LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 1868.—Never in the history of New York city have the mercantile palaces of Broadway been more superbly and profusely stocked than at the present time. Human ingenuity has been completely exhausted, and no part of the habitable globe left unrifled in order to secure products of nature, art, and industry for Christmas gifts, for use, amusement, comfort and luxury. Store windows are gorgeously decorated and passers-by are entertained with novel and interesting sights in greater profusion than ever before. For many years back the observance of Christmas in New York city has been somewhat neglected, and I verily believe that, but for the war of the Rebellion, which seems to have spread the hearts of the people to a proper appreciation of all that is good and true and happy and cheerful, in a very few years the day would be entirely forgotten as a home festival and celebrated only in the churches.

The papers to be published on Christmas-day will all contain brilliant articles on the time-honored customs of Christmas in all the civilized countries of the Globe; some of the best writers in the country having been employed to prepare them. Among the best I may mention Charles Dawson Shanly, Clarence Cook, John P. J. Hassard, and a Mr. Fontaine, a young Brazilian, a recent importation from the Old Country, who has, I may say, but a few weeks, making studies of New York society, and writing sketches thereof for the *Tribune*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and one or two English periodicals. The *Tribune* Christmas article will be nominally long and unusually interesting. It will comprise a chapter on Christmas in New York, by Hassard, Christmas in Brooklyn, by Fontaine, Christmas in England, by Pember, with the German Christmas, the French Christmas, the Holland Christmas, and a short sketch of all the historical Christmas, by the Russian Consequent, by McAlpine.

The *Times*, *Herald*, *World* and *Sun* will each have an exhaustive article on the same general subject, the whole filling nearly all the Christmas literature exciting in extent and quality of material anything ever before published.

Throughout the Metropolitan Church, every church being used by the charitable to secure for the poor a few of the comforts which make Christmas a happy day for them. It is unnecessary for me to say that if the labor of hundreds of millions in the lands of the Vanderbilts, the Drexes, the Astors, the Stewarts, the Lenoxes and a score of other residents who rival in wealth old Indian or Chinese nobles, has been prostituted for the purchase of a dinner for the poor, not even half a million has been spent, and to be brief, I may offer it as my honest opinion that $500 will more than cover the cost of all the gifts contributed by these favorites of fortune for the alleviation of the sufferings of the sick and destitute on the coming Christmas day.

Mr. Motley's contribution to Historical Society is a few evenings ago, has been the subject of many criticisms in the newspapers. This is owing to the fact, perhaps, that the discussions in the press were incomplete, and do not do justice to the author. The criticisms made on his work are numerous and important. Mr. Motley is well known, at home and abroad, as a friend of republican government, a friend of liberty; and I am assured that when the entire address is published by the society before whom it was delivered, it will be plainly shown that his author is a friend of the Hungarians, whose affairs he has carefully studied, and that he has done them ample justice. Some of the reports make it appear that Mr. Motley's address was a bitter philippic in vogue at European courts; but as a historian, he is too well aware of the importance of strict impartiality in historical research to allow his feelings to bias him.

Mr. Colfax, the Vice President elect, was in the city last night, and was called upon by a large number of prominent citizens. At a late supper which the Philadelphia Union League gave him on Saturday night, he was most enthusiastically recognized the national demand upon the incoming Administration. He said he had been searching reincrement, honesty, efficiency and higher character in all connected with the public service; rigid guardianship of the treasury against swelling and extravagant expenditures; a strong policy, which shall maintain our credit undiminished, strengthen our credit abroad, place us on the firm rock of specie payments—these are objects which the new administration shall labor to secure." These are golden words, and if one of the high officials who utters them, and of the administration whose motto they represent, be adopted by the great party which places it in power.

Horace Greeley prints in yesterday's *Tribune* a three-column article in reply to a letter from Senator Morton, of Indiana, on the currency question. The Senator asks Mr. Greeley how the late election returns and national debt figures with the expenses of one who, unlike Alexander Hamilton, hath specification in his eye, appreciates in the main the wisdom of the Indiana Senator in his great speech, but takes strong ground against him on the subject of prompt resumption; holding as he always has held since the rebellion began that grow so alarmingly, that the Government must be compelled to resume specie payment in the seventy millions of coin, and to provide further means of maintaining specie payments. His argument is very plain and simple and straightforward, as all that Horace Greeley writes or says must be, and will undoubtedly be to the effect upon the Congress of the United States during the present session. Whatever may be said of the old man's vagaries, it must always be admitted by thinking men that his views on public questions are honest, and that whatever he says or wishes on these questions is prompted by an earnest desire to promote and maintain the national welfare.

For some weeks past Henry Ward Beecher has been delivering, from the Plymouth pulpit, the most scathing denunciations of our corrupt judiciary. In one of his recent sermons he said: "Never in my life an exception was taken by a judge, or a lawyer to Judge Peckham, a son of Rufus Peckham, of Albany. This young limb of the law tested his sharpness and his skill in a very short letter to Mr. Beecher, whereupon the distinguished pulpit-orator replied in a caustic epistle, a copy of which I have just had the pleasure of reading. It is a valuable document, whether viewed from a literary standpoint or considered in connection with the stirring upon public morals. You may judge of the general tenor of the letter by the few sharp pungent sentences which I subjoin: "The corruption which begins in New York cannot be kept there. The poison once introduced will circulate through the whole system. The lawyer who should find cities will soon show signs of deterioration and the moral energy of society will gradually become infected. The tone of judicial honor will steadily decline. There will cease to have a high standard of duty; as their conscience loses delicacy they will perform, without compunction, acts which would have made the libertines shudder, and all sense of right and wrong will have sunk so low that when notorious corruption is apprehended, civilians will be found like yourself, who, in the current of innocent unconsciousness, cannot dream what mean mean by thinking those judges to be corrupt who only use their courts as instruments of pleasing their friends, as partisan political engines, as means of enriching their latent partners, and of swelling the fortunes of sons and son-in-law, and who bring the practice of the law to such a condition that young men of high and sensitive honor are at their wits' end to know how to pursue their vocation and yet maintain their manhood unashamed."

Guiteman & Bros., silk merchants of Leonard street, were arrested on the 18th instant by Marshal Murray, charged with smuggling silks to the value of $525,000 in boxes purporting to contain clocks. They gave bail in the sum of $50,000 to answer examination at a future time—in default of which, of course—and will never be called to answer the charge. Customs Collector Sones effects a much richer a month hence than they were the day the "smuggling was detected—and that tells the whole story.

To make our record of current events complete, we must not omit to mention the musical entertainments of this city, especially which the concerts of the Philharmonic Society rank foremost. The society is well-known, and its reputation know how to keep up the enviable reputation which it has enjoyed for years, and I may be safely said, that there is no orchestra in America and but few on the European continent which compare favorably with the Philharmonic Society. The public rehearsals, which generally take place at the Academy of Music on Friday afternoon, are quite the equal of a concert, and the evening performance is invariably completed by the same performances are most eminent vocal or instrumental artists without regard to expense on the part of the Society.

—A gentleman in Harrisburg recently purchased what he supposed—to be a roll of butter—On slicing it he found it was a roll of smashed pumpkin with a covering of butter. Surely the world is progressing.

TROUBLE IN CHICAGO.

Reported Great Frauds on the City—Two Millions Worth of Property Seized.

(From the Chicago Post of Dec. 18th.)

We understand that the property authorities of the city are engaged in examining into certain fraudulent transactions connected with the real estate of Chicago; and that progress enough has been made in the inquiry to justify the belief that property to the amount of fully two millions of dollars has been stolen, or otherwise taken by means of fraudulent tax titles and forged deeds, for the benefit of whosoever may have been concerned. We are not yet in possession of all the facts, but it appears from what we have learned, that many cases of robbery involving large lands of property inside the city limits have been suspected, and that among these are the following as samples of more:

Early 20 years of land, the property of the city near Brighton. This is covered by a forged or fraudulent deed to one David Stark, who is believed to be a myth. We are without details of the alleged transfer, but the transaction is a recent one. David Stark appears to be a careless owner. Once in possession of his property he neglected to pay taxes. As a consequence the land has been sold again and again for taxes due, and is now covered by tax titles, the worth of which, though they stand in various names, somebody doubtless knows. The last transfer appears to be by one Walter S. Frazier, once in the employment of the city, or the Board of Education, as appraiser at the department. Frazier conveyed the property for $1. How Mr. Frazier came by the right to make a deed will be a proper subject for inquiry. In relation to this tract, the object of the conspirators seems to have been plain, viz., to get the property by means of a forged deed from the city out of the city's possession, and then to allow title to be forfeited by frequent tax sales and by long continued possession. Some all these will be vitiated by the primary fraud. But somebody has been, or somebody might be victimized nevertheless.

In the North Division, between Clark and La Salle streets, is a large tract of city property, now yielding an income in thirty-eight houses, which also appears to have been stolen by means of a forged deed from the city to one Jo Judd, who is like Daniel Stark unknown and unheard of. In consideration in this case was also $1; and the model deed, in form, is, or was, a transcript from a deed of title seem to have been akin to, if not identical with, that adopted by those who manipulated the tract at Brighton. We are sorry to know that several estimable citizens, some of whom are Mr. Loring, the architect, and Robert Lincoln, have, in the innocence of their hearts, be enticed by the fraud, they having in good faith purchased the land, and paid taxes on the value of the property to very great.

A large portion of the land, in the adjoining town of Palos, has also been run away with. A deed of this was made to Pliny Fisk, who is undoubtedly dead, now dead—W. H. Brown, Esq. But this deed, though deposited in the archives by Mr. Brown, never was recorded. It was made, however, by some one having access to the city papers, and was executed in such a way as to enable it to work to get a quit claim from the owner who died in the year 1857, and after his death was published, the machinery of tax sales and tax bills was worked up, and title thus secured.

There are specimen bricks; but how many more there may be in the pile we have not learned. It is evident on the face of these transactions that some persons who are engaged in the city business, who had an intimate knowledge of its real property, and who had ways to use papers, has had a share, if not the sole agency, in these frauds. At the time they were committed, the value of the lots and land stolen was not large; but the advance of property in the last few years has been so great, that the aggregate present worth of the ground in dispute cannot be less than $2,000,000.

[Translated for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.]

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES.

BY BARON BRISSI.

[The name of Baron Brisse is known wherever the word *gourmet* is understood. Having spent a great part of his life at the dinner-table of the rich, he gave Burton, since his retirement from the staff of the *Liberte*, has turned his attention to the kitchen of the middle class. His daily menu published in Jules Timmy's penny paper, the *Petit Journal*, have a tremendous popularity. The recipes which follow will not be without interest in this country, notwithstanding the slight difference in our modes of living &c.]

Cutlets-ribs of Beef with Vegetables.—There is hardly a greater error, for modest households, than preferring the best pieces of beefsteak, meals to the chunk bits of excellent beeves, calves or sheep. In the matter of food follow my prescription to-day will be abundantly convinced of its utility.

Try to buy the chuck ribs of a fine beef and prepare as follows:

Cut the meat and vegetables; divide the piece of beef if too large. Place the whole in a pot or stewing pan, surrounded and covered with coarse salt, cover the pot, and leave for five or six days.

To cook, relieve it of the salt, wash slightly in soft water and set it to cook in a large kettle or earthenware pot, without too much water; when the foam has risen, season with a little onion stuck over with cloves, and with a bay-leaf, let it boil an hour, then stir in plenty of (cauliflower), cabbage, carrots, turnips, potatoes, &c., and allow them to cook gently and done.

At the time of serving, make a butter-sauce (thickened with flour) too much, mixing it with the remains of the water in which the meat and vegetables were cooked: season with salt and pepper, and pour it into a sauce-tureen, and serve in a large dish, the vegetables beneath, the meat in the middle, a part of the sauce poured over and the rest in a boat.

Then, ladies, permit me to recommend this excellent preparation, fit to be eaten in the palace or the cottage.—*French Journal.*

Recovery of Dr. McCosh's Horse.

The Trenton *Gazette* publishes the following story of the recovery of the horse stolen from Dr. McCosh a few days ago:

"The $1,500 horse, presented to Dr. McCosh, of Princeton College, by Mr. Bonner, of the New York *Ledger*, and recently stolen from the stable, was recovered by Officer Brown, of the Trenton Police force, yesterday. He was received information which led him to believe that the horse was in the custody of a man named Abbot, a farmer living out on the Sandtown road, and he set out there on Thursday night, he demanded the horse. Mr. Abbot refused to surrender the horse in the night-time, but Officer Brown told him he should be responsible for the animal, and returned to this city. He went out again yesterday and received the horse. Abbot says he found it standing at his gate. Dr. McCosh had offered $50 reward for the recovery of the horse, which Mr. Brown will receive. Attached to the horse was Mr. Abbott found him tied to his gate, was a light buggy and a set of harness, which he sold at the Sampson House, in Broad street, awaiting the owners.

Debating Societies.

The young men in country towns are now beginning to come together for the purpose of arguing whether Lafayette or Washington is most to be commended; whether the hope of reward or the fear of punishment is the most potent influences, and other important questions of a similar character.

Many of our public men have gained their best training for public speaking in lyceums; and these should by all means be encouraged. But there is one usual characteristic of these which might be changed for the better. In nine-tenths of the debating societies, not men out of young persons, to place them on one side of a question and require them to argue that side strictly without regard to their own convictions or to the facts of history or experience. Let the young "debating club" be dropped; let the idea of debate be discarded, and let discussion take its place. Debate sometimes develops partisanship, falsehood, subterfuge and personalities. Discussion develops arguments, analyzes, lays bare the truth and balance of judement. Let, therefore, the question or the subject be proposed, and let each man speak his own convictions upon it.

There will be sufficient difference of opinion on any subject in any club, and the speakers who differ should alternate, to give spirit to the discussion; but it should be the object of each, not to get the advantage of his opponent, but to find out the truth. The world is sufficiently distracted about questions of religion and questions of public policy, or if these are excluded—and it is very proper that they should be in a purely social gathering—questions of relations of science, of art, of metaphysics and of history, to give enough variety to the speakers and opportunity for debate. One who believes what he says speaks earnestly, and is not apt to indulge in mere words devoid of thought. Many of our debating societies, as now conducted, give simply an education in false speaking, bigotry and unscrupulous partisanship.

There is an idea abroad that this practice makes good lawyers and good politicians. Even that is a mistake. The most effective lawyer with a large practice is he who evidently can did, and who, instead of trying to make the best of his bad aspects of his case, glossing them over with falsehoods, and belying the just claims of the other side, leaves those unpolished, and convinces himself to the merits of his own case and to the evident defects in that of the opposite party.

The most effective political speaker is he who candidly admits that which is creditable to his opponents, and who evidently aims, consciousness, from his own standpoint to convince and to point out to others that course which, in his opinion, is really for the best. The issues of our political contests are of too momentous a nature to be treated by any speaker frivolously, as though they were the questions of a debating club. Young men, then, should devote themselves to discussion rather than to debate, and try to get at the truth in all things. They will find it quite as efficacious in wheeting their intellects, and much more likely to make useful men than if they should spend their time in indulging in the tricks of disputatious lawyers and petty wranglers.

"We've Got 'Em.

A California correspondent, who, on his way from San Francisco to Nevada, arrived in Sacramento just in time to see the Presidential election, gives the following amusing account of his reception.

The scene on the city front, when we arrived, beggars description. The entire male population of the town appeared to be congregated on Second street, around the stage, express and telegraph offices, and all stark mad with excitement. A fellow jumped on the coach, a stalwart youth of about forty summers, with run nose and watery eye, rushed up to me, and seizing me eagerly by the collar, exclaimed—"Well, stranger, have we got 'em?"

"Not a doubt of it, my friend!" was my prompt reply.

"Whoop! whooray! Bill, we've got 'em! he yelled, and in an instant more I saw him mounted on a stalwart bay, whose hair was a perfect ventilator, while the two jumped and kicked and round on the sidewalk, singing, "And we'll all get blind drunk when Johnny comes marching home!" which I have not heard since I left the East.

I started for the door of the hotel as soon as No. 1 got out, but was scarcely out before I had got two steps by a man with store clothes on his back and the stare of incipient insanity in his eyes, who demanded, "Have we got 'em?"

I looked at him in the eye as calmly as I could and told him that I did not think he had 'em yet, but was in a fair way to have 'em if he kept on.

"Hooray, Grant's ahead! Where's your Seymour and Blair men, now?" he shouted, as he darted off.

No. 5 had hold of me in another second. "Do you think we've got 'em?" he demanded.

"Yes, got 'em bad!" I replied, for I was beginning to think I had landed among a community of lunatics.

"Then we'll rally round the flag, boys, rally once again," he sang, and commenced dancing the grand rigadoon, with Jim Crow Jackson, on the sidewalk, whistling diabolically at me every time he swung around.

I made a desperate effort to shake off the man, but he was a perfect bulldog in the tenacity with which he clung to the entrance of the saloon.

"Take a drink, stranger," said my captor, who proved to be No. 1. "Here, you black republican, come up and take a drink with us," he shouted, as my intimate No. 2 bore in sight again.

No. 2 came up, and No. 3 joined us, and we took a drink.

Just as No. 1 set down his glass he said, "So you are sure we've got 'em, are you?"

"Certain sure," I replied, for I was getting tired of the joke.

"I have bet all I had on earth," he said.

"Why, you said you got 'em," said the No. 2, with astonishment not unmixed with suspicion of having been played upon in his countenance.

"Well, so you have got 'em—all got 'em—got 'em some than any crowd I ever saw before in my life," I exclaimed.

"Would you believe it, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 commenced cursing in chorus like so many Mexican bandits, and denouncing me as a bilk and a swindler!

"Blast him, let's duck him," said No. 2.

"Yes, but let him pay for the drinks first," said No. 1.

"That's the talk," said No. 3, emphatically.

I paid for the drinks as meekly as a child, and seizing my carpet-bag, beat a masterly retreat, never stopping until I reached the corner of Fifth and Seventh streets, and got insane room at the Capitol Hotel, locked the door, and placed all the movable furniture in the room against it.

I am perfectly sure that whatever may have been the issue of the election in California, the entire population of Sacramento had 'em that night, and had 'em bad. Talk of San Francisco earthquakes! They are nothing! affairs compared with an election betting excitement in Sacramento.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE
American Sunday-School Union's
PERIODICALS.
Rev. RICHARD NEWTON, D. D., Editor.
THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORLD,
a monthly paper, sixteen pages, quarto, for Sunday-school teachers and adult students of the Bible, containing a SERMON for CHILDREN, and an OUTLINE LESSON for Sunday-schools, by the Editor. It is published at the low rate of
FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM.
THE CHILD'S WORLD,
A beautifully illustrated paper, for Children and Youth, containing a SERMON for Children, by the Editor, and other matter specially adapted to them; terms for the semi-monthly, for ten copies or over sent to one address, one copy for a year, 50 cents. Specimen copies of the Sunday-School Publications, and Select Catalogue of the Society's Publications, and Catalogue of Sunday-School Requisites furnished gratuitously, on application at the depository.
1122 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
dc23 tu w m st

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

THE
American Sunday-School Union
has an EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT of
Interesting and Beautiful Books
of MORAL and RELIGIOUS Character, for
CHILDREN and YOUTH,
suitable for
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
PRESENTS.
Also for Sale,
BIBLES, and DEVOTIONAL BOOKS of the different Specializing in plain or elegant bindings. Catalogues of the Society's Publications, and Specimen Books of Bibles, Illustrated Prospectuses, &c., &c., at the Depository,
No. 1122 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
dc16 th f s

CHOICE HOLIDAY BOOKS.

C. P. PRICE
Has Removed to No. 723 Sansom St.,
(Formerly 1 Arcade.)
Directly opposite his Old Stand, where he will continue to offer the Best Selection of
English, French and German Books,
Periodicals, etc., to order.
He has now received all the choicest
English and French Illustrated Works
For the present Holiday Season, besides a complete assortment of
English and French Juveniles,
to which the attention of those in search of choice and elegant Christmas Gifts is invited.
Choice English Chromos Beautifully Colored
and Gilt Frames.
In great variety, at the most reasonable prices.
dc16 6t

DEPOSITORY
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE SOCIETY,
No. 804 CHESTNUT STREET,
Philadelphia.
A large assortment of Bibles and Testaments, published by the American Bible Society and by the Pennsylvania Bible Society, for sale at very low prices. No other Publications.
Address orders to
JOHN P. RHOADS,
Agent.
CHILDREN'S BOOKS: LONDON EDITIONS—THE CHEAPEST ESTABLISHMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.—Persons desiring to purchase books in the books published within the last two years in London, will find it to their interest to call at the Philadelphia Bookstore, No. 418 SPRUCE STREET.
JOHN F. RHOADS.
dc16 3t

COAL AND WOOD.

PATENT FUEL!
The Housekeepers' Friend and the Cooks' Delight.
PURE ANTHRACITE COAL,
Positively free from Slate, Dust, Rock, Dirt or Clinker. Quickly ignited and durable, burning with a cheerful flame and to a fine ash, leaving nothing in the ash pan to clinkle. For years past inventive genius has been directed to produce this utilization of waste materials, and at last the object is attained.
This Patent Fuel is truly a boon and blessing.
Orders received and promptly filled at the office of the
SOLE AGENT,
T. M. MITCHELL,
134 South Third Street.
dc21 lmo

WINES, LIQUORS, &c.

JUST RECEIVED AND IN STORE LOW CASES OF Champagne Cognac and Claret Wines, Gilt Edge Port, Madeira, Sherry, Jamaica and Santa Cruz Rum, Holland Gin, Scotch and Monongahela Whiskey.
Below Third and Walnut streets.

JORDAN'S CELEBRATED PURE TONIC ALE FOR invalids, family use, &c.
The subscriber is now furnished with his full Winter supply of this light, nutritious and well-known tonic ale. He ships express and horsecting, and by order of physicians, it is used in preference to any other ale. The attention of all consumers is invited to its purity, which is prepared from the best materials, and put up in the best manner, expressly for home use or exportation. Orders by mail or otherwise promptly supplied.
JOHN JORDAN,
Below Third and Walnut streets.

GLASSWARE.

DOTTVILLE GLASSWORKS.
Bell, Decanter, Tumbler, Flint Glass.
And manufacturers Surfaces with or without bevel, Plain and Ornamental Patterns, Plain and Cut Glass, Gilt Edge and Fancy Colors, Plain and Cut Glass, and Fragrance bottles of every description.
WM. H. BENNERS,
No. 10 South Front street.

JAPANESE VERMICELLI—10 BOXES JUST RECEIVED, 1 white, imported and for sale by JOS. B. BUSSIER & CO., 108 South Second street.

THE FINE ARTS.
614 ARCH STREET. 614
LOOKING GLASSES,
PICTURE FRAMES,
OIL PAINTINGS
AND
CHROMOS.
To Great Variety,
At the Very Lowest Possible Prices.
OWEN & SHERIDAN,
614 ARCH STREET.
PICTURES FOR PRESENTS.
A. S. ROBINSON,
No. 910 CHESTNUT STREET,
Has just received exquisite specimens of
Art, suitable for Holiday Gifts,
Fine Dresden "Enamels" on Porcelain,
In great variety.
SPLENDID PAINTED PHOTOGRAPHS,
Elegant Photographs in Oil Colors,
A Superb Line of Chromos.
A large assortment of NEW ENGRAVINGS, &c. Also, RARE VALUABLE ENGRAVINGS and Etchings.

THE LATEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND PERMANENT method of taking Photographs, called
"IVORYTYPE."
The greatest improvement in photography over every other style of photography, for the production of a perfect picture of art. The paper being printed and colored, so that the beauty and appearance of the picture is not lost, as in other styles, and being as durable as the paper itself. Very thousands have now been employed by the Ivorytype Company, in order to forward the great national highway to a speedy completion, by contributing their mite. The price of ivorytypes is not greater and ready for the rich.
Ivorytypes are the only Photographs that are fast colors.
Where specimens can be seen.
dc21 1m

GROCERIES, LIQUORS, &c.

FRESH FRUITS AND PRESERVES.
Bunch, Layer, Seedless and Sultan Raisins, Currants, Citron, Oranges, Prunes, Figs, &c., &c.
Every description of Groceries suitable for the Holidays.
ALBERT C. ROBERTS,
Corner Eleventh and Vine Streets.

LADY APPLES—WHITE GRAPES—HAVANA Oranges, on Carpet Bags Almonds—Finest Dehesia Raisins, at CHARLES S. GUMMEY'S, No. 1 Dock Second street.

HENRIES FAITE DE VOS GRAS—TRUFFLES—QUENTIN Sardines—Bordeaux, Always on hand a full assortment of the above choice delicacies.
SCOTCH ALE AND BROWN STOUT, YOUNGER'S Scotch Ale and Brown Stout—the superior ales at $2 per dozen, at COUTY'S East End Grocery, No. 114 Second street.

QUEEN OLIVES—200 GALLONS CHOICE QUEEN Olives, by the barrel or gallon, at COUTY'S EAST END GROCERY, No. 114 South Second street.

CHERRY WINE CHOICE SHERRY WINE AT $2 PER gallon, by the cask of 100 gallons, at COUTY'S EAST END GROCERY, No. 114 South Second street.

FINANCIAL.

PACIFIC RAILROAD
NEARLY FINISHED.
1450 Miles Built.
THE UNION PACIFIC R. R. CO.,
AND THE
CENTRAL PACIFIC R. R. CO.,
Have added Seven Hundred (700) Miles to their line during the current year, and have now over 1450 miles in active and profitable business. The through connection will undoubtedly be completed and opened to the Pacific Ocean early in the next spring, and will be very great. Forty thousand men are now employed in the work, and it is confidently believed that before the end of the present year the road will be completed, so that the whole line will be open for business.
The new bridge spanning the Mississippi between Dunleith and Dubuque was completed on Sunday. The bridge is 1,200 feet in length, consisting of four spans of 225 feet each, two of 250 feet each, and one of 300 feet long. The entire bridge is composed of iron and masonry, and is, with the approaches, 2,600 feet long.
GENERAL BRODERICK has issued an order extending the Pacific Railroad of Virginia twenty miles. The road is now 20 miles in length. If before that time the debtor pays all the accrued interest, the extension will be made without the mortgaging. In the meantime, if the debtor attempts to dispose of his property to defraud the creditors of the debtor, the judge of a court may order an order of execution against the property.
A CIRCULAR purporting to emanate from the Secretary of the Treasury, and dated Washington, the committee has been informed that certain parties in this city have been making threats against the recruiters, and that if these men are not arrested and punished, they will be in a position to be summarily dealt with; and that they conduct themselves civilly towards the recruiting officers. The circular is addressed to "no at the hands of these men will protect them." The circular is signed by "Wm. Dennison, Secretary of the Treasury." The circular is dated "Philadelphia, Tenn., Judge Taney presiding, the case of Ex-Governor Aiken, of Tenn., Ex-Governor Aiken, Life Insurance Company, where action was brought to recover the value of a policy of insurance, which the defendants declined to pay, on the ground that the assured had died by his own hand. The premium for three quarters; that his son, at the instance of his father, had procured the policy, the father was on his death-bed, called at the office and paid the premium, representing that the assured was in good health; and that therefore the contract was null and void—the Court ruled that the company could not avoid the policy on the ground of Dr. Bailey lived, and repudiate it if he died, and pay the money to the widow.

In Cincinnati a jury in the United States Circuit Court, before Justice Swayne and Judge Leavitt presiding, yesterday gave a verdict for the plaintiff in the case of Bailey vs. Bailey, in the action of the widow against the Life Insurance Company, where action was brought to recover the value of a policy of insurance, which the defendants declined to pay, on the ground that the assured had died by his own hand. The premium for three quarters; that his son, at the instance of his father, had procured the policy, the father was on his death-bed, called at the office and paid the premium, representing that the assured was in good health; and that therefore the contract was null and void—the Court ruled that the company could not avoid the policy on the ground of Dr. Bailey lived, and repudiate it if he died, and pay the money to the widow.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Messrs. Lucker & Co., extensive bankers and stock brokers in Louisville, Ky., failed yesterday. Due hundred cotton cases, involving several thousand dollars, are before the U. S. Court of claims for adjudication.

A FEMALE SUFFRAGE CONVENTION met at Cincinnati, O., yesterday, and will continue until Sunday.

Messrs. Babcock and Fowler, of Gen. Grant's staff, left Memphis, Tenn., for Arkansas, yesterday afternoon, to investigate the cotton frauds. The recent eruption of Mt. Etna has rapidly healed, and the volcano has shown but little sign of any past or present fury.

A Barrien sloop has been seized, and her cargo confiscated, for violating the Canada and Michigan fishing. An English war vessel is expected to arrive at Sandusky, Ohio, shortly.

A Mexican despatch states that it is reported at the Tuxpan Ferry, on the Mexican Gulf coast, is also to negotiate for the purchase of Cuba, and a arrival is daily expected.

Cuba has taken a place in the Portuguese tribunal. De Bilva has resigned, and Count Cavalanti has been appointed provisionally the Minister of Finance, and the Marquis of Sandfora that of Foreign Affairs.

Turn elections for the Cortes in Madrid passed off with unusually slight disturbances of public order. All the monarchical candidates were elected. The Republicans carried Seville and Barcelona.

It is stated on official authority that up to the present moment Spain has expended no money to enforce the Spanish army in Cuba, and more will follow. The government announces that it will never abandon a colony of Spain.

A steamer, commanded by Pedro de Chino, Iiacomin, says that a sleigh load of passengers, crossing the Kamlatskaya, river at that place on Nov. broke through, and all were drowned, except a child aged three years, which froze to death.

On Monday night, at Carroll Station, on the Northern Central Railroad, Humbleton and the pickpockets who had been infesting that and were searched by the conductor for passengers and citizens at the station and robbed in a room.

Tien Hon, Caleb Cushing, on a special mission to the United States Government, arrived at Antonio, on the 4th inst., and left for Pekin immediately on the United States steamer Yantic, which brought him on the way to Japan. Admiral Fitz Hugh Warren, United States minister to Japan, has also arrived at Pekin.

Tax dinner to the New England Society in New York, on the 22d, was a very fine affair. Governor Joseph H. Choate presided, and among the guests were Governor Fenton, Senator Conkling, Senator Colfax, Gen. McDowell, J. Lothrop Motley, and Rev. Dr. Bellows, who delivered the principal address, to which Professor Hitchcock, Judge Brady, and Mr. Colfax.

The new iron bridge spanning the Mississippi between Dunleith and Dubuque was completed on Sunday. The bridge is 1,200 feet in length, consisting of four spans of 225 feet each, two of 250 feet each, and one of 300 feet long. The entire bridge is composed of iron and masonry, and is, with the approaches, 2,600 feet long.

GENERAL BRODERICK has issued an order extending the Pacific Railroad of Virginia twenty miles. The road is now 20 miles in length. If before that time the debtor pays all the accrued interest, the extension will be made without the mortgaging. In the meantime, if the debtor attempts to dispose of his property to defraud the creditors of the debtor, the judge of a court may order an order of execution against the property.

A CIRCULAR purporting to emanate from the Secretary of the Treasury, and dated Washington, the committee has been informed that certain parties in this city have been making threats against the recruiters, and that if these men are not arrested and punished, they will be in a position to be summarily dealt with; and that they conduct themselves civilly towards the recruiting officers. The circular is addressed to "no at the hands of these men will protect them." The circular is signed by "Wm. Dennison, Secretary of the Treasury." The circular is dated "Philadelphia, Tenn., Judge Taney presiding, the case of Ex-Governor Aiken, of Tenn., Ex-Governor Aiken, Life Insurance Company, where action was brought to recover the value of a policy of insurance, which the defendants declined to pay, on the ground that the assured had died by his own hand. The premium for three quarters; that his son, at the instance of his father, had procured the policy, the father was on his death-bed, called at the office and paid the premium, representing that the assured was in good health; and that therefore the contract was null and void—the Court ruled that the company could not avoid the policy on the ground of Dr. Bailey lived, and repudiate it if he died, and pay the money to the widow.

THE LATEST NEWS.

The Soldiers' Orphans' Schools.

Colonel George T. McFarlane, State Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools, has forwarded the following report of the condition and management of soldiers' orphans' schools in the Commonwealth:

DEPARTMENT OF SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS, HARRISBURG, Dec. 18, 1868.—*Dear Sir:* Another year will be upon us, and the schools are again numbered with the things of the past, and the holiday greetings of the season are unusually close are approaching. We should gratefully acknowledge the signal favors of Almighty God in vouchsafing health, comfort and progress in so remarkable degree to the dear ones and that all disputes and differences that may have existed during the past year should be in our forgiven and willingly forgotten.

The experience of this department and that of principals and managers as gathered from personal interviews and visits, and from the perusal of these reports, and from the corresponding Christmas holidays at their respective schools and homes relate that to have travelled, or visited their homes during the inclement weather usual at this season of the year, and the very obscure nature of the vicissitudes of last year having resulted in so much comfort and pleasure, that we conclude, and will govern all concerned during the holiday week, that

It is hoped the happy experience of last Christmas will be repeated and improved upon; that no orphan will be filled with sorrow, or sighs, and that our several large families of soldiers' orphans will, during this festive season, be kindly dealt to happy greetings and innocent amusement. How wisely and how kindly the Ruler of the universe has guided the hearts of these orphans during the past year, and directed their steps to libraries, &c., or money with which to purchase them, and to the principals and matrons of the institutions of their choice, or nearest their homes! Truly and sincerely wishing all, both children and employes, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, with renewed health and inspiration for the new year's duties, I am your friend, very respectfully, GEO. T. MCFARLANE,
Superintendent Soldiers' Orphans'Schools.

IMPORTATIONS.

Reported for the Philadelphia Commercial Bulletin.
SAVANNAH—Steamship Wyoming, Captain Tooker—Bulkhead, 1 cask sweet oil, 1 cask Cordial, 1 cask Butter, 5 bbls; 144 car wheels 50 bbls bran and steel 1 bbl; 1 bbl; 1 bbl;