Local Intelligence.

THE HOLIDAYS.—The gay and festive times usual upon the return annually of Christmas and New Year's day are rapidly approaching. In the stirring words of the old song, though it "comes but once a year," it most certainly brings upon time's dusty wings to all "good cheer." Holiday Gifts add much to the happiness of those who give and to those who receive them. Such presents are treasured up in the heart's memory and are preserved for years as bright spots in the pathway of one's happy life. Those who contemplate making presents should consult the columns of the *Daily Intelligencer* for the best places to purchase them, and those who have articles for sale suitable for presents should advertise them in our columns. They will in that way secure prompt and ready sales from a good class of buyers who cannot be reached in any other way. We trust "a word to the wise" is sufficient to prompt all such *just where their real interest lies*. The *Intelligencer* is daily sought for and eagerly perused by thousands. This cannot be denied.

OUR JOBBING DEPARTMENT.—We have just received from Johnson's Type Foundry, Philadelphia, another large invoice of new materials, and have now one of the finest Job Offices in Pennsylvania. We flatter ourselves in being able to do all sorts of printing in the best style of the art and on reasonable terms. Our Jobbing Department is under the charge of Mr Harry E. Carson, who is one of the neatest and most expeditious Job Printers we know of anywhere. We are fully prepared, therefore, to receive all orders, and are determined to give full satisfaction in all our work. Call and examine specimens.

We are also prepared to print new and beautiful styles of bill and letter heads, bank checks, receipts, &c., either plain or tinted. Send in your orders, friends.

WHAT IF THE CLOTHES TAKE FIRE?—Perhaps three persons out of four would rush right up to the burning individual, and begin to paw with their hands, without any definite aim. It is useless to tell the victim to do this or that, or call for water. In fact, it is generally best to say not a word, but seize a blanket from a bed, or a cloak, or any woolen fabric—if none is at hand, take any woolen material—hold the corners as far apart as you can, stretch them out higher than your head, and running boldly to the person, make a motion of clasping in the arms, most about the shoulders. This instantly smothers the fire and saves the face. The next instant throw the unfortunate person on the floor. This is an additional safety to the face and breath, and any remnant of flame can be put out more leisurely. The next instant immerse the burnt part in cold water, and all pain will cease with the rapidity of lightning. Next get some common flour; remove from the water and cover the burned parts with an inch thickness of flour, if possible, put the patient to bed, and do all that is possible to soothe until the physician arrives. Let the flour remain until it falls off itself, when a beautiful new skin will be found. Unless the burns be deep, no other application is needed. The dry flour for burns is the most admirable remedy ever proposed, and the information ought to be imparted to all. The principle of its action is that, like the water, it causes instant and perfect relief from pain by totally excluding the air from the injured parts. Spanish whiting and cold water of a mushy consistency are preferred by some. Dredge on the flour until no more will stick, and cover with cotton batting.

THE UNION DORCAS SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Ladies of the Union Dorcas Society, held on Thursday evening, December 8th, the following officers were elected:

President—Mrs. John Metzgar.
Vice Presidents—Mrs. G. B. Kerfoot, Mrs. A. Ehler.
Secretary and Treasurer—Miss Kate Mathiot.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

North East Ward—Mrs. Col. Duchman, Mrs. H. E. Leman, Miss M. Sanderson, Miss Lindie Peiper, Miss Julia Dunne, Miss Carson, Miss A. Adler, Miss J. Champneys.
North West Ward—Miss S. Steinman, Miss Gailbach, Mrs. H. Reed, Mrs. A. McConomy, Mrs. T. Baumgardner, Miss A. White, Mrs. Getz, Mrs. J. Cochrane.
South East Ward—Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. J. H. Reigart, Miss A. Brooks, Mrs. W. Ihling, Miss M. Dale, Mrs. M. Kline, Mrs. H. Rathvon, Mrs. Gara.
South West Ward—Mrs. A. Elder, Mrs. G. B. Kerfoot, Miss E. Hubley, Mrs. Dr. Welchens, Miss Kate Fahnestock, Miss H. Rhodes, Miss L. Hayes, Miss M. L. Carpenter.

The ladies of the Society earnestly solicit the assistance of the public in their efforts to relieve the sufferings of the worthy poor. They commence their operations with very limited means, confidently relying upon the co-operation of the citizens generally, and feeling that they will not withhold their assistance in this effort to relieve the destitute. There are very many in our midst who are wholly without the means of obtaining even the necessaries of life, the prices for provisions and fuel being so exorbitant that they are unable to obtain them, so that without assistance they must perish; but it is unnecessary to say more, as this terribly cold weather speaks for itself, and calls loudly upon all who are enjoying a warm and comfortable home to give of the abundance which God has blessed them with.

Committees have been appointed to ascertain all those worthy of assistance, and the Society will endeavor as much as possible to guard against being imposed upon. Contributions in money, dry goods, groceries, &c., will be thankfully received, and can be sent either to the President or Treasurer.

RECEIPT STAMPS.—Some discussion has arisen in Philadelphia as to the person who should pay for the stamps upon receipts. The law is that when a receipt is given for money payments over $20 it shall be stamped, and a penalty is leviable, and actually has been levied, for the omission to perfect the receipt. In England, whence we have copied this system, the recipient of the money invariably supplies the stamp receipt. The same principle has been affirmed by the Philadelphia Board of Trade. Upon "the ground that whatever may be the requirements of the common law, commercial usage and right demand that whoever receives value of any kind from another is bound to furnish the grantor a perfect legal voucher and evidence of such delivery by him. The latter is bound to furnish the same with the stamps attached necessary to give it validity under the law at his own expense;" consequently receipts for freight money should be stamped at the expense of the party to whom payment is made, that receipts given at railroad stations on delivery of freight for transportation should be stamped by the railroad company, through receipts given by transportation companies or lines should be stamped at the expense of the shipper; receipts given by consignees to railroad companies on the delivery of merchandize be stamped by the consignees; given at the ship's side, called mate's receipts, be stamped at the expense of the ship; bills of lading be stamped at the expense of the shipper.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—On Thursday afternoon, a man named Super, was killed at White Hall, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, under the following circumstances: a car loaded with lumber was about being put upon the siding, and Mr. Super, who was a blacksmith, was assisting; the car was poorly loaded that the lumber rocked from side to side, and while the car was being pushed to its place, the lumber came in contact with a telegraph pole and was knocked off the car, striking Mr. Super on the head, and he fell under the car, which passed over his breast, and nearly severed his right arm from his body, killing him instantly.

AN APPEAL.—We are requested by Mrs. Huber, on behalf of the Ladies Supervisory Committee, to make an appeal to the citizens generally, but the ladies more particularly, to aid the Fair, to be held for the benefit of the Union Fire Company. It is alleged that it is impossible to send circulars requesting aid and co-operation to every lady, and it is hoped that this direct request, made public through our columns, will be promptly responded to. Donations of all kinds will be gladly received. If the ladies only actively interest themselves in this movement, it cannot fail of success.—Any information required will be gladly furnished on application to Mr. H. E. Slaymaker or Mr. Charles A. Heinitsh, in East King street, or to Mr. Geo. K. Reed, Banker, under the *Intelligencer* office.

BIBLE SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY.—The 49th Anniversary of the Lancaster County Bible Society took place on Sunday evening, in the First Reformed Church, (Rev. Mr. Kremer's,) East Orange street. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a large congregation present, and the services were opened with a chaunt by the fine choir of the church. Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, President of the Society, presided, and the preliminary services were conducted by Rev. Messrs. Kremer, Rosenmiller and Carrow. The Annual Report, which will be found in full below, was read by Rev. Mr. Sigler, of the Union Bethel Church, after which addresses were delivered by Rev Messrs. Bigler of the Moravian, Mosser of St. Paul's Reformed, Hoppe of Zion's German Lutheran, who spoke in German, and Barker of St. John's Free Episcopal. The services were concluded with prayer by Rev. Mr. Powell of the Presbyterian Church. A collection was taken up for the Society, and the sum of $25.92 realized.

REPORT OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY FOR 1864.

A detailed account of the work done since the last annual report cannot be expected. While it might be interesting, it is impossible to write it; the record of the good accomplished through the agency of this organization is only to be found in the hearts of those who have been led to embrace the truth, and in the Book of God.

This report will necessarily contain items which would properly belong to the last Annual Report, but owing to the exciting circumstances which engaged the public mind, together with the many calls made by the state of the country, it was deemed advisable to hold no anniversary meeting last year. In the meanwhile, the former President Rev. I. S. Dumond, removing from our city, the operations of the Society have in a measure been suspended, not that the necessity was any the less for spreading the precious truths of God's word. Not that the Society has lost its influence for good, but owing to the increased demand for liberality and labor in another field, the work has however been progressing slowly.

During the past year we have lost one of our elder members, one who was esteemed highly as a Christian and a citizen, and whose heart was knit with the interests of Christ's Kingdom, laboring in this department of the work with known fidelity. He was elected Vice President of the Lancaster County Bible Society on the 25th of November, 1852, and was continued in that office until his death which occurred on Sabbath the 13th of November, 1864. The Hon. E. Schaeffer is no more—a servant of God called from labor to reward.

An extract from the Treasurer's report presents the following items:

November 22d, 1862.	
Balance on hand	$155 15
Collection at last anniversary	10 24
Cash from members	6 00
February 2d, 1863.	
Collections in M. E. Church	42 00
December 28th 1863.	
Collections in Union Bethel	6 30
1864.	
Amount from City Bible Society, through the Treasurer	61 66
Interest on the above item	2 00
Amount of sales of Bibles and testaments	358 30
Collection in Moravian Church	10 00
Total receipts	$650 99
Expenditures	558 33
Balance on hand	92 66
Debt owing to the Parent Society	77 66
Surplus	$15 00

Over $50 was also collected in the Presbyterian Church this morning.

Besides these amounts, a citizen of this vicinity contributed $100 to the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

The present officers are: President, Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller; Vice Presidents, Christian Gast and J. S. Gable; Secretary, H. S. Gara, and thirty directors.

Our hope is that, during the coming year, the society will manifest greater efficiency. Truly, the word of God should be placed in the hands of every man, woman and child within the borders of our county. Let us, therefore, by our liberality and earnest prayers, resolve that our whole duty shall be done; to increase the funds and support the interests of this organization there must be manifested a liberal spirit; to encourage the laborers who are engaged in spreading the truth they should be assured that our prayers continually ascend for their success.

Respectfully submitted,
J. F. CROUCH.

TO THE FIREMEN.—We hear that the members of the Union Fire Company purpose putting up a fine silver horn for competition among the different fire companies of this city, at their Fair to be held in February next. From all accounts it will be a fine, handsomely embossed horn, well worthy of active competition and active work to secure it.

HOWELL'S NEW BUILDING.—The new building of Major Charles M. Howell, on North Queen street, which has been in process of erection during the past season, is rapidly approaching completion, and will soon be ready for occupancy. The main building is built of a superior quality of pressed brick, has a front of sixty-five feet, extends in depth forty-seven feet, and is three stories high. It was erected under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Swartzwelder, of the firm of Swartzwelder & Morrow. The mason work was done by Mr. Ambrose Derschett; the brick work by Mr. Peter Ruth; the plastering by Brook & Hardy; the painting by Mr. Michael McCullom, and the plumbing by Mr. Harry C. Biggs, foreman of Flinn's plumbing establishment. It is certainly a fine improvement, and adds much to the appearance of that busy thoroughfare.

The building consists of two residences and four store-rooms. The first residence will be occupied by Major Howell himself. It is finished throughout in the latest modern style, and is one of the most conveniently-arranged and desirable residences in the city. On the second floor is the parlor, library room and a chamber. The parlor and library connect by folding-doors, and when they are thrown open the room will have a depth of forty-seven feet. On the third floor are six large, airy, well-ventilated chambers. The back building is also three stories high. On the second floor of it are the sitting-room, bath-room and conservatory. The second residence is finished in similar style, and is well adapted for a first-class boarding house.

The store-rooms are handsomely fitted up. The first is not yet rented.

The second will be occupied by a firm from Reading, who are engaged in the manufacture of hoop-skirts.

The third, Capt. P. I. O'Rourke, late of the 1st Pennsylvania Reserves, will occupy as a clothing store, and, we doubt not, the gallant and jovial "Prince of Breffni," who has doffed the robes of Mars, will be happy to see all his old customers and friends.

The fourth room will be occupied as the office of the City Treasurer and Receiver.

Major Howell deserves a great deal of praise for the energy and enterprise he has displayed in assisting to promote the spirit of improvement in our city, (would that we had more of his kind,) and the building itself places another feather in the cap of our Lancaster mechanics.

SENSATIONAL.—In the absence of local items, some of our exchanges have a happy faculty of manufacturing sensation items, after the following fashion: "Mr. Duffield got so high the other night that he thought he could jump over the lamp posts. We are pained to say he miscalculated. He brought up on his cassimeres the first go. The second go he brought up in the watchhouse. Discharged with a reprimand. Jimmy McGlashan licked his sister without anybody to help him. Heafterwards stood his brother-in-law on his hat and challenged his mother to 'put the gloves on.' To prevent his kicking the bowels out of the cook stove, the magistrate locked him up. Andy Jackson and Tom Hyer undertook to kick Stonewall Jackson, Jr., without any assistance from the iron-clad ram Albemarle or the gunboat Dictator. Young Stonewall proved too much for them, knocking Tom into the cistern and Andy up the chimney. They were both arrested for undertaking a job they were not equal to, and sent to reinforce Gen. Sherman in his 'aim' at Beaufort. They would be better employed at killing clams. Berringer says that his neighbor Toogood would be a pattern of a husband if it was not for a failing or two he's got. He always comes home drunk, and when he's drunk he always pitches his wife out of the window and sends the tea-table after her. With these slight drawbacks, he says, he is as good a man to his family as you could possibly desire. This being the case, we hope Mrs. Toogood will bear his foibles, and bless the Lord that he didn't send her a brute for a husband, such as some poor women have got."

OIL! OIL!—Read the advertisement of the West Virginia National Petroleum Association in to-day's paper. Those wishing to invest their surplus cash in Oil lands can see the inducements held out by this company.

VULCAN HEATERS.—In these wintry days we all eagerly seek the best means of keeping out the cold. Coal stoves are a great institution, a very decided improvement on the old-fashioned wood fires, which kept our forefathers busy turning themselves like geese on a spit to keep the side turned away from the fire from freezing. But in well-regulated houses stoves have nearly had their day. The most pleasant and economical method of warming a building is by means of one of the improved Vulcan Heaters, which will render any number of rooms comfortable without the inconvenience of keeping up more than a single fire. The sole agents for this city are the enterprising firm of Deaner & Schaum, Copper, Tin and Stove Dealers, No. 7, East King street.

TO SALERATUS EATERS.—At a late convention of dentists it was asserted that the main, if not the sole cause of the great increase of defective teeth was the use of saleratus and cream of tartar in the manufacture of bread; and Dr. Baker fully agreed with the facts offered in proof, adding the result of some experiments made by himself. He soaked sound teeth in a solution of saleratus and they were destroyed in fourteen days. We have the opinion of men whose talents, time and zeal are given to dentistry, that saleratus and cream of tartar in bread are a chief cause of ruin to teeth. Now will those who know this fact go on eating all that comes in their way without inquiring what it is made of?

FUR FASHIONS.—The once despised mink, taking rank only one step higher than the musk rat, has got into such high favor from its close resemblance to the Hudson Bay sable, that importations of the genuine article have been displaced to a large extent, and now the American sable takes the precedence in comparison with almost any of the rival furs. Stone-marten, itch, squirrel, &c., are less inquired for. Success winning popular favor, results in this case much as it often does in the higher walks of criminal life, and whole communities of the mink creation have been brought to sorrow from the effects of excessive adulation. In other words, the demand for mink has tended to surfeit the market, so that prices are now about twenty per cent. lower than they were last year. In styles, there is no essential change, except that the cape leads, owing to the use of the modernized Arabian hood in cloak-making, which does not permit of covering.

A NEW WRINKLE IN THE FASHIONS.—Among the many queer turns which fashion takes is the recent introduction of square buttons, an article with which the ladies plentifully trim their cloaks and dresses. These buttons are of all sizes up to an inch square. The *hard ton* is the big button, about the size of a square or a checkerboard. A little while ago and the rage was sperical buttons of three-quarters of an inch diameter, gilt or silvered, and with these they trimmed their "Garibaldi bodies" and their vivandiere jackets in lavish profusion. Like gilded apples they formed rows down the fronts of the jaunty-looking corsages. Now the globular buttons are out and square ones are in. They are of all materials, pearl, ivory, jet, silver and gilt, and they cost a price dear enough to satisfy anybody. We don't know that square buttons were ever before in fashion, though fashion as a general thing is constantly reproducing itself.

The reporter of the Philadelphia *News* says that he saw a few days since, at the house of an extensive importer, a case of ladies' belt buckles. They are of the widest dimensions, and carry a ribbon fully three inches wide. They were worn in the times when ladies' waists were located but a few inches below the axilla. They remained unsold when the fashions changed, just twenty-eight years ago. They were then packed up and consigned to a garret. They were recently reproduced for sale, and were taken by the retail trade with such rapidity that in a little while but a few remained.—The buckles in question sold at a price sufficient to pay twenty-eight years' interest on their original cost, and leave a very handsome profit beside.

THE HIGH PRICE OF EGGS.—The cause of the rapid advance in the price of eggs is somewhat a mystery. We can understand how oil stocks may be down to zero today and at the top of the list to-morrow, but the late violent fluctuations in the egg market are something we cannot understand. They sold yesterday at thirty-five cents a dozen, "on account," as we heard a woman say, "of the rise in gold." We don't know who to blame for the rates which now rule in the market, the hens or their owners, but certain it is that the prices which our housekeepers are now asked to pay is in the highest degree extortionate.—Oh, for the days of yore, when butter sold at 12@15c. per pound, eggs at 10c. per dozen, and meat at 10@12½c. per pound. Then there would be some chance for poor folks like printers, getting through this world without a resort to rye coffee, a hard crust of bread and no butter. Those were "disloyal" times, however, and it is almost treasonable to think, let alone speak about them.

CITY HOUSEHOLD MARKET.—The prices ranged as follows this morning.

LANCASTER, SATURDAY, Dec. 10, 1864.

Butter, per pound	45@50c.
Eggs, per dozen	32@35c.
Lard, per pound	22@25c.
Chickens, (live,) per pair	50@60c.
do. (dressed,) " "	75@80c.
Ducks, per pair, (live,)	60c.
" (dressed,)	70c.
Geese, per pair	$1.50
Turkeys, per piece	1.00@1.37½
Potatoes, per bushel	$1.50
do. " ½ peck	20@25c.
Sweet Potatoes, per peck	40@50c.
Apples, per peck	40@50c.
Onions " "	50c.
Turnips, " "	30c.
Beef, per pound	15@20c.
Veal, " "	15@16c.
Pork, " "	20@25c.
Beef, " " per quarter	8@11c.
Veal, " " "	8@10c.
Pork, " " "	18@19c.
Cabbage, per head	5@10c.
Beets, per bunch	3@5c.
Celery, " "	5@10c.
Chestnuts, per quart	20c.

How Our Breadstuff Trade is Failing Off.

Prior to the breaking out of the war in which we are now engaged, the South furnished the great staples which formed the principal exports of the country. It was the cotton, the rice and the tobacco of the Southern States which alone enabled us to keep the balance of trade anywhere near even. With those great staples we principally paid for our imports. Our export of breadstuffs was a considerable item, but only a very small one when compared even to cotton alone. Under the exhausting process of the war, which has made so vast and continuous a drain upon the able-bodied male population of the country, our production of breadstuffs has seriously declined, and our exports have greatly fallen off. The following table, taken from statistics furnished by the Agricultural Bureau, will show how our breadstuff trade has been declining under the exhausting process of the war, which is diminishing our productive power to an alarming extent:

Flour—Shipments to Europe.

1859-60	766,399 bbls.
1860-61	2,708,790 "
1861-62	3,299,187 "
1862-63	1,692,991 "
1863-64	1,342,315 "

Wheat—Shipments to Europe.

1859-60	5,116,745 bus.
1860-61	29,005,866 "
1861-62	33,371,181 "
1862-63	25,510,574 "
1863-64	16,826,342 "

Indian Corn—Shipments to Europe.

1859-60	2,241,215 bus.
1860-61	11,806,179 "
1861-62	14,406,242 "
1862-63	10,403,313 "
1863-64	730,807 "

The sum total of our exports is very meagre indeed, and deprived, as we are, of the great staples which have heretofore made up their chief bulk, the balance of trade is so enormously against us that it is hard, indeed, to tell how we are going to pay for our imports. In looking at the figures of the foregoing table, it must be remembered that the three years just passed have been years of more than ordinary productiveness in proportion to extent of the land under cultivation.

The War.

From Yesterday's Age.

We have received definite intelligence of the expedition which General Grant sent south from his camp on Tuesday last. Gen. Warren commands the force, which consists of two divisions of Warren's corps, one of Humphrey's, and Gregg's cavalry. The expedition marched south along the Jerusalem road, crossing Hatcher's run, and on Tuesday night reached the Nottaway river, eighteen miles from Petersburg. This stream was crossed on a pontoon, which was so quickly taken up that a great number of stragglers, who could not get over, were left on the northern bank, where they were discoverrd by the cavalry reconnoissance that Grant afterwards sent to Stony Creek station, and on Tuesday and Friday last were brought back to the camp at Petersburg. The main force, under command of General Warren, after crossing the Nottaway river, turned southwest, and on Wednesday night reached the Weldon railroad, south of Stony creek. They then marched south along it, destroying the roads as they advanced. On Thursday morning they were at Jarrett's station, thirty-two miles south of Petersburg. On Thursday afternoon they were reported as still advancing, and were said to be near Hicksford, forty-seven miles south of Petersburg. Hicksford is on the Mehervin river, and here some opposition was expected. It is about eighteen miles from the North Carolina line, and forty miles north of Weldon. Grant's expedition is about fifteen thousand strong, and is doubtless intended to capture Weldon, destroy the railroads centering there, and then return. The Confederates are evidently preparing to attack Warren. All day on Thursday last large bodies of troops could be seen moving from their southern flank, down toward Stony creek. This would place them in Warren's rear. We have heard nothing of Warren's advance. Since his reported arrival at Hicksford our news all comes through Southern channels. The noise of a battle was heard on Saturday from the Federal camp at Petersburg, in the direction of Hicksford. The reconnoissance that picked up Warren's stragglers lost one hundred and twenty-five men. It did very little good. The country about Petersburg, owing to the recent peculiar weather, is covered with ice.

The various indications of a contest on the north bank of the James has disappeared. The negroes sent to the south side of the James, opposite the Dutch Gap canal, keep very quiet in their rifle-pits. No effort is made to reinforce them. The Confederate gunboats are in the James, just above them, and they seem unable to do any thing. The Hewlett House batteries shell the canal as effectively as heretofore. The negroes have entrenched themselves on such low ground that they cannot be hit.

General Sherman's column evacuated Millen on the night of December 2nd. He began his march directly for Savannah.—His column kept well together, scarcely an expedition being sent out. He marched slowly. On the 5th—Monday of last week—his advance was eighteen miles southeast of Millen. He was still moving forward at last accounts, and on Friday last there were rumors in Richmond that on Wednesday he was but forty miles northwest of Savannah. This would make him thirty-eight miles southeast of Millen. There is no definite intelligence of this further advance, however. We have no news from General Foster's co-operating column. It is still intrenched on the north side of Broad river, under cover of the gunboats.

A despatch from City Point, dated Dec. 11th, says that the latest news contained in the Richmond papers of yesterday, December 10th, from Sherman, says that, on the 7th inst., he was east of the Ogechee, twenty-five miles from Savannah, moving on that place. On the 6th he had marched his army eighteen miles.

It has been formally announced that the exchange of prisoners has been transferred from Savannah to Charleston, and, in accordance with an agreement between the commissioners of exchange, the Federal bombardment of Charleston ceased on Sunday week.

General Rosecrans was removed from the command of St. Louis and Missouri on Thursday last. His successor is General Dodge. No new command is yet given General Rosecrans.

The damage which has been done to the Dutch Gap Canal, by the continued shelling of the Confederate batteries on the south side of the James, has at length compelled a Federal movement. On Wednesday last a brigade of negro troops was sent up the James a short distance above the canal, and embarked in pontoons. They crossed over and marched down the southern bank until a point opposite the canal was reached. The Confederate sharpshooters were driven off and the negroes began entrenching. During the night a rifle pit was dug, and on Thursday morning the position was secure. Very few men were killed or wounded on either side. The Confederate force was successful in stopping labor on the canal, by breaking the drudging machines, it is now to be seen whether Grant will replace the machines and renew the labor free from molestation. The Confederate iron-clads moved down the James on Thursday and came within range of Dutch Gap. Up to Saturday, however, no hostilities had occurred, and the Confederates made no attempt to drive the negroes away. The various reports of a general advance of Grant's southern wing toward Stony Creek Station, and on the Weldon Railroad, which have been prevalent for some days are at length confirmed by definite intelligence, Warren's Corps, one division of Humphrey's, and Gregg's cavalry began a southern march on Wednesday last. They marched down the Jerusalem road and crossed the Nottaway River on a pontoon bridge. They are now cut off from communication with Grant's army, and have not been heard from for some days. This advance is directly south. Its object cannot yet be ascertained.

We have some intelligence from the Shenandoah Valley. Gen. Sheridan will attempt no movement south from Winchester this season. He is now at Winchester in his old camp. He has about fifteen thousand men. Three of his brigades were sent last week to reinforce Grant. The Confederates south of Winchester make no demonstrations. They have recently removed the rails from the railroad between Manassas and Gordonville, in northern Virginia, and carried them to Richmond.

At Nashville the condition of affairs is the same as usual. Hood is still laboring on his earthworks. It is reported that reinforcements are being sent to Thomas. The detachment of troops that held Johnsonville, but were forced to evacuate it and retreat into Kentucky, were terribly harrassed in their march. Thirteen are reported killed and wounded and sixteen captured.

The latest report of the losses at the recent battle of Franklin make the Federal loss nearly twenty-two hundred.

There is nothing new from Sherman's army. It is almost certain that he is marching on Savannah, and that Foster's advance up Broad River to Grahamsville, which is very near the Savannah River, was intended to make a junction with Sherman. Sherman has not been heard from since he moved from Millen. Foster is still near Grahamsville, protected by his gunboats. Heavy cannonading was heard there at last accounts from Hilton Head, and the Confederates were thought to have attacked Foster, and attempted to drive him off. No result is known, however.

The Effect of Example.

In the village of Herkimer, last week, three boys, having no doubt read of the desolation of the Shenandoah Valley engaged in "playing confiscation," as they termed it. They entered the house of one lady who was absent from home for a week or two, and spent the most of two whole days in destroying and mutilating everything within reach. They ripped open and broke in pieces sofas and chairs, broke bureaus and mirrors, went down the cellar, taking all its contents in the way of preserves, molasses, vinegar, etc. up into the front parlor and there spreading them out on the Brussels carpet and mixing them up with flour, meal, feathers from the beds, and almost every imaginable thing in the house. They took up handfuls of butter and lard and threw them over the walls and furniture, and in fact exhausted all their ingenuity to perfectly destroy everything they could find. They then proposed to "confiscate" two school houses, entering through a window. They took down the large maps, tearing them and throwing them into the furnace, broke the school room lamps in pieces, poured pails of water in the melodeon, broke the locks from the doors and did other damage to a large amount. The story they told of the crimes they had committed and those they had planned for future operations, including the murder of Mr. Champion, the school teacher, for which two of them had provided themselves with pistols, is too awful to be believed of boys, two of whom are not 12 years of age and the other only fifteen years of age.—*Syracuse (N. Y.) Courier.*

THE REMARKVBLE PROPERTIES of Brown's Bronchial Troches have been thoroughly tested since first introduced. The demand for them has steadily increased and purely upon their own merits, they have found favor with those, who, from Pulmonary, Bronchial, or Asthmatic complaints require them. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Influenza, they are entirely efficacious, removing all obstructions, and increasing at once the power and flexibility of the voice.

A woman in Troy, in this State, has been married four times to soldiers since the war began.

One of the refined ladies who called on Butler at his reception at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, was heard to say, as she went out, "bully for Butler." Yes, that was exactly right, bully for Butler.

XXXVIII CONGRESS—Second Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1864.

SENATE.—Mr. Davis, Ky., said, I wish to give notice that on to-morrow I will introduce a joint resolution for the restoration of peace and Union and the vindication of the Constitution and guarantee of the rights of the citizens of the several States.

Mr. Anthony, Rhode Island, moved that the Senate proceed to the election of the Senate Standing Committees. Carried.

The following Committees were chosen:

Foreign Relations—Sumner, Chairman; Foster, Doolittle, Harris, Davis, Johnson and McDougall.

Finance—Sherman, Chairman; Howe, Cowan, Clark, Van Winkle, Conness and Henderson.

Commerce—Chandler, Chairman; Morrill, Ten Eyck, Morgan, Sprague, Saulsbury and Lane, of Kansas.

Agriculture—Lane, of Kansas, Chairman; Harlan, Wilson, Powell and Farwell.

Military Affairs and the Militia—Wilson, Chairman; Lane, of Indiana, Howard, Nesmith, Morgan, Sprague and Brown.

Naval Affairs—Grimes, Chairman; Anthony, Willey, Ramsey, Harding, Hicks and Hendrick.

Manufactures—Sprague, Chairman; Morgan, Riddle, Wilkinson and Hendricks.

Judiciary—Trumbull, Chairman; Foster, Ten Eyck, Harris, Foote, Powell and Johnson.

Post Offices and Post Roads.—Collamer, Chairman; Dixon, Ramsey, Conness, Buckalew and Pomeroy.

Public Lands.—Harlan, Chairman; Pomeroy, Foote, Harding, Carlisle, Hendricks and Wright.

Private Land Claims—Harris, Chairman; Sumner, Howard, Riddle and Harding.

Indian Affairs—Doolittle, Chairman;—Wilkinson, Lane, (Kansas), Harlan, Nesmith, Brown and Buckalew.

Pensions—Foster, Chairman; Lane, Ind., Van Winkle, Saulbury, Buckalew, Foote and Brown.

Revolutionary Claims—Wilkinson, Chairman; Chandler, Wilson, Nesmith and Wright.

Claims—Clark, Chairman; Howe, Pomeroy, Anthony, Morrill, Hicks and Dawes.

The District of Columbia—Hale, Chairman; Dixon, Morrill, Wade, Willey, Henderson and Richardson.

Patents and the Patent Office.—Messrs. Cowan (chairman), TenEyck, Lane (Ind.), Ramsey and Saulsbury.

Public Buildings and Grounds Messrs. Foote (chairman), Trumbull, Grimes, Farwell and Hendricks.

Territories—Messrs. Wade (chairman), Wilkinson, Hale, Lane (Kansas), Carlisle, Davis and Richardson.

The Pacific Railroad—Howard, Chairman; Collamer, Johnson, Harlan, Trumbull, Sherman, Morgan, Conness and Brown.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Printing—(On the part of the Senate)—Anthony, Chairman; Morgan and Powell.

Enrolled Bills—(On part of the Senate)—Howe, Chairman; Cowan and Hicks.

Library—(On part of the Senate)—Collamer, Chairman; Johnson and Howard.

Select Committee on Slavery and the Treatment of Freedmen—Sumner, Chairman; Howard, Carlisle, Pomeroy, Buckalew, Brown and Conness.

HOUSE—Mr. Stevens, Pa., from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported back the joint resolution explanatory of so much of the internal revenue act as referred to the duty on segars, an abstract of which was printed on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Brooks, of New York, said that the Secretary of the Treasury had recommended the tax, and he now wished to know whether the Committee of Ways and Means intended to change the duty on tobacco.

Stevens replied that he had given the subject some consideration, but he did not know what the conclusion of the committee would be.

Mr. Brooks suggested that the bill be postponed for a few days for further examination.

Mr. Stevens replied that in the opinion of those best instructed, the department lost millions of dollars by the construction of the commissioner of internal revenue.

Mr. Brooks said that in the opinion of a large number of manufacturers it was quite impossible, under the principle of the law, ever to have honest manufacturing of cigars. The temptation was so great, the duty so immense, and the punishment so severe, as to render it at most impossible to prevent frauds. By the measure now before them there was no doubt, from the best information, that the best way was to attach a one cent stamp to each cigar sold, and this would produce a larger revenue than the principle in the bill.

Mr. Stevens explained that all the Committee had done was to put a proper construction on the law in contradiction to a very erroneous decission of the Commissioners of Internal revenue.

Mr. Dawes, Mass., said that some of the manufacturers had stopped nearly entirely in consequence of this very singular construction of the law. The construction went beyond even the law itself: he thought something more than a simple joint resolution was necessary to remedy the defects, and he hoped his friend from Pennsylvania would be patient in clearing up the subject which surrounds the subject.

Mr. Stevens then proceeded to show that nine-tenths of the cigars manufactured since Congress adjourned had paid but three instead of eight dollars a thousand, owing to the construction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The measure pending was here repealed, to give the proper construction to the law.

Mr. Brooks, expressed the hope that the committe would take time to consult with honest manufacturers, in order to remove the existing difficulties by as the Secretary of the Treasury recommends a duty on leaf tobacco. A duty on cirgars should be considered in the same connection.

He repeated that experienced men had advised a stamp on segars similar to postage stamps, say one cent, as yielding the largest revenue. The temptation to smuggling from Canada and elsewhere was now irresistible. Old stamped segar boxes were used in which to put new segars, and so a stamp alone would stop this, besides realizing the largest revenue. At the suggestion of Mr. Stevens the subject was postponed till Monday.

A message was received from the President recommending that Capt. Winslow and Lieut. Cushing each receive a vote of thanks—the one for the destruction of the pirate Alabama, and the other for the destruction of the rebel iron-clad Albemarle, this action being necessary, under the law, in order that these officers may be advanced one grade.

The message was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.

SENATE.—Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, President pro tem in the chair.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., introduced the petition of Lake Brothers, Bankers of Boston and New York, in which they set forth that they were the owners of certificates of indebtedness to the amount of $10,000, and that they were lost. That evidence was furnished the Treasury Department of the loss, but they had not received full compensation for the loss.

They pray Congress to provide a remedy in their special case, and also by further legislation to protect interests of persons in such situations. As the question involved in the petition concerned the finances of the country and the credit of the country, he (Mr. Sumner) asks its reference to the Committee on the Finances. Referred.

Mr. Howard, of Mich., introduced a petition from the Collector of the port of Detroit, praying relief from the operations of the joint resolution of last session increasing the rate of duties on imported articles fifty per cent. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE.—Mr. Eliot, Mass., introduced a resolution declaiming that the State of Louisiana may resume its political relations with the Government of the United States—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Cole, Cali., introduced a bill granting lands to certain railroad compnies in California. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Also a bill to establish a Mining Department with a commissioner, and the necessary clerks and mineralogists for the purpose of collecting and diffusing useful information throughout the United States.

Mr. Cole, moved that the subject be referred to a select committee of seven.

Mr. Brooks, N. Y., would have no objections, if at the same time an inquire be directed, as to the mode and means of obtaining Revenue from the mines.

Mr. Washburne, of Ill., was opposed to the whole scheme. Objection thus being made, the subject went over.

James C. Allen, of Ill., moved to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Elliott's proposition was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

He wanted it sent to the Committee on the Rebellious States. It was read for information, and proposes to admit the Senators and Representatives in Congress under the new Constitution recently adopted in Louisiana.

The motion was reconsidered, and referred to the Committee on the Rebellious States.

Mr. Charles, of N. Y., introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tax on mineral coal.

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens' New Project.

The New York *Evening Post* is informed that Mr. Stevens, "the great statesman of Pennsylvania," having lost his gold bill, is about to introduce another for the regulation of the temperature of this planet by means of the thermometer. The leading features of the new act are these:

Resolved first, That all the thermometers hereafter to be made of uniform length and breadth.

Resolved second, That the degrees on all thermometers be of equal interval, whether the expansible liquid be oil, mercury, spirits, or ether.

Resolved third, That all persons in public office and all housekeepers, are ordered to regulate their stoves and furnaces according to the indications of one of the official thermometers, and that any person allowing a heat of more than sixty-five degrees shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Resolved fourth, That the clerk of the weather be instructed to dispense with the differences of climate and of season, until the temperature of the globe has been able to adapt itself to the notions of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Stevens (says the *Post*,) in introducing his new bill, will make a speech showing how it is in analogy with the conduct of some of the most illustrious statesmen of all ages. There was that ancient Greek sage, who wanted to drink up the river to get at the moon; there was the noble Chinese chief, who beat his gong during the eclipses, to keep the dragon from sw