THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1867.

News of the Week.

XLth CONGRESS-2nd SESSION.

Senate. - December 17 .- Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, reported from the Finance Committee a bill for the funding of the National debt, and the conversion of United States notes. The bill provides for the issue of bonds to cover all outstanding obligations, paya-ble in coin after forty years, and bearing six per cent. interest per annun. One sixth of the interest is to be reserved as a special fund, one half of which is to be divided among the States, and the remainder applied to reduce the debt. For the foreign holders of the debt, bonds bearing four and one-half per cent. interest, are to be issued. The bill was ordered to be printed. The bill relating to meetings of the Union Pacific Railroad was passed, with an amendment, providing that the terms of the present officers shall expire at the date of next meeting. December 18.-Mr. Drake, of Mo., introduced a

supplementary. Reconstruction bill, which was referred. The Judiciary Committee reported that Senator Thomas, of Maryland, was entitled to his seat. The report was tabled. The bill to repeal the cotton tax was discussed. A message was received from the President relating to Gen. Hancock, recommending some public recognition of that offi-cer's patriotism as evidenced in his order acknowledg-

ing the supremacy of the civil law. December 19.—The House bill supplementary to the Reconstruction laws was referred. Mr. Sher-man of Ohio, presented a petition from Cincinnati for the protection of American citizens abroad. The Deficiency bill was passed, with an amendment that no newspapers or stationery shall be purchased for

members of Congress. December 20.—The bill to repeal the cotton tax was laid over.

Honse.—December 17.—Mr. McCormick, Repre-sentative elect from the Third Missouri District, was sworn. Mr. Stevens asked consent to introluce a bill relating to reconstruction-enabling a majority of those voting to ratify the new Constitutions, and apportioning the Southern Representative; ob-jected to. The bill to prevent the reinstatement of cashiered officers, except by consent of the Senate, was passed. General Grant's famous letter on the Stanton and Sheridan removals was received.

December 18 .- The Secretary of State was directed to furnish information in regard to the alleged banishment of American whalers from the sea of Ochotsk by Russian war vessels. The bill to furnish honorable discharges to persons relieved of the charge of desertion, and repealing the act disfran-chising deserters, was reported and discussed. A message from the President, relating to General Hancock, was received and ordered to be printed. Mr. Stevens' Reconstruction bill, providing for the adoption of the Southern Constitutions by a majority of those voting, and making an apportionment

of Southern Congressmen, passed. December 19.—In the House, Mr. Boyer, of Penn-sylvania, asked leave to introduce a joint resolution of thanka to General Hancock, but objection was made. The Deficiency bill was considered and pass ed. Mr. Cleaver was sworn in as delegate of New Mexico. A resolution looking to the retention in service of the Veteran Reserves was adopted. December 20 .- The Deficiency bill was consid-

ered. STATES AND TERRITORIES.

New York .--- The Coroner's inquest on the burning of the Second avenue tenement house, has resulted in committing Miller, the occupant of the first floor, (on suspicion of arson) to await the ac-tion of the Grand Jury, while the owner of the house is severely censured for not providing it with the necessary fire escape.—A dwelling in Hudson, was burned about a week since, and a girl perished in the flames. Her father and mother have been arrested on the charge of setting fire to the house with intent to cause the death of the girl, on whose

life they had an insurance of \$5,000. California.—Eugene Casserly, Democrat, has been elected U. S. Senator in place of Conness, Republican.

Alabama.-Gen. Pope has appointed a freedman to be a justice of the peace.-Mayor Horton has been fined \$250 under the Civil Rights Bill for banBY CUBA CABLE.

December 17th.—Havana.—Advices from St. Thomas, says, that up to the 17th inst., 500 shocks of earthquake have been felt. Divers were busily at work in the bay, and 200 packages were daily raised from the wreck of the steamer Columbian. Business was generally resumed, and no more fail-ures are reported. Rents of corner lots were greatly increasing.

FOREIGN.

England.-Among recent "strikes" is a strike of Queen Victoria against the London butchers. She refuses to pay them for her establishment the large prices they have been exacting. This course, which was taken to benefit the poor, has already, it is said, produed a perceptible reduction in the price of the bettermet. The bettermet are a set of the set of t meats in the markets of England, -The photographers have invented a method of printing from a neg-ative impression upon oil canvass. This improvement will enable the artist to transfer exact outlines of a picture without drawing. Murderers in England are reported to be, in

proportion to the whole population, one in every 675,000; in Holland, one in 163,000; in the North German Bund, one in 100,000; in Austria, one in

German Bund, one in 100,000; in Adustia, one in 77,000; in Spain, one in 4,000; and in the Papal States, one in 750. Garibaldi.—The London Advertiser prints a letter from a lady of Florence, who vouches for Garibal-di's Christianity. A clergyman of the Ghurch of Echod it accession that although some Egland, it seems, is of opinion that, although sometimes, "when he was tired at night," the General may have put his hand thoughtlessly to some com-promising assertions, he is one of the truest Christiane living.

Denmark .- King Christian of Denmark has is saed a proclamation announcing the cession of St. Thomas to the United States. There is a circumstantial report from Havana, that Spain has offered to sell Cuba for \$150,000,000 in gold; whereupon, the N. Y. Tribure indignantly lets off the following: 'How much does King Theodore want for Abyssin-nia? Is not Lapland for sale? Can't we manage to buy a tract of Greenland?" But Cuba is well worth our buying. Australia — Tall Trees. — We are in the habit of

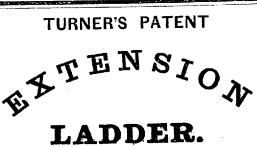
priding ourselves on the possession of the largest trees in the world, but recent researches in Australia have shown that although the thickness of our California giants may not be equalled, their height is considerably exceeded by a species of Eucalyptus, a vegetable form characteristic of Australia. Speci mens of various heights have been measured, and the tallest actually subjected to this test gave an altitude of 480 feet; but another, having a circumfer-ence of 81 feet at a height of four feet from the ground, was estimated to be over 500 feet high. The tallest spire in Europe, the Münster of Strasburg, is 466 feet high; the great pyramid of Cheops is 480 feet; both exceeded by these Australian trees. The Eucalyptus tribe of Australian trees embra-

ces a number of species of great economical value, as, while the timber is excellent, the growth is far more rapid than that of any others known, and their ability to resist the greatest drought, and even flourish in it, point them out as eminently fitted for cultivation in more or less desert regions. How far, as a form eminently Australian and Old World, the Eucalyptus would answer for growth in California and other comparatively rainless districts of Ameri-ca, can only be known by experiment. Other Aus-tralian trees, as the Acacias and Casuarinas, might be employed for the same purpose—possibly enabling us to start a belt of forest timber in what is now a desert; and thus, in time, reclaiming entire countries from desolution.

St. Thomas.—The decision of the people of the Island of St. Thomas, by a popular vote to accept annexation to the United States, was announced, Dec. 6th. The prospective transfer of this island to the United States is said to be causing considerable excitement in Cuba. A correspondent of the New York Tribune, himself a Cuban, reports that the whole of the native population begins to be tired of Spanish rule, and the idea of an incorporation with the United States is very popular.

A DESIRABLE HOLIDAY PRESENT. There was a time-and not very long ago either-

when Sewing Machines, with all their acknowledged tility were among the luxuries of social life. The few possessed them and expatiated upon their wonderful charms with tireless loquacity and dilated eyes, while the many looked upon them as marvels of scientific and inventive genius far beyond their reach. That time has passed by most unmistakably; and to-day, the best loved coadjutor of the presiding genius of every well-ordered household, is the Sewing Machine. "But there are so many different Sewing Machines," the people say, " all putting forth indisputable claims to pre-eminent excellences, that we are in a quandary, and don't know which to buy." To choose finally in such a matter, is certainly important, and we may be able to assist some of those who are unable to decide for themselves. At any rate we will say frankly that the GROVER & BAKER Sewing Machine must be regarded as one of the most perfect, complete and desirable in the market, It is light, graceful and simple; it sews rapidly, undeviatingly, surely; its stitch is compact and elegant, and never gives out; it does everything that can be done by any Sewing Machine, and excels all others in its adaptability for embroidery. The specimens of this branch of needle-work are as wonderful as they are exquisite. The steadiest and most skillful hand, inspired to labor by the fondest motives and most ingenious imagination, could not hope to execute such work, although it might devote to it days and weeks of wearying toil. In addition to recommendations like these, it must by no means be forgotten that the GROVER & BAKER Sewing Machine was the only one which received, at the Paris Universal Exposition, the Cross of the Legion of Henor, that most coveted of all prizes among exhibitors. The thousands who are looking about for the best Sewing Machine, as a holiday present for some dear friend, or some needy and deserving poor person, will do well not to lose sight of such facts STAPLE & FANCY STATIONERY as these.-Home Journal.



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416

ishing two negroes from the State. Texas .- Gen. Hancock has issued his order for

the election for a State Convention. The election

is to begin on Feb. 10, and last four days. Missouri.—St. Louis is at present troubled with difficulties between the colored people and the street cars. Several cases are pending against car-conductors for ejecting colored people from the cars. The decisions are universally in favor of the right of the colored race to ride in the cars on the same basis as the white race.

Virginia.-In the Convention, Dec. 19. a bill annulling debts for the purchase of slaves, contracted since 1860, was reported against.

Georgia.- A caucus of the members of the Convention has resolved to support Judge Chase for President,-The Convention has adopted a resolution urging the removal of Governor Jenkins of that State.

A Terrible Disaster occurred on the Lake Shore Bailroad, Dec. 18. Two cars of a train going from Cleveland to Buffalo fell down an embank. ment, and one of the cars caught fire. Fifty persons were burned to death.

Earthquake .- At three o'clock on the morning of Dec. 18th, a shock of earthquake was felt in va rious portions of New York State, New England and the Ca adas. No damage is reported.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

December 17th .- London .- The Times devotes a leading article to American finances, and strongly objects to the financial plan prepared by Secreta McCulloch as involving an offer to exchange six per cent. bonds for five, and as violative of the axiom that local taxation should be met by local means. The Times thinks the Secretary's plans simply substitute new evils for old.-An inquest held to-day on the bodies of the persons killed by the attempt to blow up the wall of Clerkenwell Prison. A large number of witnesses were examined, but nothing satisfactory was elicited as to the perpetrators of that crime.—Rumors have reached here from Vienna that a change in the Austrian Ministry is impending, and that Count Von Taaffe is to form a new Cabinet. The report needs confirmation .- The last despatch received from Massowah reports that the British expeditionary force in Abyssinia had reached a place called Senape, where there was abundance of water, and the natives were friendly.

December 18th .- London, evening .- An attempt was made to blow up a wall of Milbank jail, in which a number of Fenians are confined. No clew has yet been obtained to the guilty parties .-- Paris. -The Moniteur to-day publishers a circular by the Prefect of Police placing the press under a more rigorous censorship.—*Florence.*—Menabrea said Ita-ly would, sooner or later, possess Rome, but that end would be accomplished, not by arms, but by moral force.

December 19th .-- London .-- In the explosion of nitro-glycerine, at Newcastle on Tyne, eight persons lost their lives .- Florence .- The Government has issued orders calling into active service additional

military reserves. December 20th.—Paris.—The Moniteur says the Paraguayans lost all the advantages of their late victory and have been badly beaten. December 21st.—Paris.—The bill for the reor-

ganization of the French army has passed the Chambers. - Florence. - The minority was to-day defeated, on the policy of the Government towards Rome, by a majorty of two.

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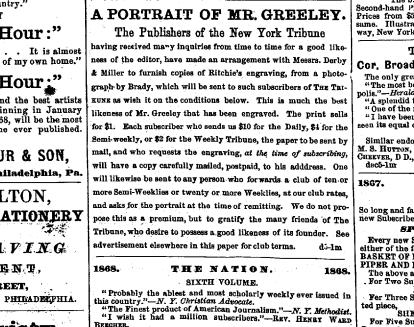
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