

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Dec. 19.—The President has pardoned a smuggler and a counterfeiter. Dec. 21.—C. C. Memminger, ex-rebel Secretary of the Treasury, has been pardoned by the President. Dec. 22.—The President has directed the issue of a pardon to ex-Governor Fletcher, of Arkansas. Consequences of the Late Decision of the Supreme Court against Military Trials.—The President and members of the Cabinet, in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court, determined that no more trials of civilians shall be had before military tribunals upon any pretence, and the Secretary of War was advised to issue an order to the military commanders accordingly, with instructions to them, also, that when they make arrests of civilians upon any grounds whatever, they shall report the matter to the War Department instantly, and await instructions therefrom before proceeding further.—It is confidently expected that the iron-clad test-oath, which all practitioners before the Supreme Court of the United States have been compelled to take, will, in the course of a few days, be declared unconstitutional, by the same majority that decided against the military trials.

XXXIXth CONGRESS.—Second Session.

Senate.—Dec. 18.—Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, said he had a certified copy, with the signatures attached, of a memorial of the more influential lay voters of the State. He read the letter, which stated that the memorial was signed by about one-third of the more influential laymen of Louisiana, that the others declined signing it from motives of interest or fear, and that it expresses the views of all. The memorial complained of the state of things in Louisiana, and called for radical changes. After a speech from Mr. Trumbull, it was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction. The bill for the admission of Nebraska came up, and Mr. Brown's amendment, requiring universal suffrage, was debated until adjournment. Dec. 19.—The Judiciary Committee reported the House bill to fix the time for the regular meeting of Congress. Mr. Ross introduced a resolution instructing the Reconstruction Committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing such regulations for the government of such districts lately in rebellion as shall be refused, or may be refused, to adopt the proposed Constitutional amendment, as may be found necessary for the preservation of the peace and the protection of society and interests of the government. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed. The Committee on Foreign Relations was instructed to inquire into the expediency of regulating and restricting the immigration and importation of Chinese into the United States. The bill to admit Nebraska was then taken up, and was debated by Messrs. Howard, Johnson, Wilson, Wade, Fessenden and Doollittle. An amendment by Mr. Cowan, that the people of Nebraska shall owe a paramount allegiance to the United States, &c., was disagreed to. Dec. 20.—Mr. Wilson offered a resolution authorizing and directing the President to instruct the officers of the army and navy and the Freedmen's Bureau to prevent the infliction of corporal punishment, or crimes or misdemeanors by any pretended civil authority in any State lately in rebellion until the civil government of such State shall have been reorganized, ratified and guaranteed by the Congress of the United States. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. A resolution inquiring of the President whether he has caused United States troops to be marched into the interior of Missouri, and if so, for what purpose, was adopted. The bill to admit Nebraska was then taken up, and was discussed. No vote was taken. An executive session was held. Adjourned until January 3, 1867.

House.—Dec. 18.—The Committee on Naval Affairs was instructed to inquire into and report to the House all the facts connected with the destruction by fire of the iron-clad "New Ironsides." A bill granting land to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Puget Sound or Admiralty Inlet, in Washington Territory, to the Columbia river, was debated and postponed. The House went into Committee on the Appropriation bill. It was provided that no further appropriation shall be made for supplying complete sets of the Congressional Globe and Appendix to any succeeding Congress. Eulogies were pronounced on the late Senator Wright. Dec. 19.—The Committee on Ways and Means was instructed to inquire into the expediency of modifying the Internal Revenue act so as to dispense with the tax on gross receipts. The Senate amendments to the Deficiency Appropriation bill were considered in Committee of the Whole. The Clerk of Pardons in the Executive Department was stricken out. Dec. 20.—The Speaker was directed to issue his warrant to the Sergeant-at-Arms, commanding him to deliver forthwith the Hon. C. V. Culver from the custody of the Sheriff of Venango county. Also, a resolution making it unlawful for any officer of the United States to pay any claim accruing prior to the 13th of April, 1861, in favor of any person who aided the rebellion. Also, a resolution for the appointment of a committee of seven to report a bill to establish a system of free common schools for the District of Columbia. The Sergeant-at-Arms reported that Mr. Culver was now in his seat unrestrained. Adjourned until January 3, 1867.

The Congressional Committee at New Orleans began their investigation on Saturday. The Committee will have their report ready by the meeting of Congress. THE STATES. Maine.—The sum of \$70,000 per week is paid to mechanics employed on the buildings now erecting in place of those destroyed by the great fire at Portland. Illinois.—The aggregate Republican majority at the late election for members of Congress is 59,514. Wisconsin.—The total vote at the last election was 134,739, of which 79,323 were Union and 55,416 were Democratic, leaving a Union majority of 23,907. Missouri.—General Grant has referred the petitions for interference in Gov. Fletcher's proceedings in La Fayette county to General Hancock. The latter has ordered four companies of regulars to Lexington. South Carolina.—Dec. 20.—The House rejected the Constitutional Amendment by a vote of 95 to 1. Nebraska.—The track of the Union Pacific Railroad is completed for 305 miles. Two hundred and seventy miles have been accepted by the Government, and the remaining thirty-five miles now await acceptance.

The City.—A destructive fire occurred on Broad street, near Vine, on the morning of Dec. 19th. Three warehouses were destroyed and one life lost.—Councils authorized the Continental Hotel Company to lay the Nicolson pavement on Ninth street, between Chest-

nut and Walnut. The same pavement has just been put down on Broad street, from Jefferson to Oxford.—The Girard Trust is said to be in a flourishing condition, the revenues of 1865 being \$330,000, an increase of fifty per cent. over the revenues of 1865.—In exposed places in the rural sections the thermometer, at six o'clock A. M., Dec. 21, marked a temperature of but one degree above zero. In settled parts of the city, at the same time, the mercury was at six degrees above zero. The lowest marking of the thermometer last December was fifteen degrees above zero, and the lowest in December, since 1861, was eleven degrees above zero.—In our public schools the whole number of teachers employed is 1300, of whom 1169 receive less than \$1.23 per diem, 1039 less than \$1, 793 less than 98 cents, 413 less than 88 cents, and 227 less than 82 cents.

Financial.—London, Dec. 22d, U. S. 5-20's quoted at 72 1/2.

FOREIGN.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Dec. 18.—London.—The President's message has reached here by steamer, and is published in full. It is the general topic of conversation, and is variously commented upon by the press. Its statement in regard to the finances of the United States is very well, but what it says in regard to the Fenians is considered as rather weak and tame. The Reuter News Company of London, corresponding in design to the Associated Press of America, has formed an alliance with the United States Associated Press Telegraphic Line, D. H. Craig, President. This latter concern is a rival of the New York Associated Press. Dec. 19.—Hamburg.—Thirty or forty Hanoverians were arrested in this city this morning, while about to embark in an American steamer, to avoid service in the Prussian army.—Berlin.—The German Parliament will be chosen by universal suffrage. The Federal army is to be under the command of Prussia.—Vienna.—The Diet of Croatia has resolved in favor of a separate administration.—Berlin.—M. Bismarck, by the advice of his physician, has relinquished the Presidency of the Conference of the North German States, in favor of Savigny. Dec. 20.—Paris.—Le Temps, of this morning, announces its unqualified belief that the Emperor Napoleon has received official intelligence of the abdication of Maximilian. The budget of M. Fould, French Minister of Finance, shows that the revenues and expenditures of France are in a state of equilibrium, and declares that the proposed scheme for the reorganization of the army will involve no increase of taxes, but will prove a fresh guarantee of peace for the future.—Pesth.—In the Hungarian Diet to-day M. Favennicus announced that the Emperor had resolved to restore the constitution of Hungary.—London.—Evening.—The Bank of England has reduced its rate of discount to 3 1/2 per cent. Dec. 21.—London.—In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, the case of the United States vs. Prioleau was taken up. Sir W. P. Wood granted a motion to discharge Prioleau's sureties, but the court retained his recognizance. The time for the United States to answer the questions filed with the cross suit was extended to February 15th, and if they do not answer then, the suit brought by the United States will be discharged for want of prosecution. (This is the case, the proposed settlement of which, by the United States Consul Marsh, was rejected by our Government.) Paris.—The Moniteur du Soir says all steps have been taken for the evacuation of Mexico by the French troops en masse. Florence.—It is said that Pope is satisfied with the tone of the speech made by the King of Italy at the opening of the Italian Parliament. The National Committee of Rome have issued a proclamation advising the people to await calmly the hour of certain triumph. The first conference for the arrangement of the relations between the Holy See and the Kingdom of Italy has been held. Dec. 21.—Berlin.—The Prussian House of Deputies has passed a bill to incorporate Schleswig-Holstein with the kingdom of Prussia. Dec. 22.—London.—The Fenian troubles in Ireland have entirely abated, and the island is tranquil. Confidence has returned to the people.—It is reported on the Continent that the French authorities in Mexico have seized the baggage of the pseudo Emperor Maximilian, which had been taken to Vera Cruz. It was alleged that among this baggage were secreted a number of private letters which had a tendency to compromise the Emperor Napoleon with the United States Government. Maximilian haughtily refused to give up the letters, when they were taken possession of, as above stated, and he himself held as a prisoner.—Advices from Candia state that fighting still continued there, and that the Turks had strengthened their blockading fleet around the island. Alexandria, Egypt.—Surat was destroyed on board the United States corvette Swantara.—Florence.—Advices from Rome report that the Pope appears to be in a peevish frame of mind, and little disposed to regard with favor an arrangement with the Italian government, although he receives counsels from all quarters to incline to moderation and appease Italy. France supports the efforts of Italy, which have as yet been of no avail.

Rio Janeiro, Nov. 23, via London.—Advices from the seat of war to Nov. 9th have been received. On the 30th of October, the Paraguayans, with ten battalions of infantry, supported by cavalry and artillery, during a heavy rain and dense fog, assaulted the same position which they lost on the 18th of July, but were repulsed, leaving 500 dead on the field. As the Brazilians were well provided by their defenses, their losses were comparatively small. The United States gunboat Shamokin obtained leave from the Brazilian admiral, although given under protest, to pass through the blockade, and landed Mr. Washburne at Curupaity, after which she immediately returned. Both sides agreed to an armistice for this purpose.

Mexico.—Late advices from Mexico, by way of Havana, state that Maximilian had not returned to the City of Mexico, as reported but was still at Orizaba.—A New Orleans despatch says that the result of Sherman's and Campbell's mission to Mexico is that a definite plan of action has been agreed upon between the United States and the Mexican President, after the withdrawal of the French troops on the 1st of March, when, if any fragment of Imperial power remains in Mexico, the United States will march troops over the Rio Grande to support Juarez.

Scientific.—Dr. Livingston, the African explorer, at last accounts was moving up the river Ravenna, on the east coast of Africa, intending to visit the unknown northern extremity of Lake Nyanza. The latest advices received from him are to May 18. His progress was slow, as the Ravenna is flanked on both sides by a chain of hills from 400 to 600 feet high, covered with dense entangled jungle.—An enormous aerolite, weighing nearly 1800 pounds, which was found in

Mexico by Marshal Bazaine, is to be shown at the French Exhibition of 1867. It will afterward be presented to the Paris Museum of Natural History.—A microscope has lately been completed in England, with double the power of any similar instrument previously constructed. It magnifies 15,000 diameters.

Items.—New Coins.—Why They are Debased.—The U. S. Gazette having noticed a complaint of the low value of the recent one, two, three and five cent pieces, thus shows the necessity of the fact: "The reason is obvious: By no other means can any coins be kept in circulation in the country. The old cents were bought up, bartered up, stowed away in immense quantities by speculators, and doled out at a premium to those who felt compelled to use them in change. It was owing to the extraordinary inconvenience thereby occasioned to the public that the government was driven to issue a three-cent shipplaster, and finally to coin a new cent of a kind calculated to defy the speculators. After this new cent made its appearance the speculators commenced operations on it, but as the government could make a large profit on the coinage, millions of them were issued constantly to all applicants, until finally the back bone of the speculation was broken, and the new coin triumphantly took possession of the field.—An ex-regent major-general in the Southwest declines to converse on political matters, because he considers himself a paroled prisoner, and as such has not the right to dictate what the policy of Congress or the President should be. How much better it would be for the country if all who served in the army of treason thought and acted as this officer does.—The gold, silver and copper coinage at the United States Mint from 1793 to 1866, inclusive, amounts to \$987,500,000.

THE RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER.

It may be that some will conclude that I have overestimated the benign influences of the really religious newspaper. I have not uttered a thought or a word unpremeditated. I intended to say all that I have said. I went no farther than did the Assembly of 1865, in its utterances upon this same subject. They said the religious newspaper "has a wider, deeper influence upon the members of our congregation than tracts, books, or quarterly reviews." I believe it. It is one of the best foreign educators that we can bring into our families. Nothing, save the Bible, can do more for the intellectual and social culture of our household. Nothing that we can do as a people, or as a nation, is so efficient co-operator to the mind as the Church; having walked about Zion, and told her towers, and marked her bulwarks, and considered her palaces, it reports to us that she is a city compact together, with no breaches in her walls, and that "Jehovah Jireh" is inscribed in burnished capitals over her gateway. They, too, bring us news of the opening of barren fields, and the want of laborers in those border vineyards. These papers come to us from the high summits of our American Zion. The men who issue them have carefully surveyed the whole field, the world. Their vision is limited by no ocean, no mountain. They are the first to warn of danger, and inspire us with hope. They are pure men, and would not soil the wing of one of these messengers of the churches, with an impure thought of false word. They come to talk with the old man leaning on his staff—with the little one clambering on our knees—with our innocent festivities; to chant requiems over our buried dead, and strew our bridal altars with flowers.—They come weekly to tell us all about the interior state of the Church; with a constant finger upon her great spiritual artery, whether she is praying, or poring on the brink of everlasting ruin. They bring cheering intelligence of the revival, and the footsteps of the gracious Spirit in the tops of the mountains, and call upon us to bestir ourselves. Not take a religious newspaper? Not let one of these winged angels of the Church into your families? Why? I should feel that I was starving my own soul and beggaring the souls of my children. And yet, how appalling the fact, that there are 30,000 families in the Presbyterian Church that take no religious paper that weekly reports her movements. And here is something for the Church to do. If it cannot be done through the lay agency of the Church, I believe it would be better to have a minister set apart to this kingdom of Christ, to take one of our most gifted ministers and send him on this mission from hamlet to city, and city to hamlet. Send a man who is able to comprehend this great idea, "The power of the weekly press." He would be welcome to all our pulpits as a messenger of light and mercy. Immortal interests are involved in the doing or leaving undone this work. If the Protestant religious press does not come in to help moulding minds for Christ and for heaven, some other will come to mould for mammon and destruction.—Rev. Dr. Malton at the Convention of Ruling Elders of Monroe Presbytery.

INTERROGATE thyself, whether thou wouldst not have been ready, had enough been offered thee for it, to give up Jesus; therefore, whether thy faith, thy virtue, have a price for which it may be bought.

MASON & HAMLIN'S CABINET ORGANS.—Having taken some pains to satisfy ourselves respecting the merits of these new instruments, we are able to speak very confidently in regard to them, and to recommend them heartily to our readers. We have not found any difference in the opinions entertained of them by musicians—all value them highly, and all agree that their superiority to all other instruments of the class, American or foreign, is indisputable.—N. Y. Examiner.

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