THE TRIAL OF JEFFERSON DAVIS. Letter of the President to the Attorney General, and the Reply.

The President has addressed the following letter to the Attorney-General in regard to the trial of Jefferson Davis:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, D.
C., Oct. 6, 1866.—Siv. A special term of the Circuit Court of the United States was ap-

pointed for the first Tuesday of October, 1866, at Richmond, Va., for the trial of Jefferson Davis on the charge of treason. It now appears that there will be no session of that court at Richmond during the present month, and doubts are expressed whether the regular term (which, by law, should sommence on the fourth Monday of Novem-

ker next) will be held. In view of this obstruction, and the conin view of this obstruction, and the consequent delay in proceeding with the trial of Jefferson Davis under the prosecution for treason, now pending in that court, and there being, so far as the President is informed, no good reason why the civil courts of the United States are not competent to exercise adequate jurisdiction within the district or circuit in which the State of Virginia is included, I deem it proper to request your opinion as to what further steps, if any, should be taken by the Executive with a view to a speedy, public and impartial trial of the accused, according to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

I am, sir, very respectfully yours,

To the Hon. Henry Stanberry, Attorney-

General. The Attorney-General replies as follows:
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, October
2, 1866.—The President: SIR: I have the honor to state my opinion upon the question propounded in your letter of the 6th, as to what further may be proper or expedient to be done by the Executive in reference to the custody of Mr. Davis, and the prosecution for treason now pending against him in the Circuit Court of the United States for Vir-

I am clearly of the opinion that there is nothing in the present condition of Virginia to prevent the full exercise of the jurisdicon of the civil courts. The actual state of things, and your several proclamations of peace and of the restoration of civil order, guarantee to the civil authorities. Federal and State, immunity against military control or interference. It seems to me that in this particular there is no necessity for fur-ther action on the part of the Executive in the way of proclamation, especially as Congress, at the late session, required the Circuit Court of the United States to be held at Richmond, on the first Monday of May and the fourth Monday of November in each year, and authorized special or adjourned terms of that Court to be ordered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at such time and on such notice as he might prescribe, with the same power and juris-

diction as at regular terms.

This is an explicit recognition by Congress that the state of things in Virginia admits the holding of the United States Courts in that State,
The obstruction you refer to, it seems to

me, cannot be removed by any Executive order; so far as I am advised, it arises as

Congress, on the 22d of May, 1866, passed an act providing that the Circuit Court of the United States for Virginia should be held at Richmond, on the first Monday of May and on the fourth Monday of November in each year, and further, providing that all suits and other proceedings, which stand continued to any other time and place, should be deemed continued to the place, and time prescribed by the act. The special or adjourned session, which was ordered by the Court to be holden at Richmond in present month of October, was considered as abrogated by force of this act.

This left the regular term to be holden on there had been no further legislation by Congress, no doubt could exist as to the competency of the Chief Trestee and if Congress, no doubt could exist as to the competency of the Chief Justice and the Characteristic of the Public Ledger. Davis. But on the 23d of July, 1866, Congress passed an act to fix the number of Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, and to change certain judicial circuits. Among other changes in the circuits made by this act is a change of the fourth circuit, to which the Chief Justice has been allotted. As this circuit stood prior to this act, when allotted to the Chief Justice, it embraced Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia. It was changed by this act by excluding Delaware and adding South Carolina.

It is understood that doubts exist whether this change in the States composing the circuit will not require a new allotment. Whether this doubt is well founded or not it is certain that the Executive cannot inter-fere; for although under peculiar circumstances, the Executive has power to make an allottment of the judges of the Supreme Court, yet these circumstances do not exist in this case. A new allotment, if necessary, can only be made by the judges of the Supreme Court, or by Congress—perhaps only

Mr. Davis remains in custody at Fortress Monroe precisely as he washeld in January last, when, in answer to a resolution of Congress, you reported communications from the Secretary of War and the Attorney General, showing that he was held to await trial in the civil courts. No action was then taken by Congress in reference to the place. taken by Congress in reference to the place of custody. No demand has since been made for his transfer into civil custody. The District Attorney of the United States for the District of Vivilian. for the District of Virginia, where Mr. Davis stands indicted for treason, has been notified that the prisoner would be surrendered to the United States Marshal upon a capias under the indictment, but the District At-torney declines to have the capias issued because there is no other place within the district where the prisoner could be kept, or where his personal comfortand health could

where his personal comfortant health could be so well provided for.

No application has been made within my knowledge by the counsel for Mr. Davis for a transfer of the prisoner to civil custody. Recently an application was made by his counsel for his transfer from Fortress Monros to Fort Lafayette, on the ground chiefly of sanitary consideration. A reference was promptly make to a board of surgeons, whose report was decidedly, adverse to change, on the score of health and personal comfort.

I am unable to see what further action can he taken on the part of the Executive to bring the prisoner to trial. Mr. Davis must for the present remain where he is, until the court which has jurisdiction to try him shall be ready to act, or until his custody is demanded under lawful process of the Fedral Courts.

eral courts.
I would suggest that, to avoid any misunderstanding on the subject, an order issue to the commandant of Fortress Monroe to surrender the prisoner to civil custody, whenever demanded by the United States Marshal, upon process from the Federal Courts.

I send herewith a copy of a letter from the United States District Attorney for Virginia, to which I beg to call your attention.
I have the honor to be, &c.,
HENRY STANSERRY,

Attorney General.

Office of U. S. District Attorney For Virginia, Norfolk, Oct. 8, 1866.—Hon Henry Stanberry, Attorney General of the United States—Sir: In compliance with stance of the verbal statement I made you a few days since, in answer to your question "Why no demand had been made upon the military authorities for the surrender of thus far concealed. In finally disposing of the growth his depont he indictment found against him in the United States Circuit. Court, at the ferm held at Norfolk in May last?"

Two reasons have influenced me in not taking any steps for removing him from

their custody. The one relates to the safe-keeping, the other to his own personal com-fort and health. I have never had any doubt but that he would be delivered to the United States Marshal of the district whenever he should have demanded him on a "capias" or any other civil process.

But you can readily understand that so soon as he goes into the hands of that officer, upon any action had by me, his place of confinement would be one of the State jails of Virginia.

At Fortress Monroe all necessary precautions can be and are taken to prevent his escape. Over the internal police of a State escape. Over the internal police of a State jail the Marshal has no authority, and the safe custody of the prisoner could not be sale custody of the prisoner count not be secured save at a very great expense.

Mr. Davis is now in as comfortable quarters as the most of those occupied by the army officers at the Fort. The location is a healthy one. His family have free access to him. He has full opportunity for exercise in the open air.

ise in the open air. If his health be feeble, remove him to one of the State jails, and his condition, instead of being bettered, would, in all these respects, be much for the worse.

His counsel probably understood all this, and I think will not be likely to take any steps which would decrease the personal comforts or endanger the life of their client. I have the honor to be, most respectfully,

your obedient servant, L. H. CHANDLER, U. S. District Attorney for Virginia. THE PRESIDENT'S MOVEMENT'S AGAINST CONGRESS. History of the Ledger Despatch.

[From the Philada, Ledger, Oct. 15.] We are now enabled to give the history of the despatch containing the series of questhe despatch containing the series of questions alleged to have been submitted to the Attorney General by the President on the legality of the existing Congress, as published in the *Ledger* on Thursday last. When the authenticity of that despatch was denied by the Attorney General and the President, it became necessary to make a thorough investigation of the origin of the statement in order to vindicate the chargeter. thorough investigation of the origin of the statement, in order to vindicate the character of this paper for fairdealing with the public, and it was due to the President, as well as ourselves, if the story was false, that its author should be ferreted out and exposed. To effect these ends, we spent Thursday, Friday and most of Saturday last in collecting proofs that demonstrate that the despatch came to us in the reculser course of brains. came to us in the regular course of business from an old and heretofore approved correspondent, and in tracing the "questions" to their origin. On Saturday, having com-pleted everything it was in our power to do, we placed in the hands of the President a package containing files of papers bearing on the foregoing points. Of these, one was the original manuscript given to our corres pondent by one of his Washington agents; the second was the original manuscript, as sent by our correspondent and as it passed through our printing office; the third was the statement of our correspondent, showing that it was sent by him in good faith; as he sends all his news, and that no person, directly or indirectly connected with the Ledger, had any knowledge of its origin, except his Washington agent, who gave him the original statement; also giving the name of that agent. The fourth was the statement of the agent himself, purporting to give the sources of himself, purporting to give the sources of his information, but declining to give up names. The fifth contained telegrams from our correspondent and his agent in answer to inquiries, and reiterating their belief in the truth of the despatch. Such is the nature of the evidence laid before the President, and it proved to him, as it will to all the world, that the despatch came to us through the regular channel from an old correspondent, without any previous knowledge of the proprietor or editors, or any one directly or indirectly connected with the

We now come to the origin of the "questions." Our correspondent says that the original manuscript was given to him by a Mr. H. M. Flint, of Washington, who is one of three or four persons who aid him in procuring Washington news. Mr. Flint confirms this, and the substance of his statement is on follows: He says that a through We now come to the origin of the "ques firms this, and the substance of his statement is as follows: He says that a "person in office" told him that a paper, dated at the Executive Mansion, was seen on the table of the Attorney General, containing inquiries on the subject of the powers and duties of the President in his relations to the present Congress, and relating to its legality when so many States are excluded from representation, and requesting the Attorney. when so many States are excluded from representation, and requesting the Attorney-General's answer in writing; and that the "questions" sent to the Ledger are the same in substance as those seen on the Attorney General's table. He further says that another "person in office" told him that the President had been conversing with an intimate friend in the Executive Mansion at the same time, on the same questions on the intimate friend in the Executive Mansion at the same time, on the same questions on the same subject. This statement of Mr. Flint was subjected to a long and searching examination yesterday, in Washington, by a person authorized to speak for this paper, and the interview resulted in several material modifications of his original statement. Mr. Flint now says that "the person in of fice" told him that another person had told the "person in office" that he (the other person) said he had seen the paper, and that his informant about the alleged conversation in the White House between the President and an "intimate friend," said that the "intimate friend," had told another friend who had told still another person, and that this fourth person another person, and that this fourth person had related the conversation to him (Mr. Flint.) It will thus be seen that the "official" character of these informants of Mr. cial" character of these informants of Mr. Flint is of but little consequence, as they were not narrating what came under their "official" notice, but merely what they had heard other people say. It is but fair to Mr. Flint to say that he claims to have had a firm conviction of the truthfulness, accuracy and good faith of his informants, and that he still claims to hold the same conviction. Thus far we have spoken of these alleged informants "in office" as though they had real existence, and as if Mr. Flint had acted in good faith; but we now come to a acted in good faith; but we now come to a feature of the transaction that shakes that feature of the transaction that shakes that theory to the foundation. Mr. Flint now admits that, having no more precise information than the foregoing general and roundabout reports, and that, not having a single note of the alleged "questions" in writing, he deliberately sat down at his table and framed, in his own words, what he writing, he deliberately sat down at his ta-ble and framed, in his own words, what he supposed to be the "questions," professing to give the text literally, with accompanying references to articles and sections of the Constitution, and sent this off for publication, as the specific language of inquiries submitted to the Attorney General by the President on one of the most serious topics that it is possible just now to raise. This is his own admission. It is difficult to find proper terms by which to characterize and condemn so unscrupulous a transaction, condemn so unscrapulous a transaction, and we leave it to our readers to apply such as they deem most fitting to such a subject, In view of these-admissions by the man to whom the story of the "questions" is thus ultimately traced, we confess to having serious doubts as to how far his statement about having any informants at all can be trusted, and as to whether he must not be considered as having manufactured the whole story from beginning to

years, we gave it that credit, we thought it entitled to from his general accuracy.

We have now given a full, clear and unreserved account of a very unpleasant and very unusual business for the *Ledger*. It has cost us much labor and anxiety, and no small amount of expense; but if it had required a hundred times the effort, and every dollar the establishment can consider. every dollar the establishment can com-mand, it should have been expended in vindicating the Ledger's well earned name for fair, upright and honest dealing with the public.

QUICK WORK.—A correspondent of the London Herald gives this account of a literary feat: "Lady Audley's Secret' was originally announced for publication in three volumes. The manuscript was punctually sent to the publishers, but when the was printed it contained only two volumes and ten pages. It had been an-nounced that the book was to appear at a certain day, and when the blunder was discovered that day was almost at hand. What was to be done? The precincts of Saint Bride were plunged into consternation. However, not an hour was to be lost, and the awful tidings were broken to Miss Braddon. She paused a little, and then asked, 'How long can you give me to fill up the 360 blank pages?' 'Eight days at the utmost.' You shall have the copy in good time,' and the whole copy was in the ands of the publishers four days afterward. hands of the publishers four days afterward!
And mark it, Miss Braddon did not interpolate a single word to the two volumes already printed, although the novel was complete in itself; she started from the last

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.—Brevet Major General J. H. Simpson, United States Army, President of the Board of Commissioners appointed to examine and report upon the Union Pacific Railroad, has sub-mitted to the Secretary of the Interior the report of the Commissioners on the seventh section of thirty-five miles of the road. The Commissioners represent the section ready for present service and supplied with all ne-cessary drains, culverts, viaducts, crossings, sidings, bridges, turnouts, depots, equip-ments and other appurtenances of a firstclass road, and recommend the acceptance of the same. The report was submitted on Friday to the President by Secretary Browning with the recommendation that the section be accepted and that the bonds and patents for land be issued to the company on account of the same, which was approved by the

INDEMNITY FROM ENGLAND URGED. number of gentlemen representing claimants for indemnity from England waited upon the President and urged upon him the necessity of taking immediate action. The delay of the British Government in responding to the just demands of our government was freely commented upon, and it is reported that the President expressed himself favorably inclined to their views. It was suggested that a demand should be imme-diately made for indemnity within thirty days, with a threat that in case it was not complied with Canada should be seized and held as security for the payment of the

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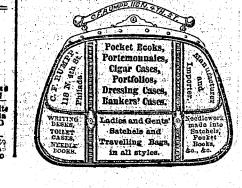
TWO MILLIONS of the Bricks of the Company have already been sold in Philadelphia, since July lat, and are to be seen in various buildings in different parts of the city.

The coming year the Company expect to manufacture the Hundred Thousand Bricks daily, and are now ready to make contracts for large or small quantities. The Bricks of this manufacture are the heavies

They absorb the least water.
They are the most durable of any.
They are as handsome as any The public are invited to visit the Works, on the New Germantown Pike, half a mile beyond the old Lamb Tavern. L. MONTGOMERY BOND, President. GFORGE D. McILVAINE, sel9 w fr m 13th Secretary and Treasurer. se19 w fr m 13t3

NEW BUCKWHEAT FLOUR FIRST OF THE SEASON.

Albert C. Roberts. Dealer in Fine Groceries, FLEVENTH and VINE STREETS



RETAIL DRY GOOD.

1024 OHESTNUTSTREET.

E. M. NEEDLES.

Strangers and others will find at 1024CHEST.

NUT Street, a large and complete
assortment of LACES AND LACE GOODS, EMBROIDERIES, EMBRUIDERIES,
WHITE GOODS,
HANDRERCHIEFS, VEILS,
LINEN COLLARS and OUFFS,
SLEEVES, &c., &c., &c.,
in great variety and at LOW PRICES.

E. M. NEEDLES. 1024 OHESTAUT STREET.

CLOTHS, CASSIMERES AND VESTINGS.

JAMES & LEE invite the attention of their friends
and others to their large and well assorted stock of
Goods, adapted to men's and boys wear, comprising. in part
Black French Cloths,
Blue French Cloths,
Colored French Cloths.

OVERCOAT CLOTHS,

OVERCOAT CLOTHS,
Black French Beavers,
Colored French Beavers,
Colored French Beavers,
Black Esquim sux Beavers,
Colored Esquim sux Beavers,
Blue and Black Pilota,
Black French Cassimeres,
Black French Doeskins,
Fancy Cassimeres,
Mixed and Silk Mixed Cassimeres,
Plaid and Silk Mixed Cassimeres,
Satinets, all qualities,
Cords, Beaverteens, &c.,
Vestings, all grades,
At wholesale and retail, by
JAMES & LEE,
No. 11 North Second st. Sign of the Golden Lamb,
DLANKETS, BLANKETS BLANKETS BLANKETS—Bing.

BLANKETS, BLANKETS BLANKETS, Fine and heavy 10-4 Blankets for \$6.50.
Good heavy 11-4 Blankets for \$6.50.
Good heavy 11-4 Blankets for \$6.50.
All grades of Blankets, up to \$20.
Full assortment of Clotha, for Ladies' Saques,
Frosted Beavers, for Cloaks and Overcoals.
Full line of Cloths and Cassimeres, for men and boys.
Bailardvale and Domet Flannels, for ladies and? And a large stock of Fall and Winter Dress Goods at STOKES & WOOD'S, 702 Arch street.

STOKES & WOOD'S, 702 Arch street.

DOWIN HALL & CO., 22 SOUTH SECOND Street,
are now opening their Fall and Winter Importations of Silks, DRPSS GOODS, CLOTHS, &c.
Heavy Black Silks.
Heavy Colored Silks.

"Fim's' Real Irish Poplins.
French and German Poplins.
French and German Poplins.
Black Goods in great variety.
Breche Long and Square Eliswis.

Quarterly Report OF THE NATIONAL BANK

BANK STATEMENTS.

OF THE REPUBLIC.

809 and 811 Chestnut Street. PHILADELPHIA, October 1, 1865 Notes and bills discounted. \$2.42 \$2 United States bonds deposited with the Treasurer of the United States \_\_\_\_\_\_ 67.000 00 United Etates bonds on hand........ 83,000 00 \$152,432 82 109,154 32 Banking House...... Furniture and fixtures..... Expenses and Taxes...... 64.562 87 FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING \$326,150 02 

Profit and Loss... Total.... \$326 150 02 I, JOSEPH P. MUMFORD, Cathler of the NA-TIONAL DAMAS Swearthat the shove statement is true, which my knowledge and belief.

JOSEPH P. MUMFORD,
Cashler.

EIRRORS AND FRAMES. A. S. ROBINSON

910 CRESINUT STREET LOOKING GLASSIS

**PAINTINGS** Engravings and Photographs.

Fish and Ornamental Gilt Frames. Carved Walnut and Ebony Frames, ON HANDOR MADE TO ORDER.

GEORGE C. I. EUKAUFF,

Manufacturer of
LOOKING-GLASSES. FORTRAIT, PHOTOGRAPH, PICTURE FRAMES, GILT
MOULDINGS and ORNICES,
No. 229 ARCH Street, Philadelphia,
Chromo-Lihographs, Paintings, and a great yariety of Engravings on band.
Frame-makers supplied
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
Sect.6m\* GEORGE C. LEUKAUFF,

LOCKING GLASSES. A large assortment in Ornamented GILT and WAL-NUT FRAMES. For sale by J. COWPLAND: 53 South Fourth Street, near Chestnut.

Genys' Furni aming Goods PATENT SHOULDER SKAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY.

Orders for these celebrated Shirts supplied promps GENTLEMEN'S Furnishing Goods. Of late styles in full variety. WINCHESTER & CO.

J. W. SCOTT & CO. SHIRT MANUFACTURERS,

AND DEALERS IN Men's Furnishing Goods. No. 814 Chestnut Street! Four doors below the "Continental," PHILADELPHIA: A SELECTION

HOTELS. EDWARD DUFFY, For many years the well-known chief manager at "Guy's," in Seventh street, near Chestnut, Has Opened the Tontine.

(One door above Gny's")) on his own account, in connection with WM. DUFFY, late of the St. Lawrence Hotel. Their success is great, and deservedly so occ-im A TMORE'S. MINCED MEAT.—The undersigned are now receiving into store, the above celebrated Minced Meat, put up in Firkins of 3s and 6s its., also in Barrels and Glass Jars, and her prepared to furnish it to the trade at the lowest manufacturer's prices 109. B. BUSSIER & CO., 10s South Delaware Avenue.

Twenty-Five Barrels Prime Crauberries landing and for sale by J. B. BUSSIER & CO., 10s South Delaware Avenue.