FOURTH EDITION

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

Sheridan's Cavalry Off on Another Raid.

CLENDENIN'S RIDE AFTER MOSEBY.

The Ice Blockade of the Potomac.

PHILADELPHIA ICE-BOAT AT WORK.

Special to The Evening Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, December 24, 1:40 P.M.—Sheridan's Cavalry is off on a grand raid again in the valley; but in which direction it would be improper to state at this present time.

The scouring party, consisting of detachments of the 8th, 13th, and 16th Illinois Cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Clendenin, which started out from Fairfax on Tuesday immediately moved to White Plains, where they divided into three separate columns, one moving towards Salem, another to Middleburg, and the other to Rectortown. A party of twenty-five of Mosby's men passed through Hopewell Gap an hour in advance of Clendenin, not knowing, however, that a command of cavalry was in pursuit of them.

Captain Corbet, of the 8th Illinois Cavalry pushed rapidly forward with his detachment and came upon the enemy, wounding one officer, Lieutenant Cogan, severely, and capturing two prisoners. The lieutenant's leg being broken, he could not be brought in, but he was paroled, and left in a house by the roadside.

Major Frazer, who had charge of one of the columns, composed of men of the 13th and 16th Illinois Cavalry, wounded one Rebel officer and captured eight prisoners. This wounded officer is supposed to be Major Johnson, of the 6th Virginia Cavalry.

Each detachment had more or less skirmishing with small squads of guerillas, but no larger force than fifty men was seen at any one time. The party safely returned to camp on Thursday evening, having been out three days, and brought with them quite a large quantity of captured Rebel property and fifteen prisoners.

The ice blockade on the Potomac still continues; but the mail steamer *Matilda*, from City Point, with the mail and passengers, succeeded in cutting her way up to Alexandria yesterday.

Below Alexandria, near Indian Head, the ice is quite thick, and the *Matilda* was compelled to push through under a full head of steam.

The blockade between Washington and Alexandria is complete, and for the present the passengers and mails for City Point will be forwarded from here to Alexandria by rail, from which place they will take the boats.

The mail steamer *Daniel Webster*, and the transports *Morris*, *Osgood*, and *Seneca* remain ice-bound off Giesboro Point. Some fifteen barges and schooners, laden with forage for the Quartermaster's Department, are securely fastened in the ice on the river between Washington and Alexandria, and are unable to reach this city.

The ice-boat *Atlantic*, from Philadelphia, arrived here last night, and is engaged to-day in endeavoring to open the channels.

LITERARY NOTICES.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

Through the kindness of T. B. Pugh, Sixth and Chesnut streets, agent for this new and beautiful work for young folks, we have received the January number. It is truly one of the choicest magazines ever gotten up for our juvenile population, and it is replete with matter of the most excellent character. We cannot recall to mind a single work in the literary world so well adapted to the young. Many of the best writers in the country are engaged to furnish articles on all subjects calculated to instruct the youthful mind, while others contribute interesting sketches and stories. "Our Young Folks" is published monthly by Ticknor & Fields, of Boston, T. B. Pugh being the agent in this city. Philadelphia subscribers sending in their orders to his store, Sixth and Chesnut, will have the work delivered at their residences free of charge. There can be no better Christmas present for our young folks than this beautifully illustrated magazine.

THE GREAT CENTRAL FAIR. By Charles J. Stillé. Caxton press of Sherman.

The Great Central Fair has become historical. The magnitude of its preparations, the vastness of its buildings; the endless variety of its appearance, and the gigantic success which attended it, alike combine to place it among one of the wonders of the world of the nineteenth century.

It is a permanent monument to the patriotism of the three States engaged. The Pyramids and Catacombs attest the enterprise of bygone monarchs; but the most lasting testimonial of a great deed is found in the hearts of those whom the action benefits; and although the massive structure which contained the free-will offering of a grateful people, has been removed, yet the memory of the enterprise and patriotism which characterized the undertaking, will live forever in the hearts of the soldiers who have been saved from death by the beneficent charities showered upon them by our loyal population.

It is also right, however, that some literary effort should commemorate the great success, which has attended the mighty effort. This difficult task was deputed to Charles J. Stillé, Esq., the one of our citizens who was most fitted by education and experience to fulfil the task. For several months he has labored upon it, and now presents a history of the whole enterprise in a shape which should be procured by every member of the Committees, as well as all interested in the great undertaking. After giving a succinct history of the Fair, its origin, progress, and success, he devotes space to the consideration of each of the large departments, and has appended not only a full financial statement, but also a list of all the committees—a most valuable addition, as in a few years every one will be proud to point to the record, and say "I worked in the Central Fair."

The work is beautifully "got up." It is from the Caxton press of Sherman, which insures its being printed in a style not to be surpassed by any press in the world.

The sale of it will be large, not only on account of its worth, but also because so enterprising and successful an agent has the work in charge. Mr. J. K. Simon, No. 33 N. Sixth street, is the gentleman who is sole agent.

TRAGEDIES. By T. H. Talfourd. Crosby & Ainsworth, New York.

To write a tragedy is easy; to write a good tragedy is almost impossible. Mr. Talfourd has come out to the public a collection of excellent tragedies and poor poems. In tragedy, wildness of style can be tolerated; in poetry nothing beyond the erratic is allowed. Eccentricity in it appears like insanity. Mr. Talfourd is eccentric, and ought therefore to avoid, in future, the cultivation of the muse Polyhymnia, and continue his devotions to Thalia. In his plays he is a great success; in his poetry not above mediocrity. The work is well gotten up, and the superior ability of his tragedies will more than counterbalance the lack of originality in his verse.

REAL AND IDEAL. By John W. Montclair. F. Leypoldt, Philadelphia.

Mr. Leypoldt is choice in his selection of works for publication, but when once he has determined to issue a production, does it in a style which is irreproachable, for elegance and taste. Binding, printing and engraving, combine to make this work the most attractive in appearance, to say nothing of the contents, which we have recently seen. The literary excellence of the work is by no means small. It consists of a number of poetical effusions, written in a style in which freshness and force are combined. It would make a most beautiful gift to a young lady, who "dotes" on ethereal communication with the muse. We are particularly pleased with one entitled "The Old Comedian." It contains passion and power. We predict for the above work a large share of future favor.

TADMOR. By H. Phillips Montgomery. Roberts Brothers, Boston.

There occasionally appears an epic poem of real merit. As a general rule, whenever a large production in verse appears, we put it down as an extended repetition of a very few ideas. But the work before us possesses real merit. Its style is not original, but a sufficient number of new ideas, and a plentiful supply of figures and metaphors make it repay perusal. The tale is laid in the East; and, in general conception, bears a resemblance to Disraeli's style of romance in verse. The tale is admirable; the style is fine; if not faultless, it is rich in beauties. The whole production savors of a cultivated intellect and extended knowledge. As an example of the style we quote at random the following passage:—

> "The shrieking sands of Syrian plain
> Bids sad adieu to night again,
> And now aloft the day-star sun
> Each cedar-top of Lebanon,
> The crowded caravan awakes
> Once more its dreary trail,
> The drooping camel gladly shakes
> His sandy-trickling tail."

MESSRS. J. B. Lippincott & Co. have for sale "Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy," and G. A. Sala's new work, entitled "Quite Alone." Both works have a deep interest in their plot, and the names of the authors will be sufficient recommendation.

PERIODICALS.—We have received *Our Young Folks*, a new and attractive monthly, well edited and handsomely illustrated, from Boston; "Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy," Dickens' Christmas carol; *Temple Bar* and *Cornhill Magazines*; *The London Illustrated News and Times*, *Punch*, Cassell's *Illustrated Paper*, etc., etc., from the establishment of Mr. Kremer, No. 401 Chesnut street.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND ITS OBSERVANCE.—Although the vigils of all Christian festivals are commanded by the Catholic (using the word in the widest sense) Church, to be kept as days of fasting, yet some of these—and particularly Christmas Eve—are made seasons of mirth and jollity. With Christmas Eve, the Christmas holidays practically commence, although some claim that they commence on the 16th of December. The season terminates on the 1st of February, or Candlemas Eve, by which date all decorations must be removed from the churches.

The regular holidays, however, should last till the twelfth day, or the Epiphany. In olden times these twelve days exhibited an uninterrupted round of feasting and jollity, and it is still a jovial one, though much modified. There are, however, traces of old Pagan customs in many of our popular rights and ceremonies, which, after the conversion of England to Christianity, were still retained, partly because as a matter of expediency the rites of that religion were ingrafted by its teachers on the old heathen ceremonies, and partly because it was found impossible to wean their converts from their old superstitions.

The Langing up of the mistletoe, and the burning of the Yule log, are more especially derived from the Pagans, and the custom is still observed in England. The burning of the Yule log is from the Scandinavians, who used to have large fires lit in honor of their god "Thor." This is the most joyous ceremony of Christmas Eve. Each workman raised his hat when it passed him on its way from the woods, and the birds welcomed its entrance with musketry. After the block had been half consumed, it was laid by till the following Christmas, when it was used to light the new log.

Accompanying the Yule log was a candle of monstrous size, called the Yule or Christmas candle, which during the twelve nights of the festival was burned on the high table at supper. There are many other ceremonies observed on Christmas Eve in England which would take too much space to enumerate, such as taking cakes and hot cider as an offering to the principal apple-tree, spiced ale to the orchards in Norfolk, the reversal of the situations of masters and servants, etc.

There is always a mass sung at midnight in Catholic churches on Christmas Eve. In this country, however, mass is not sung till about 5 in the morning, and at grand high mass takes place at 10, o'clock. Popular superstition has it that the powers of darkness are prostrate at this season; the cock is supposed to crow all night long, and in Devonshire and Cheshire the belief is still current that the cattle fall on their knees at midnight, and adore the infant Saviour, as the legend says they did in the manger at Bethlehem. Bees are said to sing in their hives, and bread baked on Christmas was said never to get mouldy.

In this country Christmas Eve is also generally observed as a time for jollity and merry-making. Many of the customs of European countries, perhaps more especially those of Germany, have been adopted by our people, although there are others exclusively American. Among the children, particularly, Christmas Eve is an event that is anxiously looked forward to, as being the time for the advent of that most remarkable and mysterious personage, Santa Claus. The early part of the evening is commonly devoted to appropriate childish plays—snap-dragon, blind man's buff, charades, etc., and also the preparation of the Christmas tree. The latter is a comparatively new custom, being of German origin, and only common in this country within the last score of years.

The Christmas tree is a bough of evergreen placed in the parlor and gayly decorated with all that is most pleasing to the eye of childhood. Candles, flowers, toys, and the thousand other articles that so delight the little ones, are tastefully arranged upon the bough, interspersed with burning tapers or wax-candles, giving to the whole a brilliant and pleasing appearance. The hanging up of the little stockings for the reception of the gifts of Santa Claus, however, is to children the event of greatest interest. In "ye olden time," when fire-places were in vogue, the place selected for hanging the stockings was on the "crane" in the chimney corner.

This place was selected with reference to the convenience of Santa Claus, who, according to the childish tradition, made his entrance adown the chimney. According to this tradition, Santa Claus is a plump little good-natured old chap, who, enveloped in furs, goes from home on Christmas Eve in a sleigh well filled with every imaginable kind of presents for the little folk, and drawn by eight tiny reindeer. Up to the roof he goes like a sprite and down the chimney in a jiffy, where he finds the stockings and proceeds to stuff them with toys, candies, and other presents. The plan of modern houses, however, has somewhat interferfered with the chimney entrance, and the manner of his coming is not quite so clear to the little ones of the present day. But it matters not to them whether he comes down the chimney or through the keyhole, the children implicitly believe in the veritableness of a Santa Claus, with

> "The little red nose and the little round belly,
> Which shakes when he laughs, like a bowl full of jelly."

The mummers or masquers have a prominent place in Christmas festivities, and the sport is still kept up in parts of England. In former times, even noblemen used to engage in this pastime before the King, and at one period in history a party was organized to kill Henry IV, under the disguise of Twelfth Night mummers. In the present day, mumming is extensively carried on in South Wales. Another great pastime used to be found in the reign of a personage termed the Lord of Misrule, who used to sit as Master of the Ceremonies at Christmas festivities.

These Lords of Misrule used to be in the houses of the King and every nobleman, and also in the house of the Mayor of London. In Cambridge University, one of the M. A.'s used to do the duty, and was to be elected to superintend the Latin plays under the title of *Imperator Ludorum*. In the Inns of Court at London, this person assumed all the parade and ceremony of royalty, and had even two chaplains, who preached before him in the Temple Church. He abdicated on Twelfth day. In the time of Charles I, one of these spent £2000 from his own purse, and was knighted by that monarch. These, with other festivities which we have not the space to mention, characterize Christmas Eve, forming a pleasant prelude to the mirth, joy, and frolic of the morrow.

CATHOLIC PHILOPATRIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE.—The annual celebration of this Society's anniversary was held at their Hall, Sixth and Prune streets, on Thursday evening, December 22. Addresses were delivered by the President, Rev. P. McGrane, United States Chaplain; the Vice-President Mr. Francis P. Farrell; and Messrs. D. McMenamin, D. J. Walsh, J. D. Ward, J. Flynn, and D. J. McCloskey. Readings and recitations by Messrs. Barr, McGuigan, Casserly, Sweeney, J. F. McMenamin and Quigley. The Institute is in a very flourishing condition, having over four hundred names on its roll of membership, and over fifteen hundred volumes in library. The exercises of the evening passed off with satisfaction to the members and the large audience assembled.

THE SUFFERING POOR.—At the present season of the year large numbers of sufferers are to be found in the small streets and alleys of this city, who have no fuel and but little to nourish themselves with. Many of these have children who are permitted to go hungry and cold. Complaints have been made of the inefficiency of some who have the distribution of the gifts of the benevolent. Some cases are permitted, it is alleged, to go for hours, and sometimes days, before they are relieved, and at times are entirely neglected. It is stated that in some cases help has been denied while a large balance is permitted to remain in the Treasurer's hands of money intended for the relief of the poor. This, it is contended, is not the design of the donors, it being intended only for immediate use and not to be husbanded.

A ROUGH CUSTOMER.—Thomas Harp has been held in $600 bail by Alderman Pancoast, to answer the charge of having behaved in a very disorderly manner at a lager beer saloon, Fifteenth and Willow streets. He caused himself by breaking things generally.

CHRISTMAS GREENS.—A PEEP INTO THE CHURCHES.—The streets and market places begin to give out resinous fragrance from the spoils of the evergreen groves transported city-ward for the Christmas decoration of our churches and dwellings. Gum-exuding hemlocks and spruces—their green boughs still laden with the sparkling snow of their native fields—are hawked about for sale as Christmas trees, while the endless variety of "ready-made" devices—wreaths, garlands, circles, stars, crosses, triangles, and arches—are displayed for sale in the markets.

This week a peep into one of our Episcopal or Catholic churches, by night, will be worth anybody's while who can secure such a privilege, for on these occasions of pre-Christmas "trimming," the churches—save to those who have business there—are judiciously held as sacred *penetralia*, as the boudoir of a belle preparing for her marriage.

There are busy times by night in those churches now, and much it is, and many fragrant odors as of crushed spices. Hemlock, spruce, and laurel bushes lie in great heaps all over the floors; long trails of the creeping ground-ivy trip your unwary steps as you walk; while tall trees adopted for their beauty and symmetry stand in dusky corners waiting for assignment to their places, flanking organ or chancel. Troops of merry girls and gleeful urchins are on hand to break up the large heaps into small twigs, and "bunch" them for the behoof of fairy fingers that gleam like ivory shuttles as they fly among the wreaths they are weaving for column and font. The place is "cluttered" about with skeletons of arches and crosses and wires, while carefully placed aside are some of the completed and beautiful fabrics which they are to present when those bare white bones are concealed by their leafy covering.

We will not enquire that many of the young men, who on these occasions are such active workers of assistance, are always moved upon by zeal in the cause of the church, or that sometimes the chance of a flirtation in some cozy nook among the greens—"as like being out in the woods, you know"—has not more to do with the appearance of these industrious helps upon the scene than pious zeal. But we can testify that, whatever their designs, they are made to work most mercilessly—and serves them right.

But the work is most pleasant in many ways, and mainly by the sweet anticipations it creates of the coming joyous festival. The happy feelings often break out in song, and the church will be vocal with carols. Out of masses of foliage—as birds warble unseen—will come voices singing:

> "Carol, carol, Christians,
> Carol joyously,
> Carol for the coming
> Of Christ's nativity.
> And pray as ye carol Christmas
> To all good Christian men;
> Carol, carol, Christians,
> Carol Christians once again.
> Carol! carol!
>
> "Go ye to the forest,
> Where the angels grow,
> Where the pine and laurel
> Bend beneath the snow
> Gather them in baskets,
> Twine them in the arches,
> Make the temple gayest
> With the fox and pine.
> Carol! carol!"

Yes, those who, on Christmas morning, see only the symmetry and order of the wreathed greenery that "beautifies the place of the sanctuary," do not always know how hard and yet how pleasant has been the labor that was done before that beauty and order could be brought to pass.

SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF A FIRE HORSE.—A larceny case of more than ordinary interest was heard yesterday afternoon before Alderman Welding.

A fireman found an old acquaintance in a horn. When General Sherman occupied Atlanta, our readers will recollect that he issued an order to the people of the city, telling them to leave their houses and remove to other points. The exodus was universal. The people removed to all quarters of the Union. Some came North, and among others a Mr. Thomas Haney came to Philadelphia. He found employment here, and located himself at No. 535 Arch street. In Atlanta he had been President of the Atlanta Fire Engine No. 1, and, as the chief officer of the Company, was the custodian of a valuable horn presented to the Company by the ladies of the city. The horn was massively elaborate.

It was manufactured in this city, and was of solid silver, beautifully chased, and engraved in relieved scroll-work. A running vine wreathed its silver leaves around the trumpet, and a cluster of flowers, executed with artistic finish, adorned the mouthpiece. Its horn an inscription expressive of its fair donors, and the State arms of Georgia. Haney left the horn in his house, and carefully closed his home when he left it. His surprise may be imagined when, walking along Third street yesterday afternoon, he saw the identical horn in the hands of a fireman in, one of the most respectable men in the city. Haney at once claimed the horn, and the merchant stated that he had purchased it from a peddler for eighty dollars. The case was referred to Alderman Welding, who now has it under advisement. The peddler is known, and the police are on his tracks. How the horn ever got to the City of Brotherly Love is a mystery which may be explained when the peddler is found.

DEATHS AMONG PENNSYLVANIANS.—The following is a list of men belonging to the Seventh Pennsylvania Reserves, who died in Southern prisons. Each company except no. B is represented. Members of each company reported their own dead. The reporter of Company C was not positive of the death of CHAS. STRAUSSBURGER and JOSEPH WARNER. JOSEPH PERRY took the oath of identity and died out of the prison:—

Edwin F. Walker, Co. A.	Wm. Lane, F.
Van Buren Kiev, A.	Jacob Geringer, G.
Patrick Irvanens, A.	Benjamin F. Hosson, G.
Fredk. Reid, A.	James Farren, G.
Chas. Jermain, A.	Francis W. Shoe, G.
John P. Duffy, A.	Sergt. J. B. Mooney, H.
Wm. McCleat, A.	Joseph Hester, H.
Jesse B. Hunter, A.	Joshua Chapman, H.
John A. Batcher, A.	Rice H. Kruger, H.
Jacob Lemile, A.	Jacob Reese, H.
David S. Wa ker, A.	Peter Hoover, H.
Saml. Reb nger, A.	Sol. smith, H.
——— Rice, D.	F. Bond, H.
Corp. Jos. M. Landis, C.	Jesse Wood, H.
Michael Cook, C.	Geo. Reybourn, H.
Josiah Good, C.	Cyrus Cleonard, H.
Robert Hall, C.	Fredk. Frenchman, H.
Henry Miller, C.	Matthias Stevens, H.
John Metzinger, C.	James Atchison, H.
Saml. Bengel, C.	Samuel Coons, H.
Wm. Wolfe, C.	Joshua Hall, H.
Wm. Flenhaur, C.	Abraham Bollinger, H.
Wm. Lentz, C.	Thomas Wilcoxon, I.
Henry Weike, C.	Jerry Bunnell, I.
Thos. Keyser, C.	James Mahen, I.
Chas. Straussburger, C.	John Hart, I.
Joseph Warner, C.	Thomas Ford, I.
Joseph Perry, C.	Fred. Fisher, I.
Peter Bame, D.	John Duffey, I.
Alex. Crispen, D.	Christian Farley, I.
Jacob Hilner, D.	James Leathers, C. K.
John Bonnberry, E.	Isaac Sellers, K.
John R. Steenan, E.	Wm. Wilson, K.
Morton Bryant, F.	Henry McClahan, K.
Chas. H. Owen, F.	Geo. Rumbold, K.
Cyrus Swoood, F.	Bernard Roe, K.
Sam. Steele, F.	James Mosley, K.
Andrew C. Smith, F.	Samuel Berry, K.

THE SCHUYLKILL FROZEN.—This morning the Schuylkill was frozen over above the shating-house. A large number of persons were amusing themselves by indulging in the seasonable sport.

THE LATE MAJOR-GENERAL BIRNEY.—A very handsome bust of this much honored and deceased officer has been placed on exhibition at Earle's on Chesnut street.

PETROLEUM MINING AND RAILROAD JOURNAL.—A newspaper with the above caption will be issued triweekly, perhaps daily, shortly. Its columns will be devoted to strict facts in all cases. Papers on Petroleum localities, yield of wells, and geological characteristics in relation thereto. Also, records of mines and mining, and descriptions of mineral lands. Railroad statistics, and a price current of the sale of stocks and bonds, before and after Boards. Political matters excluded, with the exception of legislative enactments specially directed to developments of mineral lands and mines and their transporting facilities to market. It will embrace scientific researches and improvements, as far as they shall relate to improvements in mining and mechanical agencies incident to such improvements.

This paper will be conducted under the able supervision of George W. L. Johnson, who is a well-known journalist, and who has made this business a specialty for twenty years past, both as an editor and reporter of the press.

Professor William T. Roberts, whose geological reputation is well known, will furnish this paper with matter already collected during the last twenty years of his professional life in this country, and with facts coming under his notice as a scientific and practical geologist from time to time hereafter. The fact of this gentleman's connection with the journal as assistant editor will make it a popular newspaper among those interested in the development and advancement of the great mineral resources of this country.

A TIMELY INVESTMENT.—The Hartford *Evening Press* says:—The Travellers' Insurance Company received advices yesterday of their first total loss under a General Accident Policy. Stephen Singer, a railroad conductor on the line from Peoria to Galesburg, Illinois, was instantly killed last week by falling between the cars of his train. His policy was the second one issued by the agent at Galesburg, who had held his appointment but a very few days. By this timely provision, and an investment of only thirty dollars, this poor man's family have secured the handsome sum of $3000, which will be promptly paid. This excellent Company has established a branch office at No. 464 Walnut street. Mr. William W. Allen, the agent, informs us that he is issuing many policies.

CHRISTMAS IS AT HAND, and a "merry one" to all, say our friends Watson & Son, the gentlemanly proprietors of the Madison House, on N. Second street.

We cheerfully recommend this house to the public, not only on account of its very eligible location, but the abundant and well-provided table. With the immortal poet we can truly say, "They can keep a Hotel." Try them!

THE FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE.—A great many sewing machines are now in use, and numerous improvements have been made since the introduction of this time and labor saver, which render the machines of this latter day far superior to those made ten or fifteen years ago. It has been with sewing machines as with every other important invention; they were not perfect at first, but required time and attention, with skill and ingenuity, in order that they might accomplish what it was intended they should. The first machines were complicated; but it was not long before improvements followed in their mechanical structure, so that, while simplified, they were more durable and capable of doing a greater range of work. The Florence machine is free from the objections attached to others, and, being of a very recent make, and the manufacturers having had the experience of improvements in other machines, possesses points of excellence and merit belonging to no other. In the "Florence" machine, the CRAIG and LOOP stitch is discarded, and the LOCK stitch adopted on both sides of the fabric, is adopted. To meet the object in sewing this favorite stitch, viz: want of elasticity, liability to ravel at the end of seams, requiring them to be fastened or tied by hand, and the want of strength for a certain class of seams, such as the bias, or inside seam of pants, three other stitches are added, the KNOT, Double Lock, and Double Knot, each of which is stronger and more elastic than the LOCK. These stitches require no complication of machinery, but are made with as much ease and facility, and with as little machinery, as other machines make one stitch. The Florence machines possess numerous advantages over others, which will be readily perceived on examining them. One important one is the reversible feed motion, which enables the operator, by simply turning a thumb-screw, to have the work run either to the right or left, to any part of the seams, or fasten the ends of the seams, without turning the fabric. Another great advantage is having a perfect and uniform tension of thread, which regulates and adapts itself to the different kinds of cloths, and so springs to get out of order. The Florence justly merits the appellation of the best Family Sewing Machine in the world.

RECOLLECTIONS OF CHRISTMAS EVE.—

> BY THE BARD OF TOWER HALL.
> "Well Dave," said good old Mr. Pilsbo,
> "Does the Christmas feeling fade
> As you grow to riper life
> And your heart becomes callous?
> Say Dave, "Can't you more the joy
> That used to fill your breast,
> To give a vision what?"
> Says Dave, "I can't say more the joy
> That used to fill my breast to know,
> Whenever as a little boy,
> I welcomed Christmas Eve!
>
> My stocking at the fireside swung
> As soon as it was night,
> And in the morning, where it hung
> I hastened with delight."
> "Pshaw! nonsense!" laughed his father, "Dave,
> You cannot mean to say
> That you for toys and candies crave
> At this late time of day?"
>
> "No," Dave replied, "but I must say,
> Though I'm now tall grown,
> Some gift would seem a proper way
> By which love might be shown.
> One pleasing present to engage,
> For sons however tall,
> Would be a handsome suit or coat,
> Made up at Tower Hall!"

Our assortment of ready-made Clothing—Men's, Youth's and Boys'—is full and complete, comprising the choicest styles of goods the market affords. We have selected and made to order our WINTER STOCK at most extremely low rates, and are determined to sell at prices it could be replaced. Those intending to purchase fine clothing, made to order, will find among our stock materials in every way equal at prices so much lower, as to astonish the uninitiated.

TOWER HALL, No. 518 Market street.
BENNETT & CO.

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.—"Get the best New York," now made on the premises, the genuine American Patent Hair, on which the author has been laboriously engaged for the last four days, and has at length succeeded in producing.

E. Look out for it.

SPECIALTIES.

Beware a rollerytone of brass and wonderfulle assymetry, copied from a well known typo dyed dome made by Commercial time.

To what end to whom shall we dedycate it? The Owl replied—

"Too-whit!—Too-whoo!"—Shakespeare.

This lively national work can be had gratuitously during the holiday season, by applying at the celebrated Clothing House of Charles Stokes & Co., under the Continental Hotel. Proceeds to go for the benefit of the great "U. S. One Per Cent. Commission."

Come early to secure first proofs, and have the impression from the plates in their purity.

Copies sent *free*, by mail, on receipt of a ten cent. stamp.

RARE AND EXQUISITE CONFECTIONS for the Holidays, now ready at E. G. Whitman & Co.'s, No. 318 Chesnut street.

GENTLEMEN'S HATS.—All the latest styles at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continental Hotel.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT WORTH GIVING.—It has become the settled conviction of thoughtful people that every family in the land should be supplied with a first-class sewing machine, and it is equally their conviction that the machine which combines more excellent features than any other is the "Grover & Baker." It is the only sewing machine ever invented that executes fine embroidery, an advantage which in itself entitles it to the preference with all intelligent purchasers.

LADIES AND CHILDREN'S HATS.—Latest style at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continental Hotel.

A PRESENT OF PERMANENT VALUE.—The New American Cyclopædia is offered as one of the most useful and valuable of books for presentation. It is a Library in itself of information needed by every one of intelligence. Bound in various styles, at the agency for this city, No. 33 S. Sixth street, second story.

A. D. PISSANO'S choice French and plain confections, also extra fine foreign and domestic fruits, are unsurpassable. Tenth street, below Chesnut.

ROASTED ALMONDS, Chocolate, and Cream Caramels, superior quality and flavors, manufactured by E. G. WHITMAN & CO., No. 318 Chesnut street.

PURCHASERS may rely upon getting the best Furs at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continental Hotel.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—If you wish Photographs for holiday presents, you feel better go in time. The gallery is always thronged during the holidays. Go early. B. F. Reimer, No. 624 Arch street.

IT IS WELL to get clear of a Cold the first week, but it is much safer and better to rid yourself of it the first forty-eight hours,—the proper remedy for the purpose being Dr Jayne's Expectorant. Prepared only at No. 242 Chesnut Street.

THE HOLIDAY PRESENT most acceptable to a lady is a Grover & Baker Sewing Machine. This machine took all the first premiums at the fairs in the United States the past year.

LADIES' FURS.—An elegant assortment at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continental Hotel.

BUEDSALL'S ARNICA LINIMENT.—An infallible cure for burns, scalds, sprains, rheumatism, gun-shot wounds, &c. A single application allays the pain from a burn the instant it is applied. No family should be without it.

GEORGE STECK & CO.'S PIANOS AND MASON & HAMLIN'S

PIANO FORTES.	CABINET ORGANS.	CABINET ORGANS.
PIANO FORTES.	Over 300 of each of these fine instruments have been sold by Mr. G., and the demand is constantly increasing.	CABINET ORGANS.
PIANO FORTES.	For sale only by J. E. GOULD, Seventh and Chesnut streets.	CABINET ORGANS.

DO YOU KNOW DEAN has removed to No. 413 Chesnut street? He sells Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes, &c., fifty per cent. less than any other man in this city. Remember Dean, No. 413 Chesnut street.

LONGWORTH'S SWEET CATAWBA WINE.
LONGWORTH'S SWEET CATAWBA WINE.
LONGWORTH'S SWEET CATAWBA WINE.
A small invoice of this favorite brand at the CALIFORNIA WINE AGENCY, No. 42 (forty-two) S. FIFTH Street, above Chesnut. 11-25-rastlm

A SAMPLE CASE OF CALIFORNIA WINES.
A SAMPLE CASE OF CALIFORNIA WINES.
A SAMPLE CASE OF CALIFORNIA WINES.
One bottle of "Muscatel,"
One bottle of "Port,"
One bottle of "Angelica,"
One bottle of "Sherry,"
One bottle of "Hock,"
One bottle of "Grape Brandy,"
will be forwarded to any part of the country on receipt of seven dollars.
Country physicians, druggists, and families will please notice, and direct all orders to
"CALIFORNIA WINE AGENCY,
"No. 42 (forty-two) S. FIFTH Street,
11-23-mstlm above Chesnut, Philadelphia."

GAS HEATING STOVES!
CHEAPER THAN COAL OR WOOD!
EAGLE GAS HEATING STOVE,
THE ONLY ONE THAT IS
FREE FROM SMOKE OR SMELL.
Will Heat
OFFICES, PARLORS, DINING, SLEEPING,
AND BATH ROOMS,
With less trouble, in less time, and at less expense than any Coal or Wood Stove. They are very convenient for use in apartments in which there is no Chimney Flue.
G. W. LOOMIS,
No. 27 S. SIXTH STREET,
11-22,stlm&lp PHILADELPHIA.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

UNION M. E. CHURCH, FOURTH Street, below Arch.—Christmas Day.—Rev. FRANKLIN MOORE, D. D., will preach in the morning at 10½ o'clock, and Rev. CHAS. J. LITTLE in the evening at 7½ o'clock.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The Anniversary of the Sunday Schools of the Church of the Epiphany will be held to-morrow afternoon, beginning at half-past two. No service in the evening.

FESTIVAL.—SUNDAY SCHOOL OF the Church of Diseiples of Christ, N. E. corner of BROAD and SPRING GARDEN Streets, on Monday Evening, December 26, 1864, at 7½ o'clock. Dialogues, recitations, and Singing by the School, an Address, and other music by the Choir. At the conclusion there will be a distribution of confections. Proceeds to purchase a library. Tickets for adults, 25 cents; for children, 15 cents. To be had at the door.

ADVENT CHURCH, CORNER YORK AVENUE and BUTTONWOOD Street. Bishop STEVENS will preach to-morrow, (Christmas) morning.

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE. SIXTEENTH Street M. E. Sabbath School, at Hall SEVENTEENTH and POPLAR Sunday, 25, P. M. Addresses, singing by the children. All are invited.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

POST OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 24, 1864.

On Monday next, the 26th inst., this office will be open for transaction of business until 12 o'clock noon, after which hour it will be closed.

The several Stations will be open during the same hours.

The carriers will make but the usual 8 A. M. delivery.

Letters posted in the Drop Letter Box, after the usual hours will be made up and forwarded as directed on the evening, at 6 o'clock.

12-24-2t C. A. WALBORN, P. M.

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, PHILADELPHIA, December 22, 1864.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS.

The City Treasurer will pay the interest on City Loans, due January 1, on and after January 2, 1865.

HENRY BUMM,
12-24-6t City Treasurer.

OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER, PHILADELPHIA, December 22, 1864.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS.

The City Treasurer is prepared to pay loans maturing January 1, 1865, and the holders thereof are requested to present them at this office on and after the 1st day of JANUARY.

HENRY BUMM,
12-24-6t City Treasurer.

AN APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE Negro Women and Children concentrating in and around Nashville, Tenn.—We desire to present to the citizens of Philadelphia another case upon their christian sympathies.

A large number of families in various parts of the South have been rendered homeless by the ravages of war—from six to eight thousand refugee women and children in the power of the rebels have passed the winter in Nashville, and a large number is necessarily increasing. Many of them are entirely destitute of any kind of shelter, and some without a sufficient clothing to cover their nakedness. During the past summer the sufferings of the sick and infirm have been a source of deep concern to the weather. The recovery of the latter will greatly increase their destitution, as no provision has been provided for their protection and support. Their husbands and sons have mostly entered the Union armies, endeavoring in this way to sustain the government under whose protection we are living in comparative peace.

Their condition is worse than that of the liberated slaves. The great body of contraband are the negroes in the south or being within those lines can more readily procure a livelihood, and the sense of personal freedom recently conferred upon them, surrounded by strong temptations to vice. A household of ten sick in a cheerless cabin will not, owing to the limited means of those interested, at once receive all the care that it would have to be cared.

The Government has now offers additional buildings for the reception of some of these destitute people, and will furnish a limited amount of rations for their support. But money must be had to procure bedding, medicines, clothes, &c., and education for the children and fuel to warm and cook for the sick, infirm and feeble. Boxes of clothing, bedding, &c., and boxes of medicines will be received and stored until they can be made to clean them for shipment.

We ask your liberal aid in this pressing emergency—the cold is already upon them—the season is urgent, and there is no time for delay. Shall this cry of the hungry and naked fall unheeded upon those who have been spared the horrors of war? We appeal to you with confidence, and look for a generous response.

Contributions will be received for CALEB COPE, Esquire, at No. 308 WALNUT street, or either of the undersigned:

Albert Barnes,	Wm. Price,
George H. Boker,	Geo. Vaux,
John F. Fraser,	John Welsh,
Stephen Colwell,	Jay Cooke,
Matthew W. Baldwin,	Richard Peters,
Asaph Shoff,	John M. Atwood,
Reverend L. Dawson,	Daniel Haddock, Jr.
William Lafetra,	Samuel C. Perkins,
James Hand,	Richard L. Page,
M. Chapman,	William Hacker,
Frederick Collins,	Lloyd P. Smith,
Alex. Henry,	

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—

MONEY.

Cash acknowledgments for the week ending Dec. 21, 1864. Thanksgiving contributions of Public Meetings, Societies, Individuals, &c.:—

Citizens of Mercersburg, Pa., and vicinity, per T.	$41 75
Collection at Lyons' Hollow, Pa., per E. G. W. Snyder,	21 02
Citizens of Montoursville, Pa., per Rev. A. M. Creighton,	43 53
Citizens of Jeddo, Luzerne county, Pa., per Rev. A. P. Goodrich,	65 00
Collection at Greenwich, N. J., per C. Braden,	15 00
Collection at Bridge Hampton, N. Y., per Chas. M. Gay,	32 05
Meeting in Nazareth, Northampton county, Pa., per Jas. McMillan,	13 38
Citizens of Croton, Delaware county, N. Y., per Rev. J. M. Chapman,	30 00
Funds in Frankstown, Pa., per S. D. Wallace,	12 00
Mrs. J. Lewis Corwin, Mount Hope, N. Y.,	5 00
Mrs. S. J. Mitchell, Mount Hope, N. Y.,	5 00 — 10 00
Mrs. Henry Hodges, Chester, N. J.,	2 00
Mr. Hodges Hunt, Chester, N. J.,	1 00 — 3 00
Per Rev. James P. Wilson, etc.,	2 00
Collection at North Pitcher, N. Y., per Rev. E. S. Endicott,	13 63
Citizens of Millersburg, Pa., per T. C. Robinson,	23 45
Citizens of Port Clinton, Pa., per T. C. Robinson,	14 51