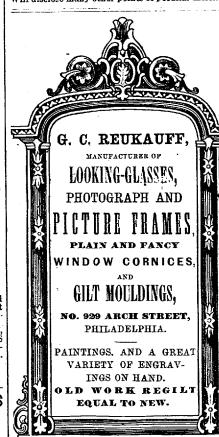
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