The Press

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1858.

FORNEY'S CALIFORNIA PRESS

Will be Ready

This Day, at 1 o'clock P. M.

This paper is published expressly for

CALIFORNIA CIRCULATION,

And contains a complete summary of what has transpired in our City, State, and the Atlantic States, since the departure of the last steamer for California.

Price Six Cents per copy, in strong wrappers, and stamped, ready for mailing.

A Great Number of the Press.

THE PRESS of to-day is a model newspaper, and contains an amount of advertising and reading matter, showing its great popularity and prosperity. The increasing number of our advertising patrons has compelled us to issue a SUPPLEMENT, which will be served to all our subscribers. THE PRESS offers extraordinary inducements to all those who desire to let the community know what they are doing in the world. It penetrates into every part of Philadelphia, and the States of New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

Speech of M. Russell Thayer, Esq.,

A full report of the opening speech of M. RUSSELL THAYER, in defence of Mr. NEWHALL, will be found upon the fourth page of this morning's paper.

On the first page of our Supplement this morning will be found, under the head of Literary Criticism, reviews of a number of interesting books; a communication in regard to the American Theological Seminary in Rome; Religious Intelligence; Report of a Sermon by Bishop Bowman; Miscellaneous Items; Weekly Review of the Philadelphia Markets; A Letter from New York; The Steamer City of Richmond; Curious Legal Case; City Items, etc.

On the second page of the Supplement will be found an interesting letter from Geneva, Switzerland, written by a talented young Philadelphian, now making the tour of Europe.

On the fourth page of our regular issue will be found a full report of the opening speech of M. Russell Thayer, Esq., in defence of Thomas A. Newhall.

On the first page will be found an editorial on the Tariff, No. 2.

The News.

The United States Senate was not in session yesterday, having adjourned over until Monday. In the House Mr. Shorter, of Alabama, and Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, had a sensation controversy. At a meeting of the House Committee on Territories, Mr. Grow's proposition to amend the Senate's Oregon bill, by a provision repealing the restrictive clause in the English bill which prevents Kansas from coming into the Union until she has attained sufficient population to entitle her to a member of Congress, under the existing ratio of representation, was defeated by a vote of five against it to four for it.

The Supreme Court of New York has decided that the indictment found against the editor of the New York *Herald*, at the suit of Hon. John B. Haskin, by the Grand Jury of Westchester county, should be tried in the city of New York.

The official vote for Governor, at the late election in New York, was as follows:

E. D. Morgan, Republican	247,953
A. J. Parker, Democrat	230,441
L. Burrows, American	60,880
Gerrit Smith, Abolition and Temperance	5,470

A boy, seventeen years of age, confesses to having set fire to a liquor store in New York, and alleges that he did it at the urgent solicitation of his uncle, to whom the store belonged, and who had it insured. He gives the following account of his mode of procedure, with his confederate, who, he alleges, was induced to assist him by his uncle:

"Between nine and ten o'clock, I went into the cellar and brought up a barrel containing some shavings. At twelve o'clock, I turned out of the store two or three old bummers, and then locked the door. Lynch was in the store with me. At about ten minutes past twelve o'clock, myself and Lynch began to prepare the store by placing shavings around the barrels and casks; Lynch went out and brought in a two-cent tallow candle; he cut it in two, and stuck one piece between the slats on the floor behind the counter, and the other piece he placed on a piece of wood on the floor by the liquor casks, about the centre of the store. I then poured out some fluid into the two-gallon measure, and spread it on the shavings and floor, and on the slats behind the counter. After preparing the store in this way, I lit one candle and Lynch lit the other; we then turned off the gas and left the store, locking the door."

Late advices from Havana, Cuba, state that on the 24 inst. there took place quite a mutiny on board the bark Tacony, Captain Hardy, of Philadelphia, in that harbor. Two of the crew threw billets of wood at the cook—Robert Scharly—knocking out one of his eyes, and then, as he lay senseless on the galley, one of them went there and beat him with a slung shot. He is now in the hospital in a very precarious condition. The two sailors—Francis Harris and Thomas Norris—have been ordered by Consul General Helm to be sent home prisoners for trial.

The Director of the Mint, Col. James Ross Snowden, in his annual report states the total gold coinage of the United States, including bars, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1859, to have amounted to $52,889,600.29. The silver coinage for the same period amounted to $8,235,287.77. The number of cents coined was 23,400,000. Divided among the principal mints and its branches as follows:

	Pieces.	Amount.
Mint, Philadelphia	8,856,766	$18,437,699 97
Branch Mint, N Orleans	10,226,000	4,267,000 00
" S Francisco	1,262,028	19,423,693 26
" Dahlonega	21,703	100,167 00
" Charlotte	40,122	177,070 00
Assay Office, New York	7 946	21,970,652 33
Total	56,491,655	$61,357,088 06

In view of the increasing abundance of silver, the director inquires whether some measures cannot be adopted whereby bank notes under the denomination of twenty, or at least ten dollars, may be withdrawn from circulation, and whether it would not be expedient to extend the limit to which the silver coinage is entrusted as a legal tender, to fifty or even one hundred dollars. In relation to the section of the Mint act, which authorizes the issue of certificates for deposits of the Precious metals, the director makes the following suggestion:

The director of the Mint in his late report says: "Within the last year some new varieties of bullion have been brought to our notice. The gold of the Frazer river region, of which, however, but little has reached us, is one of these varieties. It is found to be considerably alloyed with silver—more so than the average of California gold. With our present scanty knowledge, we cannot rate it higher than 840 thousandths fine, on the average, which, allowing for the silver, would be $17 50 per ounce, after mining. Another variety which has been brought to our attention is the gold from Platte river, of which we have had but one sample. This was of high fineness, equal to that of Australia, and a little superior to that which was formerly received from Santa Fe, through the overland traders. The sample alluded to gave a fineness of 904 thousandths; equal to $19 92 per ounce, after melting. A deduction of from two to four per cent. upon the values above stated will give a proximate valuation of native unmelted grains, free from the gangue or stony substance."

"This section might, with great propriety, and with advantage to the public, be so altered as to permit the certificates for gold deposits to be issued in such sums as the depositors may desire, restricted to sums not less than fifty dollars, and made payable to the bearer on demand. The issuing of such certificates would induce a more general use of gold coins and their undoubted equivalent, and prepare the way for the expulsion of the paper money, which now, in violation of the Constitution, and to the injury of the people, usurps their place."

The evidence on the part of the prosecution in the Allibone and Newhall case was closed yesterday, and the opening speeches of the defence were made by Mr. Brewster for Allibone, and Mr. Thayer for Newhall.

Foreign war vessels are hovering around the coast of Mexico almost as thickly as carrion around a carcass. A French fleet, consisting of two steamers, two brigs, and one frigate, has anchored at Sacrificios, near Vera Cruz, and ten other French war ships are expected soon. At last advices from Vera Cruz four Spanish war vessels were stationed there, and three more were daily expected. It was also supposed that three British war vessels would arrive there soon; but no American war vessel was at that port. In the interior the warlike movements of the contending parties continue with varied success, and it is said that an attack will shortly be made upon Vera Cruz by the partisans of Zuloaga. The Spanish spirit in which this civil war is conducted is strikingly illustrated by the proclamation of General Echegaray after the capture of Perote. He says:

"A horrible spectacle will disturb your gratification. I am of those Mexicans who preserve their natural social feelings; you cannot see with indifference the death of our brethren, although you know the enormous crimes of which they are guilty. I have commanded the officers and sergeants taken prisoners to be shot, and one in five of the rank and file soldiers to be selected to suffer the same penalty; and this order will be fulfilled, notwithstanding the violence that I have been compelled to do myself in issuing it. Also unhappy men who within a few hours will cease to exist, are no rebel zealots of the assassins of the young General Miramon, the brave man who fell in Zacatecas, and of General Blanquiz, a model of honor and bravery in Guadalajara! Remember what your dear country has lost in the death of these and other such heroes, and reflect that to establish order, her blood thirsty enemies must disappear, continuing lending your useful services with the same value and firmness as hitherto. Vera Cruz expects us, and I do not doubt that, in defence of the holy cause which we proclaim, your general and friend will be the first in encountering dangers of all kinds. *Viva* religion! *Viva* the republic! *Viva* true liberty! *Viva* the supreme government! *Viva* the army!"

Our Relations with Foreign Powers.

The ample telegraphic summary of the various documents referring to our relations with certain foreign Powers, sent by the President to Congress on Thursday, contained in THE PRESS of yesterday, was doubtless hailed with satisfaction by our thousands of readers. It is unnecessary that we should recapitulate what has been so well stated in these despatches, beyond calling attention to the following paragraph, accidentally omitted in the telegraphic report, from the minutes of the conversation of the Earl of MALMESBURY, of the British Foreign office, with the American Minister, our fellow-citizen, Mr. DALLAS. The Earl said:

"3. The two Governments harmonized perfectly in their determination to arrest or crush the ravages of General Walker and his associates. Nothing could be more entirely just and satisfactory than the President's proclamation."

A few days ago we spoke with some emphasis of the hazardous folly of newspaper filibustering on these questions, trying to create a war panic at such a time. We stated that there seemed to us no immediate or remote apprehension of such a catastrophe—that not only were the causes of a collision wanting, but that it was to the interest of all the parties to strive for peace and good will. And finally, that those who, for the mere purpose of mischief or ambition, sought to disregard the monitions of the times, will surely encounter a most fearful responsibility. We are, therefore, greatly gratified to know that our relations with certain leading foreign Powers are so auspicious. England speaks to Mr. DALLAS, on the one hand, and to General CASS on the other, and intermediately to Captain MCINTOSH of the Home Squadron, with noble frankness, while Spain addresses our country through Mr. DODGE, our representative at Madrid, with friendly dignity and candor. These conversations reach the two immediately sensitive points, and will go far to tranquilize the public mind.

The President deserves high credit for the part he has taken in these affairs. Justice requires that we should add, however, that much had been done towards the preparation of the English as well as the Spanish mind, for the determination of the American people on the subject now approaching a settlement, by the Administration of President PIERCE. Governor MARCY was a vigorous and far-seeing statesman, as his course on the "right of search" so plainly established, and the rebuke of the enlistment blunder by the Executive under the same Administration was bold and well-timed. Mr. BUCHANAN has acted with equal firmness and sagacity, and, in this at least, has earned the consideration of his countrymen.

Mr. Cobb, and Reciprocity with the Canadas.

By the reciprocity treaty of 1854, which went into operation in 1855, to continue ten years, between the United States and the British provinces of "Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and the several islands thereunto adjacent," free trade was established in the principal raw staples of both countries.

Mr. COBB, it seems, has decided that flour and lumber must be treated as manufactures, and thereby taken out of the free list and subjected to the import duties of our general tariff.

We have seen in one or two of our exchanges, where least of all we would have expected to find it, complaint made against the Secretary on account of his action in the matter. But it does not appear to us that he is censurable, nor that his motives can be justly put under suspicion. He was bound to construe the treaty justly and strictly, and if even the intention of imposing countervailing restrictions upon the Canada trade, to meet some impositions which they had made upon ours, was among the inducements, they may have been well warranted. That treaty was unquestionably got up in favor of the manufacturing interests of New England, with no regard whatever to the interests of the agriculturists of the Western and Northwestern States. It lifted the gate to let in a flood of the raw produce of the Canadas upon the market of our farmers, while it did nothing to release them from the tariff charges upon the manufactures of Great Britain. It was all one-sided, as between the farmer and the manufacturer, and every way prejudicial to the former—operating to let in competition against him, and not touching that competition which would have been his compensation.

Whatever was Mr. COBB'S feeling or aim in the matter, the treaty is just that sort of a one which should be most strictly construed in favor of the interests injuriously affected by it.

Our farmers and lumber-men of the North and West are merely mocked by a duty in our general tariff upon wheat and rye flour of fifteen per cent., and a duty of twenty-four per cent. upon the manufactures of wood and fire-wood, if flour and finished lumber are to be let in upon them from the Canadas by a loose construction of the reciprocity treaty.

Mr. COBB'S proclivities are not to be impeached with favoritism to protection. His decision on these points is friendly to the interests of classes of men not too much favored by the policy of the country; and, in the absence of all probable motive that is exceptionable, all proof of misconstruction, and of any wrong in the effects produced, he deserves to be sustained. We see nothing in it to complain of; but, on the contrary, until we are better advised, we shall hold him not only right, but entitled to credit for what he has done in the premises.

When we catch manufacturers, or their special advocates, working for free trade in the things which they consume as provisions, or in raw material which our own soil can produce, they will hear from us. We are not for the protection of monopolies, but of *all* the interests of industry. Most assuredly we will not consure a free-trader for an act contrary to his prejudices, when his official judgment obliges him to execute his duties favorably to the rights and interests of our agriculturists. On the contrary, whether he who does right is Mr. COBB or Mr SMITH, foe or friend, he shall have the good word of THE PRESS.

MRS. BALMANNO'S BOOK—"THE PEN AND THE PENCIL."—This is the pretty and appropriate name of the most elegant Gift Book of the season. Mrs. Balmanno's *Pen* has supplied the literary matter, and her *Pencil* the artistic illustrations. Original letters, important in English History; Artistic Anecdotes, Reminiscences of Wits and Poets; Archæological Inquiries, Poems, &c., &c., form the contents of this charming volume. Mr. and Mrs. B. were the friends and guests of the distinguished persons they describe—Hood, Lamb, Fuseli, Sir Thomas Lawrence, (to whose instruction, we understand, Mrs. B. owes her superior skill in the representative art). Mrs. Cowden Clarke, &c., &c., live again in the graceful pages of the fair memorialist. Her book will be an acquisition to the library, and an ornament to the drawing-room.

SIGNOR BLITZ.—The entertainments of this wonderful magician continue to attract full audiences. In addition to his learned canary birds, spirit rappings, and ventriloquism, he is constantly adding new novelties to his programme. This afternoon he gives an entertainment. The juveniles should attend.

☞ The Ladies' Fair at Mount Airy, Germantown, in aid of the Episcopal Church in course of erection at that place, closes this evening. It is a most parisworthy undertaking, and we cordially commend it to those who know the necessity of such a place of worship in that part of our city. The fair will be open all of to-day, and we hope the fair patronesses will find that they have been well rewarded for their disinterested exertions.

☞ We desire to bear testimony to the excellence of the bituminous coal offered for sale by Mr. Dunlap McLaughlin, at his office, No. 142½ South Fourth street, in this city, having used it in our dwelling. It makes a cheerful and pleasant fire, and leaves no ashes. We should like to see this article of fuel introduced into general use.

BEAR'S MEAT.—We are under obligations to Mr. Oltenkirk of the Exchange Hotel, late Jones's, for some *bear steaks*, cut, no doubt, from that Ursa Major that lately astonished Mr. Brown, in front of his popular hostelrie.

PIANOS AND MELODEONS FOR CHRISTMAS.—J. E. GOULD, Seventh and Chestnut streets, has an elegant stock of Mason and Hamlin Melodeons, and Raven, Bacon, and Co., Hallett, Davis, & Co., and other Pianos.

BANK STOCKS, GROUND RENTS, MORTGAGES, REAL ESTATE, &c.—Thomas & Sons' sale on Tuesday next, 21st inst., will comprise a large amount and variety of property, *to be sold peremptorily, by order of trustees, executors, and others.* See pamphlet catalogue, issued to-day.

WE ASK the attention of purchasers to the sale of French and German toys, by B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, comprising a general assortment of fresh imported goods suited to city sales.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1858.

The *Union* of Thursday has an article on the tariff question which deserves to be commended for the general and unexpected moderation of its tone. Few expect protection for the sake of protection, and none that the duties should all be specific. If the *Union* is at all authorized to speak, its article indicates a better spirit than we have been led to expect. Certain it is that Gov. Cobb's report has impressed the country that he is not only against specific duties, but disposed to discriminate against American labor. Such is the impression it has made here and elsewhere. I should greatly rejoice if by his actions he shows a disposition to yield to the requirements of the times and the demands of an enlightened public opinion. This much I know—that there is the best feeling here among the Southern men on this important subject. Mr. Cobb need not be afraid of them. Congress may not give either extremes all that it may expect; but if Secretary Cobb chooses to do it, he can assist in the consummation of a revenue bill that will stand the test of many years. But will he do it?

I have never known a moment in Washington when, with any kind of prudence, the revenue question could be more satisfactorily settled than at the present. There are partisans who would like the question kept open till the Presidential election in 1860, but the general disposition is good. The unity in Pennsylvania on this subject has done much to create the favorable feeling now existing in this city.

The usual New York squabble is going on. Many of the sachems (or suckems) are on hand, and great is the hubbub. For years office has been the gilded bait which the New York politicians have followed. It has never been a question of principle with them. When John Van Buren, Cassidy, and the rest, defeated Cass in 1848, it was because the Van Buren father did not get an office. This they proved by joining hands the very next chance with their worst foes. When, under Pierce's rule, Bronson was hurled out of the collector's office, the resulting row was about office. This lasted for two or three years, every train bringing a fresh relay of objectors and advocates. Then Mr. Buchanan came in, and Schell got to be collector, and now nearly two years have gone by in another scuffle about place. Whether Schell goes out, or Schell stays in, is now the question. I do not think that in either event the Government will go down. My surprise has always been, however, that so many able men as are to be found in New York should be tearing each other to pieces about this miserable business of office.

The speculations of some of the Washington correspondents about the probability of difficulties with foreign Powers have always been absurd. *There never was a moment when our relations with foreign Powers were more auspicious than at the present moment.* Even the usual war spirit so common in Congress heretofore, has got to be unfashionable. The South wants peace. The West wants emigrants. The East wants trade, and everybody is looking for good times. There will be some difficulty, it seems to me, to cook a war out of this sort of temper.

The Dred Scott decision, it is thought, settles, without a doubt, the unconstitutionality of the proposed protectorate of any Territory *outside* of the territory of the United States. The Court thus states the question:

"There is certainly no power given by the Constitution to the Federal Government to establish or *maintain colonies bordering on the United States or at a distance, to be ruled and governed at its own pleasure; nor to enlarge its territorial limits in this way, except the admission of new States.* That power is plainly given; and if a new State is admitted, it needs no further legislation by Congress, because the Constitution itself defines the relative rights and powers, and duties of the State, and the citizens of the State, and the Federal Government. But no power is given to acquire a Territory to be *held* and *governed* permanently in that character.

"And indeed the power exercised by Congress to acquire territory and establish a government there, according to its own unlimited discretion, was viewed with great jealousy by the leading statesmen of the day. And in the Federalist (No. 38), written by Mr. Madison, he speaks of the acquisition of the Northwestern Territory by the confederated States, by the cession from Virginia, and the establishment of a government there, as an exercise of power not warranted by the Articles of Confederation, and dangerous to the liberties of the people. And he urges the adoption of the Constitution as a security and safeguard against such a dangerous exercise of power.

"We do not mean, however, to question the power of Congress in this respect. The power to expand the territory of the United States, *by the admission of new States*, is plainly given; and in the construction of this power by all the departments of the Government, it has been held to authorize the acquisition of territory, not fit for admission at the time, *but to be admitted as soon as its population and situation would entitle it to admission. It is acquired to become a State, and not to be held as a colony and governed by Congress with absolute authority*; and as the propriety of admitting a new State is committed to the sound discretion of Congress, the power to acquire territory for that purpose, to be held by the United States until it is in a suitable condition to become a State upon an equal footing with the other States, must rest upon the same discretion."

"The principle upon which our governments rest, and upon which alone they continue to exist, is the union of States, sovereign and independent within their own limits in their internal and domestic concerns, and bound together as one people by a General Government, possessing certain enumerated and restricted powers, delegated to it by the people of the several States, and exercising supreme authority within the scope of the powers granted to it throughout the dominion of the United States. A power, therefore, in the General Government to obtain and hold colonies and dependent Territories, over which they might legislate without restriction, would be inconsistent with its own existence in its present form."

It will thus be seen that the Supreme Court denies the right of the General Government to hold any "colony" or "Territory" outside of the United States, or any Territory for any other purpose than to *make it a State* at a proper time.

Under a protectorate, would the people of those Territories remain in allegiance to the Government of Mexico, and be considered citizens of that Republic? Or would they be in allegiance to the United States, and considered citizens of this Republic? These are questions that may involve some difficulty. I merely throw out these suggestions for what they are worth. This subject is likely to be one of some consequence, and I thought "Dred Scott," who seems to be in great favor just now, might have some influence in its decision.

Mr. Vice-President Breckinridge is living in Sixth street, near Louisiana avenue. His family are not with him. Messrs. J. B. Clay and Mr. Stevenson, both members from Kentucky, are of his household. PIONEER.

ELEGANT WALNUT-STREET RESIDENCE AND FURNITURE to be sold on the premises on Monday next—one of the finest single residences in the city, third house east of Mr. Dundas' splendid mansion at the corner.

SALE OF RARE AND CURIOUS BOOKS on Monday and Tuesday, now arranged for examination.

See advertisements of the three sales.

VALUABLE FARM AT PUBLIC SALE.—Messrs. Thomas & Sons will sell on Tuesday next, 21st inst., at the Philadelphia Exchange a valuable farm, on the line of the Delaware railroad at Leipsic Station. The land is in a good state of cultivation and advantageously situated, and is well worthy the attention of those seeking farm property.

SILEOF ELEGANT FURNITURE.—This morning, at 10 o'clock, at No. 912 Chestnut street, will be sold a stock of first-class cabinet furniture, including parlor, chamber and dining sets of the latest and most superior finish.

Also, an elegant rosewood piano-forte, by Schomacker & Co., and an invoice of rich silver plated ware, the whole to be sold without reserve.

THE BEEF AND MUTTON CONTRACT.—The special committee appointed by Select and Common Councils to investigate the particulars concerning the beef and mutton contract with Mr. John Jones have made the following report, which will show to the reader at once the loose, corrupt, and censurable manner in which the public business in that department has been transacted. It exhibits the fact that the contract was awarded to this individual at a price exceeding $6,000 over and above the sum at which other butchers were anxious to furnish the same article, and concludes with the following paragraph:

"After a careful examination of all the facts the committee are of the opinion, that as the wise restrictions of the Consolidation Act, providing that Councils shall direct the manner in which the Guardians of the Poor shall make all contracts, were not embodied in the ordinance making the annual appropriation to that department, the contract with John Jones is binding on the city until the end of the year 1858, and no longer, as section 5 of the Supplement to the Consolidation Act, approved April 21, 1858, expressly forbids any department from entering into a contract, or incurring any debt whatever, until an appropriation shall have been first made by Councils."

THE inhabitants of the quiet little borough of Darby experienced considerable excitement by the unannounced appearance in their streets of a passenger-railway car, which was placed on the Philadelphia and Darby railroad, as a precursor to running regular trains. The car was driven at the usual speed of city railways, and accomplished the double trip without inconvenience or mishap, much to the satisfaction of every one who witnessed it. The location of the road is extended to Mr. Alexander Easton, civil engineer of this city, whose successful operations should satisfy the advocates of one Germantown and Baltimore-street railways, and others, that they need not be deterred by heavy grades or sharp curves. Messrs. Smith & Leonard performed the work of laying the track, very much to the satisfaction of all concerned.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—An old man, named Benjamin Tofflet, aged 72 years, yesterday morning fell from a scaffold of a church which he was painting, at Eleventh and Wood streets. He was dreadfully bruised and received severe internal injuries. He was taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital and died a short time after he was admitted. The body was removed to the residence of his daughter, No 918 South Tenth street, below Christian, where Coroner Fenner will hold an inquest this morning.

A PROCLAMATION.—Mayor Henry has issued a proclamation forbidding all minors from running with fire companies, and authorizing the policemen to arrest them. This is a very fine arrangement, as not unfrequently acts of incendiarism have been traced to the fast youths of our city, who have fired buildings for the sake of getting up an excitement. The proclamation will go into effect on Monday next.

FATAL CASUALTY.—A young boy, named Thomas Decoursay, aged about ten years, was playing on the Reading Railroad, on Thursday afternoon last, near the Columbia bridge, and was knocked down by a train of cars and very much injured. He died at the Pennsylvania Hospital yesterday morning. His body was taken to the residence of his parents.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

SENATE.

The Senate is not in session to-day, having adjourned over to Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On being called to order, the House took up the private calendar, and are considering the bills from the last session.

A lengthy discussion took place on the bill to provide for the examination and payment of the claims of the citizens of Georgia and Alabama, on account of the losses sustained by the depredations of the Creek Indians, involving about a million and a quarter of dollars.

Mr. SHORTER, of Alabama, made a speech in support of the bill.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Wisconsin, replied by making a remark not complimentary to the bravery of the citizens of Alabama and Georgia, who fled in fear from the Indians.

Mr. SHORTER characterized that assertion as false and slanderous.

Mr. WASHBURNE replied that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr Shorter) had given an illustration of his bravery here, to-day.

Not a little sensation was produced by this exchange of shots

The Chairman (Mr. Sherman, of Ohio,) promptly called the gentleman to order.

After further debate, the House adjourned till Monday.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The members of Congress have drawn up their pay more closely to date than usual, an evidence that money is not abundant everywhere. The sergeant-at-arms has disbursed, since the 6th instant, on account of mileage and arrears of salary, $327,408. His total disbursements for the present Congress, up to Wednesday last, amounted to $1,485,992.

Not a little excitement exists among some of the Pennsylvania politicians, on hearing that certain parties, said to be Federal office-holders, propose publishing new Administration paper in Philadelphia to the injury, they suppose, of the *Pennsylvanian* and *Argus*, when both of these journals might be united.

Senor Mata has returned to Washington, as minister of the Juarez Administration in Mexico He has plenipotentiary power to make treaties and settle all difficulties between this Government and his own.

The House Committee on Territories.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The House Committee on Territories, at their meeting held this morning, rejected, by a vote of five to four, Mr. Grow's proposed amendment to the Senate's Oregon bill, to repeal that clause of Mr. English's Kansas bill which prohibits the people of Kansas from calling a Convention to form a Constitution until they shall have sufficient population for a Representative in Congress, according to the Federal ratio. The bill, as it came from the Senate, was ordered to be printed.

An Omission Supplied in the Central American Documents.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—The following is the third point in the conversation between Mr. Dallas and Lord Malmesbury, accidentally omitted yesterday:

"Third. The two Governments harmonized perfectly in their determination to arrest or crush the ravages of General Walker and his associates. Nothing could be more entirely just or satisfactory than the President's proclamation."

The Paraguay Expedition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The Secretary of the Navy has advices from three vessels on the way to the rendezvous of the Paraguay Expedition. The Chapin was spoken at sea on the 7th inst.; the Fulton reached Maranham on the coast of Brazil, on November 10th; and the Harriet Lane arrived at the same place on November 13th. The officers and crew were all well.

South Carolina Politics.

THE INAUGURAL OF THE NEW GOVERNOR—EXPRESSION OF DISUNION SENTIMENTS—L. M. KEITT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Hon. Mr. Gist, the new Governor of South Carolina, in his inaugural address, says:

"It is to be hoped that no occasion will arise requiring the State to call upon her sons for the defence of her rights and institutions;" but believing this hope will prove fallacious, he continues: "We should not only endeavor to unite the State, but the entire South, so that, when we can no longer retain our places as equals in the Confederacy, we will be prepared to form a more perfect Union, under the style and title of 'The United States of the South.'"

The Charleston *Courier*, of Wednesday, states that Hon. L. M. Keitt will close his Congressional career after serving out the next term.

Wreck of the Brig E. K. Kane—Safety of the Crew.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The brig E. K Kane, of Philadelphia, from Richmond, Va., bound to Rio Janeiro, was wrecked at sea November 28th. The crew were saved. Three of the number have arrived here, and the remainder are on the bark Ceres, bound to Savannah.

Counterfeit Notes on the Western Bank.

NEW YORK, Dec 17.—Counterfeit five-dollar notes, purporting to be on Western Bank of Philadelphia, are circulating in this city.

Arrival of the Overland Mail.

ST. LOUIS, December 17.—The overland mail, which left San Francisco on the 21st ult., arrived here to-day with two through passengers.

The news from California is only one day later than furnished by steamer, and is unimportant.

The passengers report that the roads continued to be in good condition.

Mr. Pardee, the expressman, who has the President's message in charge, was met fifty miles east of Fort Belknap. He was then thirty hours ahead of time.

The Filibuster Schooner Susan.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—The schooner Fanny, which has arrived below, reports having spoken the filibuster schooner Susan on the 10th instant bound to Greytown; lat. 24.40, long. 87.31. All well.

The Case of Swan & Co., Lottery Dealers.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 17.—The presentment before the Grand Jury of this city, against Swan & Co., lottery dealers, after an examination of two days, has been returned with no bill.

Fire at Carlisle, Pa.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 17.—A fire at Carlisle, about three o'clock this morning, entirely consumed four dwellings, and damaged a fifth. Three of the houses were new brick buildings, just about being finished, the property of J. Rhoads. The other two were frames, the property of Charles Moore and John Harder. The fire originated in one of the new buildings, and was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary.

Markets by Telegraph.

BALTIMORE, December 17.—Flour firm; 1,000 bus sold at $5.12½. Wheat firm; 10,000 bus sold, quotations unchanged. Corn unsettled; white 66c; yellow 60c. Provisions quiet. Whiskey firm at 26c. Coffee firm; 1,200 bags sold at 11¼c for Rio.

Marine Intelligence.

Arrived at San Francisco, ship Silver Star, from New York.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The Money Market.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17, 1858.

The stock market, to-day, was rather dull. The sales cover $61 200 of loans and bonds, and 222 shares of stocks. The fancy stocks are very dull, and the principal sales at the stock board are of the lower priced railroad bonds. There was little or no change in prices from yesterday's sales. Norristown Railroad sold at 55¾ for five shares, a fall of 2¼ from the last sales, with dividend off.

The State Treasurer will buy from the bidders, under the resolution of the commissioners of the sinking fund, one hundred thousand dollars of Pennsylvania five per cent. bonds, at the following prices:

$6,400 00 at 96¼ per cent	$6,176
12 000 00 at 99¾ "	11,550
42,202 72 at 95 94-100 per cent	40,489
89,397 27 at 97 "	86,816
$100,000 00	$96,480

By this purchase, the State saves $3,570, besides the annual interest from this time forward.

The whole amount offered was $244,632 51, in seven bids, as follows:

No. 1—	$6,400 00 at	96¼ per cent.
2—	12,000 00 at	99¾ "
3—	42,202 78 at	95 94-100 "
4—	2,000 00 at	98 per cent.
5—	67,520 78 at	97 "
6—	14,500 00 at	97¼ "
7—	100,000 00 at	97¾ "

The Schuylkill Navigation Company, brings down 17,494 tons of coal for this week, against 7,414 tons in the corresponding week of 1857—an increase of 10,080 tons, which brings up the aggregate tonnage for the year to 1,318,854—44,229 tons ahead of last year. The Reading Railroad Company is working upon its new year, and has fallen behind the early weeks of last year, thus far, 0,025 tons. For the week there is a gain of 5,250 tons over the corresponding week of 1857. The Hazleton Coal Company transported 5,282 tons during the week.

At the last meeting of the board of directors of the Carlisle Deposit Bank Mr. Richard Parker resigned the presidency of the bank, and the board appointed R M Henderson, Esq, in his stead. Mr. Parker remains a member of the board.

Imlay & Bicknell's *Bank Note Reporter* furnishes the following description of the new counterfeit five dollar bills on the Western Bank of this city, just put largely into circulation. They are a very close imitation of the genuine. At present they may be detected as follows: The centre feather in Indian head-dress on upper left hand corner of the note, in the genuine, touches the line above; in the counterfeit it is slightly short of the line; on the lower left corner in the genuine, the engraver's name, Dauforth, Bald, & Co, Phila And New York, almost rest upon the line below; in the counterfeit they rest nearly an eighth of an inch above the line. The same line on the genuine note is almost touched by the point of the waves of the ornamental work at the bottom of the note, in which the word Five is inserted; in the counterfeit these points are nearly an eighth of an inch distant from the line. The tint color of the counterfeit is slightly green. The genuine is in blue. The counterfeits that we have seen are dated September 1, 1857.

The following is the amount of Coal transported on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad during the week ending Thursday, December 16, 1858:

	Tons. Cwt.
From Port Carbon	11,658 06
" Pottsville	2,608 00
" Schuylkill Haven	19,289 07
" Auburn	1,264 00
" Port Clinton	5,860 02
Total for week	41,779 14
Previously this year	55,555 02
Total	97,334 16
To same time last year	103 389 10

The following is the amount of Coal transported on the Schuylkill Navigation, for the week ending Thursday, December 16, 1858:

	Tons. Cwt.
From Port Carbon	4 898 10
" Pottsville	337 01
" Schuylkill Haven	9,217 00
" Port Clinton	3,051 00
Total for the week	17,493 11
Previously this year	1,301,360 00
Total	1,318,853 11
To same time last year	1,274,555 00

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES, December 17, 1858.

REPORTED BY MANLEY, BROWN, & CO., BANK-NOTE, STOCK, AND EXCHANGE BROKERS, NORTHWEST CORNER THIRD AND CHESTNUT STREETS.

FIRST BOARD.

15000 Penna 5s	95 96	2 Penna R	42¾
2000 City 6s...O&P	99¾	4 do	42¾
2000 do ..K O&P	99¾	4 Commercial Bk	50¾
4000 Elmira 1st M 7s	85 76	5 Reading R	24⅞ 26¾
1000 do Chat 10s	85 76	50 do	26¾
1000 do "	85 76	100 do	26¾
500 Cataw Chat 10s	59½	5 do	24⅞ 26¾
500 Lehigh Nav 6s	99	4 Minehill R	61¾
1000 Huntingdon & P		6 do	61¾
Top 7s	55 16	5 Morris Cal Pref	55 107½
1000 Missouri 6s	89¾	16 Lehigh Nav	60
1000 Reading R 6s '43	95	2 Phila Bk	118
3 Penna R	42¾	3 Lehigh Scrip	28
2 do	42¾	3 do	28¾
3 do	42¾	2 do	28¾

BETWEEN BOARDS.

14000 Cataw 7s...sswn	51¾	1000 Huntingdon & P	
6000 do ...sswn	51¾	Top 7s	55 46

SECOND BOARD.

500 Penna 5s	96	1000 N Penna R 10s	86¼
1000 City 6s...O&P	99¾	1000 Susq Canal 6s	89
100 do ....O&P	99¾	10 Commonw Bk	21
300 do ....O&P	99¾	13 do	21
1000 do New O&P	103	29 do	21
100 City 6s '60	97	1 Minehill R	61¾
4000 Penna R 2d M 6s	92¾	5 Norristown R	55¾
1000 do	92¾	2 do	55¾
1000 Catawissa R 7s	51¾	15 Plant Bk, Tenn	107
32 0 Lehigh Nav 6s	98¾	50 Schuyl Nav Pref	16¼
3000 Harrisbg R 6s	95 97½		

CLOSING PRICES—STEADY.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Phila 6s	99½	99¾	Sch Nav Stock	8¼	9
do R	99¾	99¾	do Pref	16¾	17
do New	103	103¼	Wmsp't & Elm R	10¼	
Penna 5s	95¾	96	do 7s 1st mtg	74¾	75
Reading R	25¾	25¾	do 2d	50¾	50
do 6s '70	88¾	84	Long Island	11¾	11¾
do Mtg 6s	94	96	Girard Bank	11¾	12
do do '86	75	75¼	Leh Coal & Nav	50	50¼
Penna R	42¾	42¾	Lehigh Scrip	28	28¾
do 1stm 6s	104	106	N Penna R	8¼	8¾
do 2d