Daily Evening Bulletin.

GIBSON PEACOCK. Editor. | OUR WHOLE COUNTRY. | F. L. FETHERSTON. Publisher.

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EVENING BULLETIN.

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BY THE

"EVENING BULLETIN ASSOCIATION"

PROPRIETORS.

GIBSON PEACOCK, | CASPER SOUDER, JR.,
F. L. FETHERSTON, | ERNEST C. WALLACE,
THOMAS J. WILLIAMSON.

The BULLETIN is served to subscribers in the city at 3 cents per week, payable to the carriers, or $6 00 per annum

MARRIED.

BRICK—HAINES—Jan. 4th, 1866, by his Honor the Mayor, at the residence of the bride's parents, Henry Brick, of Marlton, N. J., to Agnes B., daughter of Clayton W. Haines, of this city.

DALLAS—KRIDER—January 4th, 1866, by the Rev. Gulick Van Aken, Mr. John T. Dallas to Miss Mary R. Krider, daughter of P. L. Krider, Esq., all of this city. No cards.

DIED.

CANNING—On the 7th instant, George W. Canning, youngest son of Hannah and the late George Canning, of Wilmington, Del., aged 17.

FRYER—On Monday, the 8th instant, J. C. Fryer, aged 44 years.

His male relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 210 West Logan Square, on Thursday afternoon the 11th, at 2 o'clock.

GILPIN—On Sunday, the 7th instant, Vincent Gilpin, in his 71st year.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 1410 Spruce street, on Wednesday, the 10th instant, at ten o'clock.

HARE—On Sunday morning, January 7th, Mary Amory, wife of Rev. Wm. H. Hare, and daughter of Rev. Dr. Howe.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral at St. Luke's Church, on Wednesday morning, at 11 o'clock precisely. Interment at St. James the Less.

POTTS—On the morning of the 8th instant, Kate Davenport, daughter of Catharine S. and the late Wm. B. Potts.

Her relatives and friends and those of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the residence of her mother, 408 South Ninth street, on Thursday afternoon, the 11th instant, at 1 o'clock.

OBITUARY.

"When those we love are snatched away
By death's resistless hand—
Our hearts the mournful tribute pay
That friendship must demand."

It is an ancient but nevertheless truthful proverb, that these whom the gods love die young. We are forcibly reminded of this fact in the recent demise, after a brief illness, of JAMES AGNEW HINDMAN, in the 23d year of his age. The sudden death of this estimable and amiable young man has cast a sorrowful influence over the circle of his acquaintance, and filled the bitter cup of grief of a widowed mother to overflowing, now bereaved of her only child. We can scarcely realize the sad occurrence which has thus sorrowed so many loving hearts, for he was one who was possessed of so many excellent traits of character as will ever fondly enshrine him in their memories. Just entering upon the threshold of manhood, and engaging in the active business pursuits of life, with the brightest prospects before him, when suddenly comes the fell destroyer and blights the early bloom of what gave promise of a highly useful career. Death, it has been truly said, spares neither age sex nor condition—"the tall, the wise, and reverend head" must all lie prostrate in the dust—

——"And love and hope and beauty's bloom
Are blossoms gathered for the tomb!"

It is ever thus that we are continually called upon to mourn for the untimely smitten. The agonized hearts of those who now grieve over the early death of James Agnew Hindman can only find a healing balm in the reflection that it has pleased God to remove him from a sinful word and taken him to one where change and sorrow are unknown.

He has passed away, while embalmed in living hearts. All that could recommend a young man to the ove, respect and friendship of his acquaintances, were qualities possessed by him, and long will the remembrance of his genial and amiable disposition, his generosity and sensitive nature, live in their fond recollection. The social circle to whom he was earnestly endeared will miss him from their future gatherings, and we did not fail to remark on the occasion of his obsequies that they had both affectionately and mournfully laid their chaplet upon his bier, and another affectionate hand had also placed an *immortelle* wreath in token of respect and fond regard. Thus was his memory fondly cherished ere his mortal remains were consigned to their last resting place—the tomb.

For now,

"After life's fitful fever he sleeps well."

To the bereaved mother we can only convey our fervent, friendly sympathies and the consoling reflection that he has passed away with every mark of affectionate regard, ere sin or sorrow could blight the spirit that has winged its flight to the mansions of eternal rest. *Peace to his ashes!* [1t] D.

WHITE MOREENS FOR SKIRTS.
Green Watered Moreens,
6-4 and 5-4 Green Baize,
White Cloth for Sacks,
White Evening Silks.
EYRE & LANDELL, Fourth and Arch.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA, 232 WALNUT Street—PHILADELPHIA, January 8th, 1866.

The Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of TWELVE PER CENT., free of taxes—payable on demand.

ja9-6t CHARLES PLATT, Secretary.

DIVIDEND.—The Directors of the McELHENNY OIL COMPANY have this day declared a dividend of TWO (2) PER CENT. on the reduced Capital Stock ($200,000), clear of State Tax, payable on and after the 11th inst., at the office of the Company, 218 Walnut street, Room 11½.

G. E. FRYER, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, January 9th, 1866. ja9-8t

OFFICE OF THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, December 21st, 1865.

LOAN FOR SALE.

IN SUMS TO SUIT PURCHASERS.

The Loan of this Company, due April 1st, 1884, interest payable quarterly, at the rate of six per cent. per annum.

This Loan is secured by a mortgage on all the Company's Coal Lands, Canals, and Slackwater Navigation in the Lehigh river, and all their Railroads, constructed and to be constructed, between Mauch Chunk and Wilkesbarre, and branch roads connected therewith, and the franchise of the Company relating thereto.

Apply to SOLOMON SHEPHERD, Treasurer, de21-rptf] 122 South Second street.

KENSINGTON SOUP HOUSE,
NO. 247 ALLEN STREET,
Near Marlborough Street, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9, 1866.

THE KENSINGTON SOUP SOCIETY are distributing SOUP daily to the suffering and worthy poor of their District, and Mr. Daniel B. Mickle, No. 1019 Shackamaxon street, has been appointed their Agent to solicit and receive contributions in aid of this desirable object. Any donations either in money, wood, coal, flour, or vegetables will be thankfully received by the Managers or either of the undersigned,

GEORGE STOCKHAM, President,
Foot of York street, on the Delaware River.
ELI GARRISON, Vice-Prest., 1931 Shackamaxon St.
GEORGE J. HAMILTON, Treasurer, National Exchange Bank, Northwest cor. Second and Green Sts.
CHAS M. LUKENS, Secretary, 1035 Beach st., above Laurel. ja-3tuit-rp*

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMPANY, WALNUT street, southeast corner of Fourth, PHILADELPHIA, January 4, 1866.

At the annual election of the Stockholders held on MONDAY, January 1st, the following gentlemen were elected Trustees, viz:

ALEX. WHILLDIN,	Hon. JOSEPH ALLISON,
Hon. JAMES POLLOCK,	SAMUEL WORK,
J. EDGAR THOMSON,	ALBERT C. ROBERTS,
GEORGE NUGENT,	PHILIP B. MINGLE,
SAMUEL T. BODINE,	WILLIAM J. HOWARD,
ISAAC HAZLEHURST,	JOHN ALKMAN,
HENRY K. BENNETT.	

And at a meeting of said Trustees held THIS DAY, the following Officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—ALEXANDER WHILLDIN,
Vice President—SAMUEL WORK.
Sec. and Treasurer—JOHN S. WILSON.
Actuary—JOHN C. SIMS.
Asst. Sec.—CHARLES G. ROBESON. ja9-3t

AT A MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF the TWENTY-FOURTH WARD, it was decided to erect a suitable Monument to the memory of the late Captain COURTLAND SAUNDERS, of Company G, 118th Pennsylvania Volunteers (Corn Exchange Regiment).

This was regarded as a fitting tribute from the friends and neighbors of one who, in his life, exhibited so many virtues, and, in his death, offered so noble a sacrifice in the cause of his country.

The undersigned, having been appointed a Committee to carry this decision into effect, have concluded to erect a Monument of appropriate design over his remains at the Woodland Cemetery; and they invite those who desire to join in this Testimonial to hand their contributions to any one of the Committee. It is desired that the name should accompany each contribution, as it is intended to erect this Monument not only upon a liberal scale, but to have it represent the feeling of respect for the deceased so universally entertained among those who knew him.

N. B. BROWNE,	A. J. DREXEL,
SAMUEL FIELD,	HENRY HOOD,
HENRY C. TOWNSEND,	CLARENCE H. CLARK,
HENRY C. LEA,	HENRY C. GIBSON,
E. SPENCER MILLER,	DAVID PAYNTER.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan., 1866. ja6 rp-6t*

SPECIAL NOTICE.—There will be held this Evening a Special Meeting of the Young America Cricket Club, at LANGSTROTH'S Hall, Germantown, at 8 o'clock. 1t*

REV. GEORGE DANA BOARDMAN will preach this Evening, January 9th, in Trinity M. E. Church, Eighth street, above Race, at 7½ o clock. 1t*

HOWARD HOSPITAL, Nos. 1518 and 1520 Lombard street, Dispensary Department. Medical treatment and medicines furnished gratuitously to the poor. se28

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the contributors of the Children's Hospital, will be held on FRIDAY next, (12th January,) at 4½ P. M., at 1710 Spruce street. ja9-2t*

OFFICE OF THE HOME INSURANCE CO. OF PHILADELPHIA, 150 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9, 1866.

At a meeting of the Stockholders of the Home Insurance Company, held this day, the following named gentlemen were elected Directors to serve the following year:—Jas. Brown, Chas. A. Duy, Wm. D. Lewis, Wm. N. Needles, John D. Taylor, Thos. Kimber, Jr., Lemuel Coffin, J. Hillborn Jones, John Woodside, Wm. B. Bullock, Wm. C. Longstreth, and John N. Hutchinson.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held this day, Jan. 9, 1866, James Brown was elected President; Chas. A. Duy, Vice President, and Thomas Neilson Secretary. THOMAS NEILSON,
ja9-7t Secretary.

ARTILLERY CORPS, WASHINGTON GRAYS. An adjourned stated meeting of the Corps will be held THIS EVENING, at half-past seven o'clock.
1t* JOSEPH P. ELLIOT, Secretary.

THE STATE WAR DEBTS.

A Plan for Assuming the War Debt of the States, so as not to Increase but rather largely to Diminish the Debt of the Federal Government.

[For the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.]

1. Suppose the whole number of men furnished by the several States for the suppression of the rebellion, reduced to the basis of one man for every three years' services, to have been 1,500,000.

2. Let there be allowed to each State $300 for every man so furnished.

3. The whole sum to be refunded to the States would then be $450,000,000.

4. The whole number of representatives in Congress, according to the apportionment of March 4, 1862, was 241, of which 58 were assigned to the seceded States.

5. Let a direct tax of $600,000,000 be laid, which would constitutionally be apportioned among the several States according to their representative population, and would amount to about two and a half millions for each representative.

6. Let each State be allowed to assume for itself the collection and payment of this tax, being first credited with its proportion of the war debt assumed and reckoned as above; and let it either pay into or receive from the United States Treasury the balance, according as it may fall on one side or on the other.

7. The application of this to Pennsylvania, for example, would be as follows: Her tax would be about fifty-eight millions, and, if she has furnished, say one hundred and ninety-three regiments of three years' men, or their equivalent, she would have a claim on the United States for the same sum of fifty eight millions, and her account would be squared, if otherwise, if she has furnished more or fewer men, she would pay or receive the balance accordingly.

8. To the States lately in rebellion the application would be, that their quota of the tax for a representative population for fifty-eight representatives would be about $145,000,000; against which they might have a credit—say, in Tennessee and Louisiana—for a few millions.

9. According to this plan, therefore, the Government of the United States, instead of increasing its indebtedness, would receive, towards the liquidation of its own war debt of three thousand millions, some one hundred and thirty, or one hundred and forty millions of dollars.

10. This plan, besides being perfectly constitutional, would be perfectly just and equal. Nor could the States lately in rebellion complain of any hardship; for, while in strict justice they ought to pay the whole expense of the war, it certainly is no more than fair that they, in common with their loyal brethren, should pay their proportion of this extra expense for putting down the rebellion as well as of the other three thousand millions incurred for the same object. Nor can they reasonably urge their impoverishment as a bar against the imposition of such a tax on them, so long as, like Georgia and Mississippi, and others, they can make special appropriations for the benefit—not of the destitute negroes or of impoverished Union refugees—but of Confederate soldiers and their families.

11. The precise accuracy of the figures assumed in this statement is not at all essential to the substance of the plan. The figures can easily be accommodated to the exact state of the facts. The present object is merely to furnish an outline, which can be readily filled up with such modifications of detail as may be found most consistent and advisable. For example, the number of men furnished may have been more or less than that supposed; or, instead of $300 there might be allowed $100 for each man, and then a corresponding tax of only two hundred millions would be needed. Of course, the several States would, in any case, be left to arrange about the war expenditure of particular municipalities as they might see fit.

12. As further considerations in favor of this plan, it may be added, that leading Southern Statesmen, in their abhorrence of a tariff, have often advocated *direct taxation* as the only fair and honest mode of raising a revenue; and that from the Southern States may be expected to come almost the whole opposition to giving Congress such constitutional power that, by laying an *export duty* on cotton, it could compel foreigners to pay a large part of our public debt, and, at the same time, afford to our manufacturing industry an opportunity of immense development, and to the cotton growers themselves permanent security with little or no present disadvantage. G.

AMUSEMENTS.

At the Walnut last evening Mrs. John Wood had a splendid house. To-night she will appear in "An Actress by Daylight" and "Jenny Lind." At the Chestnut "The Sleeping Beauty" and "The Phantom" are drawing crowded houses. "Lost in London" is announced for three nights more at the Arch. At the American the holiday pantomime of "Old Dame Trot and her Comical Cat" will be given this evening. Heller is drawing immense houses at Concert Hall. Signor Blitz is still delighting both old and young at Assembly Building.

MAKING TEA OF IT.—The porter of a Dublin grocer was brought up before a magistrate on a charge of stealing chocolate, which he could not deny. On being asked to whom he sold it, the pride of Patrick was gently wounded. "To whom did I sell it," says Pat, "why does he think I took it to *sell?*" "Then, sir," said the magistrate, "what did you do with it?" "Do wid it! since you must know, we made *tay* of it."

PAINFUL SUICIDE.—Charles Gresslin committed suicide at his residence on Miltenbergers alley, in the Tenth Ward, Pittsburgh, on Saturday afternoon last. He had been suffering for a long time past from lung disease, and had despaired of ever recovering his health.

THE COLD SPELL IN NEW YORK.

North and East Rivers Blocked Up.

Persons Frozen to Death.

[From to-day's N. Y. Tribune.]

Yesterday was not only the coldest day of the season, but the coldest we have had, according to the old inhabitants, for the last 25 years. On Sunday, after midnight, the mercury fell to 13° below zero, and stood but little above zero during any part of yesterday.

The wind, sharp and cutting, blew fiercely and bitterly from the north, freezing ears and noses without mercy, and causing positive suffering to pedestrians and all those compelled to be out doors.

Bayard Taylor, whom we met in Broadway, brilliwnt in facial hues of crimson and violet, said he felt much colder than when he rode behind a reindeer in Lapland with the thermometer at 50° below zero. That great thoroughfare was comparatively deserted. There was no blockade of vehicles on the Russ pauement, no crowd or confusion of pedestrians on the sidewalks. Only a few persons, generally of the sterner sex, hurried up and down, their breath turning blue in the frosty air, and resembling a collection of Hollanders with phantom pipes between their quivering lips. Everybody seemed to have army reminiscences and to be indulging in "a double quick." Out-door people, however highly bred, forgot the precepts of Chesterfield, and hastened on their various missions as if their houses were on fire, or their destiny were drawing them with irresistible power.

The carmen, and stage and car-drivers particularly, were muffled to their eyes, but still they suffered excessively, and often froze stiff before they could reach the end of their journey. In one or two instances we heard of their being frozen to death while at their posts, and a number of men was taken from the streets into adjacent dwellings, nearly inanimate from the severity of the weather.

The street cars were movable Greenlands, and passengers in them had painfully lively ideas of Sir John Franklin's expedition, and of the habitations of the Esquimaux. The cars are as uncomfortable as they well can be, and those doomed to ride in them during this weather are much to be pitied, and more to be frozen.

The North and East rivers are, up to this hour (8 P. M.), still full of floating ice. No sailing vessels have arrived either by way of Sandy Hook or the Sound this afternoon.

The packet ship Escort, lying off Bedloe's Island, was yesterday sunk by the mass of floating ice which came down the North river. The crew made their escape to the Island mentioned above.

In Brooklyn.

Several car drivers and others connected with public conveyances were frost bitten on Sunday night and yesterday, but no one was fatally affected, although it was reported that two drivers had been found dead. Two or three were compelled to abandon the cars, which were given in charge of other drivers, in consequence of the intense cold, but no one was frozen to death.

On Sunday night an intoxicated man, apparently a German, was found lying on the sidewalk in Jersey City, in an insensible condition from the effects of drink and the cold. He was conveyed to the station house, where he received every possible attention from Dr. Hadden and the police, but up to last night he had not returned to consciousness, although considerably improved, and it is thought will recover.

Mr. Wm. A. Whitehead, Executive Agent of the New Jersey Railroad Company, who has kept a record of the weather for many years, reports that Sunday night last was the coldest of any period since 1847. In Newark at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, the thermometer stood 12½° below zero. The only weather approaching this since 1847 was in January, 1857, when the thermometer stood at 12°, and in January, 1859, when the thermometer stood at 12½° below zero. Communipaw Cove, between Jersey City and the trestlework of the Northern Railroad of New Jersey, embracing several hundred acres, is frozen over with solid ice, and affords a fine opportunity to skaters who may desire plenty of sea room.

A number of the prisoners taken before the Police magistrates yesterday morning were badly frost-bitten. One man had both arms frozen, the fingers of another were in such a condition that amputation will be necessary, while others had their feet and fingers somewhat frost-bitten. The unfortunates in most cases were found by the police on the street in a state of intoxication, and had they not been taken into the respective station-houses, would probably have succumbed to the intense cold. Yesterday they were sent to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, by whom they were sent to Believue Hospital, where they will receive the necessary treatment.

An inquest was yesterday held by Coroner Collin, at No. 60 Baxter street, on the body of Ann Oakley, who was found dead yesterday morning. The evidence went to show that the deceased lived with, and took care of, an old lady named Margaret Geary, who is blind. On Sunday night they lay down together on a bed made upon the floor, the deceased having no covering over her. During the night the deceased got up and did not again return to bed. In the morning she was found lying upon the floor near the outer door quite dead and frozen stiff. The jury rendered a verdict of death by freezing. Deceased was a native of Ireland, aged 40 years.

Fires in New Haven.

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 8.—A fire in this city, early this morning, damaged a building occupied by Lensley & Co., boot and shoe dealers, and S. Cooper, clothier, to the extent of $3,000. The above-named parties lost most of their goods. Three families were also burned out, barely escaping in their night clothes. The cold was intense, and two steam fire engines were frozen up. During the progress of the fire another broke out, in a building opposite, by which a girl was terribly burned. She was rescued from the flames by a fireman named Lewis M. Barnes.

AN UNGOVERNABLE BOY.—The jury in the Brooklyn City Court has returned a verdict of $11,000 in favor of Edwin Whitney, proprietor of a boys' boarding school, in Connecticut. Some time since a lad of 9 years of age was sent to the school with a view to the improvement of his temper, which, it seems, was rather ungovernable. He wasn't long there before he set fire to the establishment, causing damage to the amount of $12,000. As the boy had $50,000 coming to him in his own right, when of age, Whitney sued the estate and got damages as above stated.

FENIANISM.

Sixth Day's Proceedings of the Convention---Committee Report on Mr. Roberts's Accounts---President O'Mahony Announces to the House the Commencement of Hostilities in Ireland, &c.

[From to-day's N. Y. Herald.]

The Fenian Congress resumed its deliberations at ten o'clock yesterday. Though six days have been spent in discussing and sifting the questions at issue between the contending factions, still nothing decisive has as yet been accomplished. The more thoroughly the House investigates books, documents and the general conduct of Col. O'Mahony, the more convinced are they of the purity of his actions, and of those acting with him.

An influential committee, consisting of one from each State and district, appointed to examine the financial condition of the Brotherhood, reported that after two days' deliberation, and the strictest and most rigid scrutiny of books and accounts, they had found the books admirably kept, the smallest sums entered and receipted. The financial report, as furnished by the committee and read to the House, was so correct, clear and able that general approbation was expressed. So many and grave are the specifications before the House, and of so much importance do they consider the final settlement of the difficulties that have latterly distracted the Brotherhood, that it is thought the debates will not come to a close for several days more. The Convention resumed business yesterday about ten o'clock. The minutes of the last two day's proceedings were read.

Several resolutions were put before the House; among others the one requesting that all books, papers, moneys and documents in the hands of both parties should be given up to a committee appointed by the House. This resolution was not supported, inasmuch as Col. O'Mahony had already placed, or was ready to place, all his accounts before the House, and Mr. Roberts and his officials not only refused to appear before the House, but also to give up any books or moneys in their charge. A resolution was also put by some gentlemen of the shake-hands party, that President O'Mahony and Senator Roberts be both called on to resign, and that a new Convention be convened to appoint a new head to the old body. As this gentleman evidently belonged to the spouter class, who asked no better fun than speech making and enjoyed the full dignity of figuring as a member of Congress, it is a pity he was not supported.

In compliance with the demand of a member, President O'Mahony gave in a full return of all hands employed at headquarters, as also the salaries paid to each. We might state that the sums paid to the different officials, instead of enabling them to figure in patent boots and kid gloves, were so moderate that we only wonder how they can make a decent appearance.

After recess the report of the committee of one from each State and district, ordered to examine the financial accounts of Secretary B. Doran Killian, reported. Their report was elaborate, going minutely into all the moneyed transactions of the Brotherhood since the time of his appointment up to the present date. So clear was the report, and so minutely was every dollar accounted for, that the committee, after concluding their report, stated that they had never seen books better kept, nor so much accuracy in the entries of even the most trifling sums. In reply to queries put to them, some members of the committee stated that they were practical accountants, thoroughly conversant with banking and mercantile accounts, and that they had never before seen any books so admirably kept.

A delegate inquired, "Had they got all Mr. Roberts' books?" A member of the committee stated that he thought not; nor did he see the necessity for thus hunting after them, for on comparing accounts with sums unaccounted for so far by Mr. Roberts it would leave him some fifteen thousand dollars in debt to the Brotherhood.

Another member stated that the accounts furnished by Mr. Roberts were unsatisfactory, and the only thing he could accurately glean from them was that President Roberts' receipts amounted to seven hundred and fifty dollars, while his expenses had been about eleven hundred and fifty.

This statement was received in rather an incredulous manner.

A member inquired if there was any entry or appropriations on the books for electioneering purposes. It was stated in reply that there was an entry of two hundred and fifty dollars.

A member stated that he had seen such an appropriation checked in the books.

On concluding the financial reports Mr. Killian was loudly cheered. His satisfactory financial reports dissipated the unfounded charges so lavishly heaped on his and President O'Mahony's head for some time. Secretary Killian thanked the House. He said he had long waited for this moment. Despite false statements, lying reports and the blackest calumnies, he bore up, because he knew the day of vindication would come, when his defamers dare not meet him openly as true and honest men. It has come that the House has justified his conduct. I assure you, though my heart has felt sore often-times of late, and the feuds and dissentions and newspaper squabbles I have seen Fenians verging into, as soon as I saw this large and intelligent congress of delegates assembled to sift Fenianism of all corruption, my heart became light again, for I knew that truth should prevail.

At this stage of the proceedings President O'Mahony came into the room and advanced to the platform. He looked rather troubled and anxious.

President O'Mahony said:—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, a report has appeared in the evening papers which, if true, should unite us all as one man and make throb our hearts and souls now with the cause of Ireland. That report is that our brothers in Ireland are fighting and have won their first battle.

The excitement in the House that followed has never perhaps been surpassed. All rose and cheered, some wildly flung their hats against the ceiling, others bent their heads and wept, while others, with blanched cheeks and compressed lips, looked defiantly, as if the foe were before them, and bitter curses were muttered against those who had sown disunion in the Brotherhood. It was an exciting scene, and so thrilling was the news that the House adjourned soon after.

General Sweeney.

General Sweeney the Fenian Secretary of War has been dismissed from the United States Army. Here is the order:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, Dec. 29, 1865.—*Special Orders, No. 659*—[Extract]—10. By direction of the President, Major Thomas W. Sweeney, Sixteenth U. S. Infantry, Brevet Colonel, U. S. A., is hereby dismissed the service of the United States, for absence without leave.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

This is Mr. Seward's reply to the interrogatories of Sir Frederick Bruce.

Two Texas Merchants Killed and Robbed.

MONROE, La., December 3d.—Messrs. Wolf Silbernagel and S. D. Levy, merchants, of Bastrop, left New Orleans about ten days ago for their home. They landed at Grand Lake and were proceeding home, when they were waylaid, killed, and robbed. The particulars, as near as I have been able to learn the same, are as follows:

The night from the 28th to the 29th inst., Messrs. Silbernagel and Levy, together with a gentleman named Simpson, stopped at the house of Mr. Sammern, on the road from Grand Lake to Bastrop, about 45 mile from the latter place. Simpson had also returned from New Orleans, and all three were known to have large sums of money with them. Later in the night two other men stopped at the same house, and Simpson expressed his fears to Silbernagel that they were either after himself or Silbernagel, and declared he would not leave without a guard. On the morning of the 29th, Simpson, with another man and a negro, all armed with shot guns, started off toward Poplar's Bluff, and were afterwards followed by Silbernagel and Levy in a buggy, who took the Bastrop road. Shortly after the latter had left three shots were heard, and on Mr. Sammern going out to see what was the matter, he found about a mile and a half from the house, signs of blood in the road. Following the tracks into the woods he found the horse tied to a tree, and Mr. Silbernagel dead in the buggy, with a shot through his head and one through his right arm, and Levy, with his money-belt around his neck, tied to the rear of his body. Levy had a shot in the top of his head, fracturing the skull, and had evidently been dragged behind the buggy from the road to the place where they were afterwards found.

Levy and Silbernagel were both robbed of their money, estimated at twenty thousand dollars. The presumption is that the two men who stopped with Silbernagel and Levy at the house of Mr. Sammern were the robbers, as they both left before either Mr. Simpson or Mr. Silbernagel started. They are supposed to have followed Mr. Simpson, after killing Mr. Silbernagel and Levy, but finding him prepared to give them a warm reception, they left.

Southern Assessors of Internal Revenue

The Secretary of the Treasury, yesterday, communicated the following statement of his Assessors of the Internal Revenue, showing the difficulty of finding officers who can take the test oath.

ASSESSORS' OFFICE INTERNAL REVENUE, THIRD DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, AUGUSTA, Dec. 20, 1865.—*Sir:* I am constrained to write you in relation to the repeal or modification of the test oath so far as it relates to the internal revenue officers, at least assistant assessors, in Southern States. I have labored assiduously to find competent men who could take the test oath for assessors, and have to report that I failed to find any such, except in a single instance, in my district, comprising twenty-three of the most populous counties in the State of Georgia.

I have organized my district by allowing my assistants to take the oath of office and allegiance and proceed to the discharge of their duties, trusting to Congress to provide for their payment, as directed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Many of these men are much reduced in circumstances by the war, and stand in imperative need of their pay in order to provide for their families. Indeed, some of them will be compelled soon to resign their places in order to engage in some business that will yield them ready money on which to live.

I am satisfied that unless something is done in this matter immediately I shall be unable to assess the tax in my district. If Congress would so modify the oath, as far as it relates to the officers of the Internal Revenue and Post Office departments down here, I am sure that it would be regarded everywhere, and prove to be a patriotic measure; one in which both North and South are equally interested. Unless something of the kind is done, I am at a loss to know what we are to do. Respectfully,

[Signed] J. BOWLES,
Assessor Third District of Georgia.

Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of Treasury.

OYSTERS.—The oyster trade at the present time is very extensive in Baltimore, notwithstanding the prices for these delicious shell fish are much higher than they have been for many years. All large exporting houses have a vast number of hands engaged, which, added to those employed in the work of shucking in the numerous hotels and restaurants of the city combine to form a very considerable element of population. But there is a general complaint on the part of purchasers in regard to the high rates which the oyster hucksters charge, when the supply, even of the best qualities, is still taken in abundance from the exhaustless beds of the Chesapeake and its numerous tributaries. Within the past two or three weeks the prices charged per bushel have ranged from one dollar and twenty-five cents to two dollars, the latter sum being paid for the best Cherrystones, which used to sell for from eighty cents to one dollar. It appears from the statements of the largest purchasers that a comparatively small number of persons almost entirely monopolize the trade, and thereby continue to inflate the scale of prices. The proprietors of the best restaurants charge two dollars per gallon for the best oysters, and their profits at that rate must be very light, when it is recollected that a bushel of prime oysters rarely produce a gallon when opened.

A LETTER from A. H. Stephens, dated at Crawfordsville, Ga., 25th ult., contains the following paragraph:

"As to how I am doing, I can only say that, in the matter of health, I have improved greatly since my return home; but the country I find in a worse condition—physically, morally, and politically—than I expected. The general desire of the people is for a speedy restoration of civil law and harmony, and I am engaged in doing all I can to effect that result. I do trust that wisdom, moderation and true patriotism will rule the councils at Washington. * * Meanwhile, it is the duty of every one to do the best he can; the wise and the good will always take things as they find them, and do the best they can with them as they present themselves."

Facts and Fancies.

The new fifty cent notes are to have a portrait of General Spinner. It is thought it will make them go round faster.

The committee appointed by the directors of the Chicago Board of Trade to investigate Mr. H. H. Day's plan for the passage of Niagara Falls by a canal and inclined plane, have reported that it is entirely feasible. Their report was indorsed by the city engineers, and unanimously approveed by the Board of Trade. What wise acres some people are! As if there had ever been any difficulty in going over Niagara Falls on an inclined plane.

The new novel, "Inside," is said to derive some of its interest from the fact that the author was obliged to bury his manuscript in the earth to conceal it from unfriendly eyes. We wish more authors would do the same thing and then forget the place of interment.

A half brother of Gen. Forrest has been sentenced to be hung in Alabama. We believe the other half has been pardoned.

The restrictions upon the Episcopalian clergymen of Alabama have been removed. Clergymen everywhere in this country appear to be without restriction. Which suggest the question: Why are Episcopalian clergymen gregarious? Because they go about in bands.

Nineteen little boys, skating on the St. Lawrence, were carried away on a cake of ice and with difficulty rescued from drowning. We heard of twenty little boys, at Christmas, who were so carried away with the ice on a cake that they were with difficulty rescued from suffocation.

COURTS.

OYER AND TERMINER—Judges Allison and Ludlow.—The case of John Conner, charged with the murder of Michael Fitzgerald, was concluded last evening at 8 o'clock, when the jury rendered a verdict of guilty of manslaughter.

This morning the case of Mary Ridey, charged with the murder of Isaac Sides, was called for trial. After considerable discussion among the counsel for the prisoner it was agreed that she should withdraw her plea of "not guilty" and enter a plea of guilty. This plea was taken, and it was then agreed that instead of examining witnesses the Court should take the notes of the former trial and fix the grade of offence after reading the evidence. The jurors were discharged until Thursday.

Personal.

Alexander Dudley was re-elected president of the Richmond and York River railroad, on Tuesday.

A young man named Charles Wendreck, fell dead in a ball room in Detroit, while on the floor, dancing a polka.

Captain Robt. P. Pegram has been elected superintendent of the Petersburg (Va.) Railroad.

Dr. J. J. Simpkins, formerly collector of the port of Norfolk, Virginia, died last week.

JOSH BILLINGS ON LAUGHTER.—It never has been proved that any of the animal creation have attempted to laugh, (we are quite certain that none have succeeded), thus this delightful episode and pleasant power appears to be entirely within the province of humans. It is the language of infancy—the eloquence of childhood—and the power to laugh is the power to be happy. It is becoming to all ages and conditions; and (with the very few exceptions, sacred to sorrow), an honest, hearty laugh is always agreeable and in order. It is an index of character and betrays sooner than words. Laughing keeps off sickness, and has conquered as many diseases as ever pills have, and at much less expense. It makes flesh, and keeps it in its place. It drives away weariness and brings a dream of sweetness to the sleeper. It never is covetous. It accompanies charity and is the handmaid of honesty. It disarms revenge, humbles pride, and is the talisman of contentment. Some have called it a weakness—a substitute for thought, but really, it strengthens wit and adorns wisdom, invigorates the mind, gives language ease, and expression elegance. It holds the mirror up to beauty; it strengthens modesty, and makes virtue heavenly. It is the light of life; without it we should be but animated ghosts. It challenges fear, hides sorrow, weakens despair, and carries half of poverty's bundles. It costs nothing, comes at the call, and leaves a bright spot behind. It is the only index of gladness, and the only beauty that time cannot efface. It never grows old; it reaches from the cradle clear to the grave. Without it love would be no passion, and fruition would show no joy. It is the first and last sunshine that visits the heart; it was the warm welcome of Eden's lovers.—*Troy News.*

INGENIOUS ROGUERY.—The New York *Evening Post* says: The young vagabonds who infest this city, and particularly the docks, and who live mainly by stealing, have found a new field for their operations. They go about the streets in parties with little canvass bags, and steal cotton in small quantities from bales or other packages in which it is confined, or from the heaps of cotton which are to be assorted and rebaled. The gangs are organized and are divided into stealers and carriers, and they work according to a system which they have pevised. The stealers are usually the shrewdest and most venturesome of the boys; the others carry the bags into which the cotton is put; though when the parties set out on their thieving excursions they all steal. When the amount of the cotton secured becomes so considerable as to attract attention the boys separate; and after the stealers have their hand and their pockets full of the cotton, they retire and empty it into bags. It is said the boys sell the cotton for twenty-five cents a pound.

DEATH UNDER DISTRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES.—Miss Susan Rose, of Victoria, Texas, who was engaged to meet her affianced, to be married, was run over by a wagon in Louisville, Ky., on Wednesday, and died, from injuries received, a few hours afterwards. Miss Denman, of Port Gibson, Miss., who visited Memphis, Tenn., to provide her bridal outfit, also met her death. Approaching too near the machinery of a mill, which she and other ladies were inspecting, Miss Denman's dress was caught, and she was drawn between two wheels, and mangled in a horrid manner. She survived but a few minutes. Miss Denman was accomplished and esteemed, and her sudden and awful death will be deeply deplored by a large circle of relatives and friends. She was, previous to the war, in affluent circumstances, but of late was obliged to maintain herself by teaching school at West Point, Miss.

CONFISCATION OF THE PROPERTY OF STONEWALL JACKSON'S WIDOW.—Information has been received of the confiscation, by the Provost Marshal at Lexington, Va., of a considerable quantity of valuable hides belonging to the tannery of that place, and in part the property of the widow of Stonewall Jackson.