The Press.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1859.

FIRST PAGE.—Douglas Jerrold; Batch of New Novels; Letter from Georgia; Women in Washington; A Good Move in the Right Quarter; Telegraphic News; The Courts. FOURTH PAGE.—Marine Intelligence.

The News.

In the United States Senate, yesterday, the consideration of Mr. Slidell's $30,000,000 Cuba bill was postponed, by a vote of 33 to 32. While the appropriation bill was under consideration, the members from New York, Messrs. Seward and King, advocated an amendment providing that the excess of receipts at the New York Assay Office should be appropriated to the purchase of machinery for coining in that establishment, but it was ruled out of order. During the debate, Mr. Clingman, of North Carolina, moved to strike out all the appropriations for the Assay Office at New York, which was lost by a vote of 14 to 38. A discussion on the merits of the different locations of the United States mints arose, and Mr. Trumbull moved that the mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega be abolished, and that the President be authorized to sell the sites, which was adopted. Mr. Wilson introduced, as a new section, that the mileage of Senators be reduced from forty to twenty cents; but it did not carry. Mr. Hale moved, as an additional section, to repeal the restriction clause of the act to admit Kansas. Mr. Douglas said that his sentiments were well known; they had undergone no change, and he did not expect they will change. He held that Kansas ought to come in, irrespective of the census, with such a Constitution as she shall choose. Hence he did not admit the necessity of the appropriation for taking the census. He wanted either this appropriation stricken out or the restrictive clause repealed.

In the House, the postal affairs of the nation elicited an animated discussion.

The steamship Quaker City, from Minatitlan, arrived at New Orleans on the 21st inst., with San Francisco dates to the 5th inst., and one hundred and three passengers. The mail steamship Stephens sailed from San Francisco on the 5th, with $1,400,000 in treasure, including $1,000,000 for New York, and two hundred and fifty passengers, via Panama. Business at San Francisco had revived and was brisk, while money was easy. The fight between the escort of Colonel Hoffman and the Mojave Indians is confirmed. Heavy rains had fallen along the California end of the mail route. There is considerable emigration from Texas to the Gila river gold mines. Captain Johnson, en route for Washington, was robbed as he stepped from the train at the Pacific Railroad depot, of $1,000 in money, and several hundred dollars in treasury notes. A card published in the San Francisco Herald, endorsing the course of John Nugent, the American Commissioner, as well as his address, had caused considerable excitement at Victoria. The Oregon Indians were quiet, but the Indians in southern California had become troublesome. General Clark was about to proceed with five hundred men to chastise them.

The Navy Department has received despatches from Commodore Forrest, dated "Off Montevideo, December 18." He found in that port the flagship St. Lawrence, brigs Dolphin and Bainbridge, steamers Fulton and Water Witch. The storeship Supply had sailed from Buenos Ayres on the 4th December. The Harriet Lane was at St. Catharine's coaling. The brig Perry had arrived at Buenos Ayres from the coast of Africa. Good health prevailed in the squadron.

By a recent letter from La Rochelle, France, the State Department learns that the yield of the grape has been more abundant than drinkable water. Coopers were employed night and day, but, being unable to supply the demand for casks, the wine had to be converted into brandy.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Commercial says: "Three American deaths have recently occurred in Europe—all young men, members of well-known families, and all three, I believe, of consumption. One was a son of Stephen Van Rensselaer, of Albany; another a son of Col. John Preston, of Charleston, and a third a son of Hon. Joseph Ingersoll, of Philadelphia."

The Washington States of last evening says: "We have seen a private letter which came by the last steamer, from a gentleman occupying a high position on the island of Cuba, which states that commissioners sent by Miramon had arrived in Havana on their way to St. Thomas, to enter into negotiations with Santa Anna for his return, to take the head of the Monarchist party in Mexico. On his acceptance, Europe becomes the unlimited mistress of the future of our unfortunate neighbor. Our Cabinet must at this moment have the certainty before it, that its delay in recognizing Juarez has laid the liberal interests of Mexico and our own at the feet of the European policy of American repression. All our views and statements with regard to Miramon's party being used as the unscrupulous tools of the European dictators in Mexico, are in rapid process of verification. Santa Anna is to be recalled to complete the subjugation of Mexico to the absolute, unlimited control of the monarchists."

David D. Hillis, Esq., a leading lawyer and Democratic politician of Syracuse, died in that city a day or two ago.

It is understood at Washington that the President is writing a message vetoing the agricultural college bill.

Later advices from Mexico had been received at Minatitlan. General Miramon had reached Orizaba en route for Vera Cruz. There was great apprehension regarding the result.

Gold had been discovered on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, near Chevala.

The steamer Magnolia arrived at New Orleans on Monday from Florida, having on board Major Rector, and seventy-one Seminole Indians, bound west of Arkansas.

The steamship Cahawba arrived at New Orleans from Havana on Saturday, with the same dates received at New York by the Black Warrior.

A company to emigrate to the Pike's Peak mines is forming in Buffalo.

San Francisco has every Sunday night English, French, and German theatres in full blast.

News from Europe.

The steamship *Africa*, which reached New York yesterday, left Liverpool on the 5th instant, and has brought fuller, but not later, news than was received three days ago, from St. Johns, by the Galway steamer *Prince Albert*. This news is chiefly of interest as relating to the war question, under dread of which the English and French funds had seriously declined. The impression in England evidently is, that the British Government should declare in favor of the independence of Italy. No one seems to know what are the intentions of the inscrutable NAPOLEON. Austria has just obtained a loan in London, and Sardinia is in the Paris money market with like purpose. The British ministry are unable to decide whether NAPOLEON means war or peace. Meanwhile, great preparations are being made by the leading European Powers.

Superior City Land Sale—Financial Policy of Mr. Cobb.

Instead of raising the tariff for revenue, the Federal Administration is about forcing over two millions of acres of public lands into market, in hard times, to the ruin of industrious settlers, and the lasting injury of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Poor pre-emptors will be forced to "prove up"—that is, pay cash for their farms. This will be a harvest for speculators to loan their money and warrants on mortgage, at usurious rates. Many acres of public lands in Wisconsin are advertised for sale the 2d of May. It is a well-known fact that ice collects in the St. Mary's river in large quantities, and sometimes steamboats are forced to lay there for weeks. We observe from the Chicago steamboat advertisement of 1858, that the boats did not leave that port for Lake Superior until May sixth, and navigation opened earlier than usual last year. The traveling season commences in June, yet we have the Government forcing this land into market when there can be but few buyers. The Senators and Representatives of Minnesota have protested against the sales of public lands in Minnesota in these "*hard times*." It is a notorious fact that nearly whole counties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa are held by speculators, to the injury of those States and of the United States. Every acre of land, uncultivated, held by non-residents on speculation, is injurious to the welfare of the State. To quote Mr. BUCHANAN's own language, in his Inaugural Address, "No nation, in the tide of time, has ever been blessed with so rich and noble an inheritance as we enjoy in the public lands. In administering this important trust, whilst it may be wise to grant portions of them for the improvement of the remainder, yet we should never forget that it is our cardinal policy to reserve these lands, as much as may be, for actual settlers, and this at moderate prices. We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States, by furnishing them a hardy and independent race of honest and industrious citizens, but shall secure homes for our children and our children's children, as well as for those exiles from foreign shores who may seek in this country to improve their condition, and to enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty."

Political Corruption.

Integrity is one of the most important requisites in a legislator. It was an axiom of JEFFERSON that "the whole art of government consisted in being honest;" and though we certainly think that intelligence is exceedingly desirable, if it is unaccompanied by honesty of purpose its tendencies are rather to injure than to benefit the people. One of the most unfortunate aspects of the times is the prevalence of corruption among those entrusted with power by a generous people; and if the present rate of downward progression continues, the day is not far distant when dishonesty among legislators and officials will become the rule, and honesty the exception. Indeed, there are those who fear that this low point of political degradation has been reached already. Though such an estimate of the existing demoralization is an exaggerated one, there are yet many circumstances to give it plausibility. An odor of rascality hangs round nearly every representative branch of Government in the country. The State Legislatures reek with it; the municipal corporations are constantly being involved in the commission of nefarious acts; and the National Government, in its legislative and executive branches, which should be an example of dignity, purity, and integrity, is the very reverse, and strengthens rather than checks the turbid tide of corruption. At this moment the Missouri Legislature is investigating a charge in regard to the offer of $10,000 to bribe its members to support a new banking scheme, and the halls of the Legislature of Illinois ring with grave charges, involving the integrity of a number of prominent politicians. Last winter a gigantic scheme of corruption was detected in Wisconsin, which involved the wholesale purchase of both branches of the Legislature. In Indiana, within the last few years, developments were made affecting the character of many members. In Ohio, they are even now suffering from the robbery of a large portion of the public money by the State Treasurer, to whom it was entrusted. The Legislature of Delaware has recently granted lottery privileges under very peculiar circumstances. The Legislature of our own State, never particularly noted for its purity, is not much more highly estimated by those familiar with its operations, at this moment, than at former sessions. New York city is a constant prey to undisguised plunder in every conceivable form and shape; and Philadelphia herself has helped an infinite number of rascals into office by her election of Defaulting Treasurers, shameless and corrupt Guardians of the Poor, venal Boards of Health, jobbing Councilmen, and infamous Legislators. At this moment, Congress is awaiting the report of the Naval Investigating Committee, which, in all probability, will present many astounding developments, and disclose a degree of peculation, fraud, extortion, and downright robbery of the public funds that would disgrace the most corrupt age and the most corrupt Government of the world. Another investigating committee is now examining a charge against a member of the House Committee on Claims, which accuses him of demanding a portion of a claim in consideration of his aid to secure its passage.

The American people are honest and patriotic, but their legislators and officials, as a body, do not represent the virtues of the nation. Not a few representatives rely upon a little cheap demagoguism to atone for whole sessions of villainy. If this great system of free government is to continue unchecked in its glorious and beneficent career, some method must be devised for checking the prevailing corruption. The people themselves must be deeply aroused to its evils, and become more judicious and considerate in their selection of public officers. They must totally destroy the system by which a few miserable tricksters, who are frequently among the most debased specimens of humanity that the race produces, select the nominees of the respective parties, and thus force their favorites upon the public. As it is, corrupt men have often a far better chance of success before the tribunals which really control parties than honest ones; and while the discriminating and respectable portion of the people either stay away altogether from the polls, or are marched up only to ratify and legalize tickets labelled with their party names, and formed by the basest influences, we must expect very much such a state of things as now exists. Candidates are not chosen to represent the interests, the intelligence, and the patriotism of the virtuous masses—they are chosen to represent the rowdy, shoulder-hitting, reckless crowd. Whenever the people take this matter into their own hands, either by attending the nominating conventions of their respective parties, or by sternly striking from all tickets every unworthy name, a better state of affairs may be anticipated.

Besides, there is entirely too much legislation. The country is becoming deluged with a mass of senseless, useless, ill-digested laws, and an accumulation of special acts conferring privileges upon designing men, schemers, and soulless corporations, which derange the course of legitimate business, and inflict serious injury upon society. Representative bodies attract corrupt operators as a carrion attracts birds of prey; and, as a general rule, the amount of evil done is proportioned to the length of their sessions. A few adroit and unprincipled leaders control legislation, entrap the unwary and inexperienced into the sanction of unjust acts, and retire to their homes to squander, in riot and dissipation, their unholy gains, and to concoct schemes to delude the public into their support, and to barter away their votes. "The world is governed too much," and some effective plan should be devised for making the sessions of all representative bodies either shorter or less frequent.

Public Amusements.

Last night, at Walnut-street Theatre, Mr. J. E. Murdoch played *Rover*, in the old-fashioned comedy of "Wild Oats," to a large audience. It is a character which he has in a manner made his own, and in which he won great applause in Europe. He played it extremely well. His imitations, we confess, we did not like—they are not very good. But, he played, all through, like a gentleman. He was fortunate in having to play to such a charming *Lady Amaranth* as that sterling actress, Mrs. Duffield, whose Quaker costume well became her. Mr. Thayer rattled through the part of *Sir George Thunder* in his usual demonstrative manner. Mr. Hemple's *Sim* was very good—there is not a more painstaking or useful actor in the company. Mrs. Leonard was pretty good as *Jane*. Here commendation ceases. Mr. Rogers, as *Ephraim Smooth*, did not play smoothly, (we mean no play upon words,) and greatly exaggerated the traditional exaggerations of the character, besides introducing his own language, in addition to the author's. Mr. R. Jack made the worst *John Dory* we ever saw—the very *un*-likeness of an English tar! He was boisterous and unnatural. Mr. Buscombe, as *Harry Thunder*, was strong in nothing but a remarkable vest, of the very "loudest" character. He should recollect that, in this old play, the action of which is supposed to have taken place in England, seventy or eighty years ago, no private gentleman wore a moustache. Messrs. Williams and Crocker were also moustached, and Mr. Beach sported a goatee! We waited for "The Illustrious Stranger," to see what Mr. B. G. Rogers, the new low-comedy actor here, made of *Benjamin Bowbell*—a great part with Liston and Harley. It was a much better performance than his Quaker, in the comedy, but rather *hard*. In the dialogue here, also, Mr. Rogers introduced words of his own. Unless he abandon playing for the gallery, as he evidently did last night, we can have no hope of him. Miss Wilks, we must say, who appeared as *Fatima*, sang very prettily, and would certainly have been encored only that the ballad had three verses. This evening, Mr. Murdoch appears as *Hamlet*. As his engagement does not extend beyond this week, he cannot repeat any character.

At the National Circus, the spectacle of "Cinderella," very handsomely got up, Van Amburgh's menagerie, and a variety of performances—equestrian, gymnastic, and acrobatic—continue to draw good houses every week.

We hear that Silas Steele's "Our African Cousin," a clever parody on "Our American Cousin," will probably be brought out on Friday evening at McDonough's Varieties, Race street. We hope to see it.

EXTRA VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.—The sale of the splendid new banking house, on *Tuesday next*, will be absolute, by order of the assignees. It will be open for examination every day previous to sale.

The sale that evening will also comprise two valuable Market-street stores; an elegant Walnut-street residence; valuable city lots; large lot on Spruce street; 46 acres Twenty-fourth ward; a number of desirable city dwellings, building lots, ground rents, stocks, &c., by order of trustees, executors, and others. See Thomas & Sons' advertisement, auction head.

BY MIDNIGHT MAIL.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1859.

The influence of the ladies on legislation in Washington is not to be despised. It is very considerable. Would you believe it?—many of these lovely creatures are by no means indifferent to the bills (as well as the Williams, before Congress. Those whom you would suppose most delighted with the amusements of the saloon and the opera; those whom you would regard as excessively devoted to society, with all its charming varieties, are often *experts* at the game of helping a private bill through Congress, and not wholly disinterested at that! A Washington woman is a character for Thackeray to limn with his pen-pencil. Let me try to imitate the English satirist. "This is the 22d of February, my dear! What do you think Mrs. Martha Washington would have thought of being asked to help such a vile sin as Lecompton through? What would the *lovely women of the days of Adams* and Hamilton have said if they had been invoked to the aid of such schemes as now employ your fair pastime? There goes Miss Margery, the grand-daughter of Col. First-family-of-Virginia, arm-in-arm with Mr. George, grandson of the last of the Shoemakers who fought at Bunker Hill—and George is in Congress!—and see how Margery plies him for the French spoliation. And look, my dear! there is the young widow, whose soldier-husband died only last New-year's day, besieging the old bachelor of the Senate for a pension. Don't tell me of the past—of your better times, and lovelier women, and honester men, my dear—this is the age for female virtue and manly *dignity*. What if we allow our wives and daughters to button-hole members of Congress for private bills? What if they are interested in small matters of legislation: Is this not the age of progress and of principle—of patriotism and of place?" Dropping Thackeray, allow me to ask you to republish the article from Eli Thayer's Ceredo (Va.) Crescent, which I enclose. Whether he wrote the article or not, it is exceedingly pertinent.

The Republicans are excessively indignant at this attempt of John M. Botts to dragoon them into a national party. They admit his talent and his power, but they declare that rather than yield to his plan of a national party, as foreshadowed in his Virginia speech, and in his speech of to-day in New York, they would ten thousand times prefer to see the Douglas Democracy succeed. Mr. Washburne of Maine, Mr. Lovejoy of Illinois, Mr. Giddings of Ohio, Mr. Trumbull of Illinois, and even Mr. Covode of Pennsylvania, are bitterly hostile to Mr. Botts and his programme. In the meanwhile, there is no doubt that Mr. Botts is carrying off the Virginia Whigs, and that he has many friends in the North.

When your *friend* Buchanan determined to prove to the world that he could not be animated by any regard for the gallant men who had so long borne minority and defeat in his name, preferring both to any surrender of his cause, he was not satisfied with this act of grace. He desired to crown it with the ever green of enduring hatred to his friends; and so, when he put under his feet the warm hearts who had toiled for him so long, he elevated to his confidence, and took to his embrace, the columniator of these gallant men and of himself, James Gordon Bennett. Bennett, upon Mr. Buchanan's theory is *entitled* to his highest regard. He has always hated Buchanan. He has *always* been in the hands of Buchanan's foes. The gifted yet eccentric Senator Westcott of New York; General Cameron, of Pennsylvania, and, until the President was elected, Chevalier Wikoff—all swerved the *Herald* against Mr. Buchanan. Bennett turned S. M. Johnston, now of the Washington *Union*, out of the *Herald*, for advocating Buchanan. Bennett persecuted Hon. D. E. Sickles, till he compelled him to crawl at his feet begging for pardon. Bennett has always been *your* enemy. Bennett slandered Mr. Corcoran in the most shameless manner. Bennett attacks Mr. Belmont; he laughs at Cobb; he denounces the Cabinet; he is against Mr. Bright and Mr. Slidell, and he has an especial horror of every friend of the President in New York and Washington. Those are the titles that Bennett holds to the confidence of Buchanan, and I can assure you they are duly honored at the White House.

The President intends performing some extraordinary antics at the close of the short session, in the way of appointments. Some strange things are in contemplation—some removals and appointments. I will not be at all astonished if a few of the especial toadies of power are not hoisted out of place by the easiest possible process.

Secretary Toucey will be very incompletely whitewashed by the Sherman committee. He has been a sad failure to the country. His mistake and misfortune have been his inordinate anxiety to help his relatives and dependants. This is a good way to make money for one's self.

The committee on the corruptions in the Navy Department has made the usual blunder of such committees. All that was necessary was to report the evidence. That Mr. Toucey has been the head and front of many most disreputable transactions cannot be doubted, and that some of his subordinates should be censured, is equally certain. But he escapes under a conflict between the different members of the committee. Fortunately, we can demand the evidence. Let us have the facts, gentlemen! PIONEER.

Letter from Harrisburg.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

HARRISBURG, Feb. 22, 1859.

Mr. Miller presented a joint resolution relative to the Mount Vernon Fund Association, which proposes an appropriation of $2,000 on the part of the State to the purposes of said Association.

Mr. Randall, "A further supplement to the act incorporating the Cambria Iron Company," by which the president and directors of said company are enabled to create and issue any amount not exceeding 65,000 shares of stock, of the par value of $10 per share, to be used for the purpose of providing a fund for the redemption, by purchase or otherwise, of the second mortgage bonds of this company, falling due on the January 1st, 1865, together with the interest thereon, and the balance for the purpose of increasing the cash means of this company; said stock may be sold, or subscribed and paid for at par either in money or in the second mortgage bonds, and shall be deemed and taken as a preferred stock, and shall be entitled, semi-annually, to seven per cent. per annum out of the profits made. The excess, if any, may be applicable to constitute a sinking fund or dividend.

Mr. Brewer, a bill requiring cashiers of banks to make out monthly statements of the amount of the liabilities to the bank of the directors thereof, specifying the amount of such liabilities of each director, as maker, drawer and endorser, for his own benefit, contracted either in his separate capacity or as a member of a firm or copartnership, and the amount of such liabilities as endorser or surety, for the benefit of any other persons.

Mr. Welsh, an act requiring railroad companies to make uniform annual reports to the Auditor General. This bill makes it the duty of the Auditor General to have printed blank forms for annual reports, to be forwarded to the several companies before the first of October in each year, which, when received from the companies, are to be filed in his office, and copies of which are to be transmitted to the Legislature. The company guilty of neglect or refusal to comply is liable to a fine of $5,000.

The bill relating to evidence, offered by Judge Bell, as an amendment to the one prepared by Mr. Coffey, came up in order this morning.

The first section—reading thus: "That no person shall be excluded from testifying as a witness in any judicial proceeding in this Commonwealth by reason of his having been convicted of a felony, after he shall have undergone the judgment consequent thereon, or been relieved therefrom by Executive pardon—was amended, on motion of Mr. Palmer, of Schuylkill, by striking out all after the word 'felony,' and inserting the words 'that the record of said conviction may be given in evidence, as heretofore, to affect the credibility of said witness.'"

The 2d section—"That no person shall be excluded from testifying as a witness in any such judicial proceeding, by reason of any interest he may have in the event thereof: Provided, however, that this section shall not apply to a party to the record, nor to any person for whose immediate benefit the action may be prosecuted or defended"—was, on motion of the same Senator, amended by striking out the proviso, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "but may be examined as a witness in the manner hereinafter provided."

Sec. 4, which makes provision for a party to the record being called as a witness by the adverse party, was proposed to be amended by the same Senator, by inserting in the last clause reading thus: "but the party calling for such examination shall not be concluded thereby, but may rebut it by counter testimony," the words "his own," or before the word "counter," so as to make it read "may rebut it by his own or counter testimony." This amendment was accepted by the friends of Mr. Coffey's bill as a partial advance towards their views. Judge Bell expressed himself as opposed to this feature being engrafted upon his bill. The amendment is still pending.

There was an acknowledged probability of Judge B.'s bill passing, but the incorporation of the above amendments, especially the latter, which gives it an entirely new phase, will most certainly jeopard its passage.

The birthday of Washington, gloriously rich in clustering associations, sacred memories, and patriotic impulses, is permitted to pass without any public expression of national joy and enthusiasm. Flags float, not—music fires not—feasts fill not. Nothing ceremonial or anniversarial save the reading of the Farewell Address in the Senate, which was performed, as generally remarked, in a most masterly and stirring manner by General W. H. Miller, the efficient and eloquent chief clerk of that body. Seldom have we seen such constant attention and impressive silence during the reading of that gem of national papers, which is radiant with the lustre of purest patriotism and love of liberty. ALBION.

AT THE ELECTION for delegates to County Convention, on Saturday, 19th inst., James S. McMahon, Thomas Welsh, Philip Alt, John Slask, and Jos. M. Watts, friends to Governor Packer's administration, were elected by a large majority to represent the North ward of Columbia borough.

A reward of $5,000 is offered for the discovery and arrest of the murderer of George Miller, clerk of the Union Bank at Jackson, Tennessee. The amount stolen by the murderer is now ascertained to be something over $23,000.

HERR JOACHIM, according to some the greatest violin player of the age, has completed a new concerto for the violin.

Anniversary of the Merchants' Fund Society.

The Fifth Anniversary of this Association was held at Musical Fund Hall last evening, and was attended by a most respectable audience, just large enough to fill every seat, the tickets having been judiciously limited to the capacity of the hall. The platform was occupied by many of our principal merchants, and professional gentlemen who have taken an active interest in the objects of the society. There were three speeches made appropriate to the occasion, and an orchestra under the direction of Professor Hassler discoursed musically during the intervals.

The first business of the evening was the reading of the annual report by the Secretary, the substance of which has already appeared in our columns. During the past year, the relief appropriations have amounted to $1,367.50. The present number of members is 505, of whom 93 are life, and 412 annual contributors.

From the report of the treasurer, W. C. Ludwig, Esq., it appears that the receipts from all sources have been $3,975 85, and the disbursements $1 604 37, leaving a balance in the treasury of $2 374 48, which will be needed to meet appropriations payable before the collections of this year's dues. The present investments of the association are $2,700, in city six-per cent. loans.

William Welsh, Esq., was the first speaker of the evening. He opened with a brief allusion to the meaning of the term merchant, by making a somewhat critical reference to man's development, physically, morally, and intellectually. In the course of his remarks the speaker cited, as a strange coincidence, the fact that Columbus had discovered this country by mistake in his search for the East Indies, and that now the East Indies threw open their arms with greater willingness to the commerce of America and our Christian missionaries than to those of any other land. Numerous other facts in connection with this were introduced, to show the reciprocity of feeling naturally existing between the people of that distant country and the people of America, among which the successful treaty between the two countries, recently effected through Mr. Reed, was specially dwelt upon.

The object of Mr. Welsh was to lay a foundation for introducing an argument for the necessity of our merchants fitting themselves for the vast responsibilities which are centering around them. The honorable progress which had been made by our merchants towards a higher moral and religious standard within the last thirty years was also dwelt upon by the speaker. He remembered that, thirty years ago, the note of a man was actually regarded with less favor for his connection with a religious organization. And the same applied to the press of our city and land. It was not unsafe to say that more intelligence of a religious character was contained in one day's issue of our secular press now than, thirty years ago, would have appeared in the columns of our newspapers in three hundred days. In illustration of the probity of our merchants, a graphic description was given of the trifling losses sustained by our banks compared with the amount of their discounts. He had taken pains to obtain facts bearing on this point, and had learned that in three of our principal banks, the discounts of which had, in a given period, amounted to three hundred and ninety-seven millions, the entire loss sustained by them from non-payment had but reached the comparatively insignificant sum of fifty-six thousand dollars.

The next speaker introduced to the audience was Hon. Mayor Henry. He opened with a delicate tribute to the gentleman who had preceded him, stating that he had just realized the truth of a remark made by Bishop Potter on the same platform, on a former occasion, that none could so well present the claims of this society as the merchant himself. He then eulogized in eloquent terms the charitable associations of our country, and especially that the anniversary of which they had assembled to celebrate. The intimate relations sustained by this society to the integrity of the merchant were critically dwelt upon. There were times when misfortune bore heavily upon the merchant, when not a few were subjected to the loss of all they possessed except their honor—the loss of which alone was in its nature irreparable—and in such times the saving influence of such an association as the Merchants' Fund was incalculable. It had always been found that the merchants of our land had been most liberal in their contributions to the growth and prosperity of our institutions. Eleven of the signets of the *Declaration of Independence had been merchants*, and upon the ears of none had the glad tidings that "Cornwallis was taken" fallen with more joy-inspiring power than upon those of our merchants, whose money and sympathies had more deeply than any other class been enlisted in that glorious struggle for liberty.

The last speaker of the evening was the Rev. Dr. Vinton. He also opened with a few smooth sentences bestowed upon his predecessor, Mayor Henry. There were two or three things of interest attached to the very idea of the society.

First, that it was a charity; second, that it was a fraternal charity; but at last there was something in the title of this society *apparently contradictory*, which was interesting to consider. A *merchant's charitable fund* implied a *gift* of charity to that class, which, above all others, dispenses wealth to the world.

The mere name of *merchant*, he knew, signified merely an exchange of commodities. Yet, we could not doubt that it was pre-eminently the destiny of the merchant to send the Gospel throughout the world. Their capabilities, as such, were immeasurable. But here came in the other thought, that this *class*, which had constituted the princes of wealth in all ages, should be found impoverished and in need of charity. But, as he thought upon this, he remembered that a strong craft was sometimes dismantled by an adverse wind, and so the merchant, in trusting his wealth to the fidelity of the conscience of his debtors, was unavoidably wrecked. The wonder was, not that this society should exist, but that there were not many others organized; yet, instead of this, the merchant fund in Philadelphia lifted its solitary head as the only monument of this noble solicitude for the welfare of indigent merchants.

Dr. Vinton's comments upon the prosperity, the adversity, and the effects of failure upon the energies of members, were at once forcible and philosophical. His estimate of this humane society was of the highest character, and he thought every merchant should esteem it a privilege to be a contributor to it. The heaven-born sympathy which was so beautifully embodied in an organization like this, was alone sufficient to entitle it to the best wishes of man and the blessing of God.

The addresses elicited the closest attention of the audience, and were greeted with frequent applause during their delivery.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, Second Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.

SENATE.

Mr. KING, of New York, presented the memorial of John Reeves, naval architect of Brooklyn, asking that the United States minister at Constantinople be instructed to urge his claim upon the Turkish Government. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. FITCH, of Indiana, from the Committee on Printing, moved to reconsider the resolution to print 5,000 extra copies of the coast survey for distribution along the seaboard. This motion gave rise to considerable discussion, pending which

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, moved to take up the executive, legislative, and judicial appropriation bill, which was discussed.

The bill appropriates as follows:—For Senators' compensation and mileage, $319,018; Senate officers, clerks, *messengers, and others*, $78,900; *contingent expenses*, viz., binding, $50,000; engraving, $30,000; stationery, $5,000; newspapers, $1,000; Congressional *Globe* and binding, $49,8 0; reporting proceedings for the Congressional *Globe*, $18,016; committees' clerks, pages, police, horses and carriages, $32,000; miscellaneous items, $20,000; compensation and mileage of members and delegates of the House of Representatives $1,010,000; House officers, clerks, messengers, and others, $78,000; House contingent expenses, viz., binding, $75 0 0, stationery, $15,000; horses $3,600; newspapers, $14,000; engraving, $50 0.0; various items, for labor, police, &c., $25,000; folding documents, $30,000; miscellaneous, $40,000; committees' clerks, temporary and otherwise, $17,000; John C. Rives one cent extra per *page over 3,000 pages of the Congressional Globe*, $11,000; usual additional compensation to the *Globe* reporters, $4,000; paper for printing for the Thirty-sixth Congress, $.00,000; printing, $70,000; miscellaneous, library, and printing, about $30,000; *Court of* Claims, $31,000; Executive Department, $.9,000; Department of State, about $87,000.

At this point, the hour of half-past one o'clock arriving, a debate ensued as to the *order of business*, the Vice President submitting to the Senate whether the appropriation bill should be considered, or the bill for the acquisition of Cuba be taken up.

Mr. SLIDELL, of Louisiana, said that, if the Cuba bill was postponed, he would consider it as an evasion of a direct vote on the bill. He had been informed by its opponents that they intended to prevent a vote upon it this session. He regretted that its friends were missing as the dinner hour approached, while the Opposition seemed to be disciplined, and were better setters. He trusted that the bill would be disposed of this session.

The vote being taken on the question of postponing the Cuban bill, it was agreed to—yeas 33, nays 32.

The Senate then resumed the appropriation bill.

Treasury Department, about $660,000; Interior Department, $110,000; Surveyors General, $103,000; War Department, $180,600; Navy Department, $107,600; Post Office Department, $180,000. Executive Printing, $ 8,000; Philadelphia Mint, $145,000; San Francisco Mint, $141,000; New York Assay Office, $46,700; New Orleans Mint, $0,000; Charlotte Mint, $8,000; Dahlonega Mint, $8,000; Government of Oregon, $34,000; Government of New Mexico, $17,000; Government of Utah, $8,000; Government of Washington $34,000; Government of Nebraska, $36,000; Government of Kansas, $33,000; Judiciary, $197,600; Attorney General, $94,000; Independent Treasury, $126,000; Expenses of Collection of Land Revenue, $365,000.

DEFICIENCIES.—In paper for first session 35th Congress, $88,560; in paper for second session 35th Congress, $78,500; in printing for second session 35th Congress, $52,000; Washington city items, about $60,000; Miscellaneous, about $50,000.

The total amount of appropriations is about $5,500,000.

The only amendments of importance introduced in the bill were those from the Finance Committee, making an appropriation of $20,000 to take a census of the population of Kansas, with a view to the admission of that Territory into the Union as a State; also, $8,000 to pay the Oregon Senators; also, additional sections relating to the Mint—namely, extending the time for the issue of cents to two years; also, that the refined gold bullion shall be deposited at the Mint, or any of its branches, the treasurer shall make payments therefor as soon as coined, and that the charge for coining from refined gold bullion shall be three-eighths of one per centum. All of which were adopted.

Mr. KING, of New York, offered an amendment to the bill that any surplus in the receipts over the expenditures of the Assay Office in New York shall be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, in the alteration of the premises, and purchase of machinery for coining gold and silver, and, as soon as possible, that coining be commenced.

Mr. KING and Mr. SEWARD, of New York, advocated the resolution, against Mr. BIGLER, of Pennsylvania, and the debate was entered into with considerable pertinacity all round.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, although he had no partiality for either city, thought the New York office merely asked permission to expend the savings it had made by judicious management. It would be economical and wise to have the money coined at New York, where the gold is brought, instead of having it carted to Philadelphia and back.

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, raised a point of order.

Mr. IVERSON, of Georgia, who occupied the chair, sustained Mr. Hunter, and decided that the surplus, if any, at the New York Assay Office, belonged to the Treasury. Hence Mr. King's amendment was equivalent to an additional appropriation, and therefore out of order.

Mr. KING said he would not appeal from the decision of the Chair; but would take another opportunity to put the subject before the Senate.

At a later period of the debate, Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, moved to strike out all the appropriations for the Assay Office at New York.

Mr. CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, said they are a careful and prudent people in Philadelphia. He did not mean to impeach the integrity of the people of New York; but they are a "great" people—they do things magnificently and expensively. In fact, a great deal of money is wasted in that great city, which aspires to be not only the commercial, but the political metropolis of this country.

Mr. CLINGMAN said if his amendment prevailed, he would move to abolish the interior custom houses in New York State.

Mr. SEWARD said this was the first time he ever knew that any member of this house thought he could affect the State of New York by a deprival of the patronage of the Federal Government. He (Seward) was perfectly willing for anybody to try it. Let them go ahead, and see how they would come out of it. The New York Assay Office had been established for four years, in which time ninety-six millions of gold and four and a half millions of silver had been stamped. The cost of transport to and from Philadelphia is one dollar per thousand dollars of gold, and three dollars per thousand pounds weight of silver. The transport of that amount, equal to $73,000, was saved by the Assay Office.

Mr. IVERSON said the mints of North Carolina and Georgia were established *for the poorer classes of the miners* of the surface mines, the New York assay office for the benefit of the *rich*, such as Astor and other millionaires.

Mr. CAMERON said this was the first time he had ever heard of poor men in the South. He would let them have their little mints; they do not cost much, and if we are civil to them they will be civil to us.

Mr. TOOMBS, of Georgia, in reply to a question put by Mr. Hale, frankly admitted that the circumstances which rendered the establishment of a mint in his State necessary had passed away; hence the mint was unnecessary. When the Mint was established at Philadelphia it was the centre of the country; now New York is the financial centre. New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco are the places where there should be mints. As regards the question of retrenchment he would abolish expense whether large or small, and without reference to the locality, wherever the public received no corresponding benefit.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, was opposed to the New York Assay Office. His opinion was, that the mint should be at Washington.

Several other Senators spoke for and against the amendment.

And finally Mr. Clingman's motion was lost by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Bayard, Clay, Clingman, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hammond, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Jones, Polk, Pugh, Reid, and Sebastian—14.

NAYS—Messrs. Bell, Benjamin, Bigler, Bright, Broderick, Brown, Cameron, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Durkee, Fessenden, Foster, Gwin, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, Hunter, Johnson of Tennessee, Kennedy, King, Lane, Rice, Seward, Simmons, Slidell, Smith, Stuart, Toombs, Trumbull, Wade, Ward, and Wilson—38.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, moved that the mints at Charlotte and Dahlonega be abolished, and that the President be authorized to sell the sites.

Mr. BAYARD, of Delaware, moved to include the Assay Office at York.

Mr. Bayard's amendment was lost, and Mr. Trumbull's adopted.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, introduced, as a new section, that the mileage of Senators be reduced from forty to twenty cents. He considered that that was as much as it ought to be. His own opinion was, however, more in favor of a graduated scale, from fifteen to twenty-five cents—according to the distance. As this House bill makes an appropriation for the mileage of members, he would accept it as an indication that the House condemns the present system, and he would meet them with this proposal.

Mr. HUNTER, of Virginia, said this was a delicate and difficult matter, and had better be incorporated in another bill. Mr. Hunter himself could make the suggestion without prejudice, as he receives no mileage, or next to none.

Mr. Wilson's amendment was lost.

Mr. HALE moved, as an additional section, to repeal the restriction clause of the act to admit Kansas, and called on the Oregon Senators to do for her as they themselves had been done by.

Mr. LANE, of Oregon, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon, said that when Kansas came before Congress seeking admission, they could act by her with justice. Mr. Smith made a speech of some length.

Mr. DOUGLAS, of Illinois, took the floor, and proceeded to say that his sentiments were well known; they had undergone no change, and he did not expect they will change. He held that Kansas ought to come in, irrespective of the census, with such a Constitution as she shall choose. Hence he did not admit the necessity of the appropriation for taking the census. He wanted either this appropriation stricken out or the restrictive clause repealed.

Mr. GREEN, of Missouri, entered his protest against the introduction of this exciting and inflammatory subject. He mentioned that he was not only to-day authorized to report against a Constitution framed at Leavenworth, and which had been offered by the Senator from New York, and he was delaying it at the instance of the delegate from Kansas, who says the people do not wish to come in under that Constitution. Mr. Green concluded by inculcating the duty of preserving a unity in feeling in all sections of the country.

After several attempts to adjourn, most of them being defeated by the vigilance of Mr. HUNTER, who was anxious to get the bill passed, the Senate finally adjourned at a late hour.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts, moved to take up the bill granting bounty lands to privateersmen. Lost—yeas 77, nays 80.

The bill consequently goes to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and will probably not be reached this session.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Post Office appropriation bill.

Mr. HATCH, of New York, offered an amendment providing that the supplies for the department be given out by contract to the lowest bidder. He said there was a similar provision in the organic law of New York, which had saved millions from corruption and fraud. This was the only method of effecting a reform.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. GARNETT, of Virginia spoke of the constantly increasing expenses of the Post Office Department. If they grow at the rate of a million dollars a year, there is no telling where they will stop. He offered an amendment restricting the Postmaster General to the present appropriation in the next year's expenditures.

Mr. BARKSDALE, of Mississippi, said the service had been increased on the application of members of Congress, and he complimented the Postmaster General on having extended mail facilities to the hitherto neglected South and West.

Mr. SICKLES, of New York, remarked that the amendment would be a positive relief to the Postmaster General, and he could not imagine how it could in any possible sense be offensive to him.

Mr. SEWARD, of Georgia, offered an amendment providing that the money shall be spent equally in all the States. *He did so to show the utter folly and impracticability of Mr. Garnett's position, that the Post Office Department could be made self-sustaining.*

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, of New York, was convinced that the department should not be, in an economical or political sense, a self-sustaining machine; as to the State of New York, the receipts were largely in excess of the *expenditures*.

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, thought the department should be self-sustaining. It was so in former years, under all the disadvantages not now existing.

Mr. COCHRANE, resuming, spoke in favor of the abrogation of the franking privilege as the commencement of a wholesome reform.

Mr. MOORE, of Alabama, said if the receipts of New York were largely in excess of the expenditures, it was because the ocean mail facilities were conferred on the city of New York.

Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, made similar remarks.

Mr. SICKLES, of New York, replied, asserting, on official data, that the service in New York is self-sustaining, and that the State is a creditor to the amount of a hundred thousand annually.

Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, thought this rivalry between gentlemen in and out of New York should here cease. He trusted that when the ocean mail steamer bill shall come up, gentlemen will exercise a wise discretion, and distribute that kind of service all over the Union, and not confine it to New York, which has so many commercial and artificial advantages. The effect of Mr. Garnett's amendment, he said, would be to curtail the service.

Mr. BRANCH, of North Carolina, favored Mr. Garnett's amendment, while he would make the most liberal postal arrangements. It was only of late years that the Postmaster General has been allowed to call on the public Treasury, and this presented a greater reason why Congress should limit and control his discretion in the expenditures.

Mr. GARNETT said his amendment had nothing to do with the ocean or overland mails. He merely asked that the purse of the nation shall remain under the Constitution, and not at the indiscriminate mercies of *any executive officer*.

After further debate, Mr. Garnett's amendment was rejected—yeas 34, nays not counted.

Messrs. AVERY and ATKINS, of Tennessee, severally replied to the remarks made yesterday by Mr Blair, and with much earnestness defended the Postmaster General from the charge that in selecting the overland route he was influenced by personal considerations. They said it was true that the Postmaster General owned land in Arkansas, but not within eighty miles of the route, and that on the Mississippi.

Mr. BLAIR, of Missouri, said that Mr. Craig, of Mississippi, and Mr. English, of Indiana, informed him that the *Postmaster General owned land in Arkansas*.

Mr. ENGLISH denied that he ever communicated any such information.

Mr. ENGLISH explained. He did say in selecting the route there was more of politics than advancing the value of the public lands, and that he thought it was the pioneer of the Pacific Railroad. He, however, had attributed no unworthy motive to the Postmaster, to whom the Administration was indebted for three-fourths of its popularity. [Laughter.]

Mr. FLORENCE, of Pennsylvania, denied that the Postmaster's land touched anywhere near the route.

Mr. BLAIR wished to know how the gentleman knew that fact.

Mr. FLORENCE replied that he asked the postmaster this morning. The route had been heretofore adopted by the late Gen. Rusk.

These explanations occasioned not a little excitement.

Without concluding action on the bill, the committee rose.

On motion of Mr. BURNETT, the House took up and passed the Senate bill incorporating the Washington National Monument Society. It contains the names of the gentlemen representing the various branches of the public service as the managers, including Lieutenant-General Scott, together with civilians. The President of the United States is ex-officio president of the society.

Mr. ENGLISH, rising to an explanation, remarked that he had never said, in conversation with Mr Blair, of his own knowledge, that the Postmaster General owned lands in Arkansas in the vicinity of the overland route, although he might have spoken of such rumors in circulation. But he had no recollection of even doing this.

Mr BLAIR replied that he had never quoted Mr. English as asserting the fact of his own knowledge.

On motion of Mr. COVODE, Harry Connolly, after whom the Sergeant-at-arms had been sent, to compel his attendance as a witness before the committee investigating the accounts of the late Superintendent of Printing, was discharged.

Mr. HUGHES, of Indiana, asked leave to introduce a bill to revive the tariff of 1846.

Mr. PHELPS of Missouri, had previously moved a recess for general debate.

Several motions were made to adjourn, and the contest between the friends of an adjournment and those in favor of a recess was confusedly kept up for a long time.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, said that it was at his instance a recess had been moved. He wished thereby to facilitate business, but the gentlemen on the other side had refused this arrangement.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, was opposed to seven or eight gentlemen coming here in the evening and publishing speeches, some of which were never delivered.

Wearied out with the contest, the House adjourned.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 22, 1859.

A number of petitions on a variety of subjects were presented.

The Committee on Roads and Bridges reported a number of bills favorably.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. BREWER, one relative to banks of this Commonwealth.

Mr. WELSH, one requiring railroad companies to make an annual statement of their affairs to the Auditor General.

Mr. MILLER introduced a series of joint resolutions relative to the Mount Vernon Fund Association.

Mr. FITLER introduced a joint resolution instructing the Senators and requesting the Representatives in Congress to vote for a bill granting pensions to the soldiers of the several wars.

The bill relative to evidence was discussed at length by Messrs. Bell, Palmer, Coffey, Finney, Marselis, Harris and Schofield, and is still pending on second reading.

Washington's Farewell Address was read and ordered to be printed, after which the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House met at seven o'clock this evening, there being scarcely a quorum present.

Washington's Farewell Address was read, after which the House adjourned.

Address of John Minor Botts.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—John Minor Botts, of Virginia, addressed an immense audience this afternoon, at the Academy of Music, on the subject of "National Politics." His sentiments were enthusiastically responded to.

The birthday of Washington was otherwise appropriately celebrated by the military and various civic societies. The weather was propitious, and the streets were thronged throughout the day.

The Black Warrior.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—The agent of the Board of Underwriters expresses the hope of succeeding in the effort to save the steamship Black Warrior.

Kentucky Politics.

OPPOSITION CONVENTION.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 22.—The Kentucky Opposition Convention met to-day. Ex-Governor Letcher presides.

A committee was appointed to report the resolutions.

An immense crowd has congregated, and nearly every county in the State is represented.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP AFRICA.

THE WAR FEELING.

NEW YORK, Feb 22.—The steamship *Africa* has arrived, with Liverpool dates to the 5th inst., the same as brought by the Prince Albert at St. Johns.

Baron Von Gerolt is a passenger by the Africa.

The Africa spoke, on the 6th, the steamship Niagara, bound to Liverpool, off Ballycotton; also, the Jura, off Cork. On the 11th, she passed the Europa, for Liverpool, in lat. 50 deg., long. 25 deg., and on the 15th, the steamer Arabia, for Liverpool, in lat. 46 deg., long. 40 deg.

The ship Thomas H. Perkins, from Liverpool for Philadelphia, returned to port on the 21 inst., leaky. She was to discharge her cargo and receive the necessary repairs.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

NEW YORK, Feb 22.—The Africa brings fifty passengers, including Baron Von Gerolt, the Prussian Minister to the United States.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

LONDON, Saturday, Feb 5.—The funds opened, yesterday, at ⅛ decline, and closed at ⅜ lower than Thursday's quotations. Nearly all the other classes of securities show a decided decline.

There was also a great fall in the French funds, yesterday, equal to ⅜, making 1½ in two days, and fully 6½ since New Year's day.

The London *Daily News* argues from the remarks of the Premier and Chancellor of the Exchequer that the position of foreign affairs is most critical. The ministers are unable to furnish authoritative explanations respecting the intentions of the French Emperor. It is felt more clearly than ever that the preservation of peace depends on the will of one individual.

The *Times'* city article says that the conviction is that war is intended to be *provoked*.

The discussions in Parliament have had a very discouraging effect, which was greatly aggravated by an announcement that Sardinia was attempting to make a loan, and also by an imperial pamphlet on Italy.

All the other city journals are also speculating on the war question.

The London *Times* says in a leading editorial that "the torch of war once lighted, no one can tell when it will be quenched. To England there seems to be but one duty—that of saying energetically that without war, or any other disturbance of the general peace of Europe, Italy shall be free."

In another part of the city article, the *Times* says: "It is presumed that the Sardinian loan is to be raised in Turin, but if that be impracticable, then at Paris, under French guarantee. In London it would be scarcely entertained for a moment. The fall in the 5 per cents since the 1st of January has been already nearly equal to ten per cent."

Advices received by telegraph state that fighting has commenced in Montenegro. The Russians have been repulsed in an attempt to take the town of Theladj[illegible]k, on the Circassian coast.

Connecticut Politics.

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 22.—The Democrats of the Second Congressional district, to-day, re-nominated Hon. Saml. Arnold for member of Congress, and the Democrats of the Fourth district re-nominated W. D. Bishop. The latter convention passed resolutions in support of the Administration.

The Ohio River.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—The river is rising very slowly.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WHEATLEY & CLARKE'S ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—"The Iron Mask"—"Doctor Dilworth."

NEW WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—"Hamlet"—"Aunt Charlotte's Maid."

NATIONAL CIRCUS.—"Van Amburgh's Menagerie"—"Lent's Circus Company"—"Equestrian, Gymnastic and Acrobatic feats."

McDONOUGH'S GAIETIES.—Selections from Plays, Gems from Operas, Pantomimes, Dancing, and Singing.

THOMPSON'S VARIETIES.—"Miscellaneous Entertainments."

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS.—Signor Blitz.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATED.—The one hundred and twenty-seventh anniversary of Washington's birthday was celebrated yesterday with more unanimity and feeling than we remember to have seen on any previous occasion. The day was eminently auspicious, the air being soft and temperate and the sunshine delicious. Added to all, the feeling now prevailing our national heart, in favor of the glorious effort being made by the ladies of the land to make the tomb of Washington a National Mecca contributed largely to this result. The day was ushered in by a merry ringing of bells—the chimes of Christ Church and St Stephen's sounding most melodiously in the morning air. In the navy yard a national salute was fired at sunrise. During the day the ships in our port displayed their bunting in the most patriotic profusion. Flags were suspended in all portions of our city—from the State House, the public buildings, the halls of the fire companies, and from many private dwellings. The military, as a general thing, turned out in gallant array, and paraded our streets with feathers and uniform and muskets and fearful accoutrements of horror breeding wars, to the stirring music of the martial fife and drum. Chestnut street, *the* thoroughfare, was thronged the live-long day with crowds of fair ladies and brave men, arrayed in holiday attire and radiant with smiling healthfulness.

There is something in the memory of the illustrious Washington that inspires our people with a feeling beyond enthusiasm. The sacred awe in which his name is held is a most beautiful thing and never was it so exemplified as yesterday. It seems to grow brighter with each succeeding year, and more and more glorious as the distance between his day and ours grows longer.

Hallowed be the memory of Washington!

OPENING OF THE NEW HALL OF THE COLUMBIA ENGINE COMPANY.—The new hall of the Columbia Engine Company, on Filbert street, above Eleventh, was formally dedicated last evening. The building is of a very neat order of architecture, and the manner in which the rooms were decorated reflects great credit on the committee having the matter in charge. The company formed in procession at the doors of their old house, and marched to the new building. A great number of ladies were in attendance, and enlivened the scene with their smiles. The crowd was very great, the rooms being literally jammed. On order being restored, Mr P Gallagher, in a very neat and appropriate speech, formally dedicated the building to the uses for which it was intended. The keys of the building were then handed by the chairman of the building committee to the president, who received them in the name of the members.

Mr. William Dunn was then introduced to the assemblage, and delivered the dedicatory oration. It was a very eloquent effort, and was loudly applauded. He alluded to the day on which they were assembled, to the great names of Washington and Columbus, whose glorious deeds were blended together in this great nation, Columbia. Continuing in a strain of eulogy on Washington's memory, the speaker paid a glowing tribute to his character and his deeds.

He concluded by expressing the hope that the company, whose hall had just been dedicated to the uses of philanthropy, would only be severed when the raven night becomes as white as virgin snow, when the starry eyes of heaven are forever closed in death, and the universe is laid in its mighty coffin.

Several other speeches were made, by Engineer Fearon and several members of the company. Old Jacob Tripler, the oldest member of the Fire Department now living, sang one or two songs, and the crowd dispersed about 9 o'clock, after viewing the building and its many arrangements.

DEPOSITION AND INQUEST.—We have mentioned, hitherto, the death of John Park from injuries received in Fist Iron Row, on Friday night. Before the unfortunate man's decease, he made a deposition to Alderman Cloud to the following effect: "I live in Canal street, near Cumberland, in the Nineteenth ward; I am of the opinion that my life is in danger from the wounds I have received; John Sweeney came to my house on Friday night, the 18th day of February, 1859, after 10 o'clock; after he was there awhile, two other men came, whose names I do not know; between ten and eleven o'clock John Sweeney called me out of the door; I went out, and he asked me if I could tell him where he could get liquor to drink; I told him no; the other two men were standing out there; they did not come into the house at all, but went away; after some time John Sweeney opened the door again, and asked me to come out and get something to drink; *I told him I did not want anything*; he then said come out, there is a machinist that wants to see you; I went out; the other two men were there with him; John Sweeney stabbed me three times; I do not know what *he did it for, unless the other men set him on*: there was no fight between us; I had no knife or anything else in my hand; I am positive that Sweeney did it." Sweeney, the person Park implicates in his deposition, *is in prison. He is but nineteen years of age*, and is an Irishman. The murdered man leaves a family. At an inquest held on the body yesterday morning, the jury rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death from stabs, inflicted with a knife in the hands of *John Sweeney, on the night of the 18th inst.*

The evidence elicited at the inquest went to show that Park had been stabbed between the 10th and 11th ribs, in his left side, and also in his groin—said wounds causing his death. It was also in evidence that there was a scuffle between the deceased and Sweeny. After the scuffle, it was discovered Park had been stabbed. He charged Sweeny at the time with inflicting the wound, and repeated the charge in his affidavit, which we have printed above. The witnesses examined were Dr. Grier, Mary Jordan, Richard Park, Mr. Ritterson, and Alderman Cloud. The first witness, Mary Jordan, testified to the fact of hearing a fight between Sweeny and Park. She shortly afterwards heard Park call on her to come and dress his wounds, for John Sweeny had stabbed him. The mother of the witness ordered Park to clear out when he remonstrated, saying "That is all right, if you order me away when I am dying." He turned and went away, when he met the defendant Sweeny and his mother on their way home. Park said to Sweeny, "Why did you stab me?" and Sweeny replied by asking Park why he had hit him with a porter bottle. The witness did not see Park with a knife at any time during the evening. When Park was lying on a settee, he asked his son several times what John Sweeny had stabbed him for.

Richard Park testified to the circumstances of the fight; to taking Sweeny home; to discovering afterwards that deceased was stabbed; to his alleging that Sweeny stabbed him, and to the fact that he had seen no knife in Sweeny's hand during the evening. Sweeny and Park were both intoxicated at the time.

Alderman Cloud testified to taking the deposition of Park. From what he could learn, deceased's wife was a notoriously drunken woman, and Sweeny was in the habit of running after her; when deceased went home he found Sweeny there, and this circumstance led to the difficulty. Deceased was positive, as a dying man, that Sweeny stabbed him.

SUDDEN DEATH.—At an early hour yesterday morning a lodger at the Spring Garden station-house died very suddenly. The name of the unfortunate man was John Dunn. Dr. Brown was with him at the time of his decease.

ANOTHER NEW STEAM ENGINE.—The Liberty Hose Company of this city passed our office yesterday *in citizen's dress*, and *drawing their new steam-fire engine* to its future home. The apparatus was really one of the most neat and beautiful that we have seen. It was very compactly put together, and of the most symmetrical proportions. Its power of propelling water is said to be enormous, and it will no doubt work fearful havoc with the "devouring element," as people call it. We never see one of these remarkable and useful machines without marking it as another step in the great path of modern progress.

THE MILITARY.—The military companies of our city, as a general thing, turned out yesterday, and looked very well. The Emmett Guards turned out very strong—stronger than we have ever seen them before. The Independent Greys made an exceedingly creditable appearance. The National Guards were out too, but not as strong as they generally are. The reason assigned for this is, that the company have disposed of most of their old uniforms preparatory to their annual parade, which takes place in April. The Guards are a noble company, and a credit to our volunteer organization.

THE VETERANS OF 1812.—The old soldiers of the War of 1812—relics of the second War of the Revolution—met yesterday as usual, in honor of the day. Judge Sutherland occupied the chair. The greatest good feeling prevailed, and much interest was manifested in the *fate of the old soldiers' pension bill*, which has been hanging by the eyelids during the present session of Congress. A series of resolutions were passed, one condemning the homestead bill, and another advocating the pension bill.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.—A young lady, named Miss Rosanna Lollinger, residing in Olive street, above Twelfth, was seriously injured on Monday evening, by being run over by an omnibus. One wheel passed over her; but before the hind wheel had reached her person, a policeman, who was near by, dragged her from her perilous position. The wheel passed over her thighs, injuring her severely, but without breaking the bones.

VERDICT.—An inquest was held on the body of the boy Alfred Grimes, who died from injuries received on the Second-street Passenger Railroad, in Second street, near Moore. The testimony showed that the cars were travelling at the usual rate of speed; that the deceased, with two other boys, were put off the rear platform by the conductor, and that the boy Grimes, in attempting to get on the front platform, stumbled and fell under the wheels. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

HOSPITAL CASES.—Leonard Lip was admitted to the hospital yesterday, his left leg and foot having been badly scalded by falling into a sugar vat at the sugar refinery of Messrs Butt & Smith.

Edward McLean, aged thirty-five years, was also admitted. He had his left arm fractured, and his head and body badly injured, by the sudden explosion of a blast, at the Newkirk colliery, in the vicinity of Tamaqua. His condition is very critical, and it is feared his arm will have to be amputated.

AN INTERESTING FEATURE of the meeting of Sabbath-School Scholars and Teachers at Jayne's Hall this afternoon, will be the singing of several beautiful duets by the *Misses Jerman*, Sabbath-School vocalists, of Brooklyn, New York.

BILL SIGNED.—Contrary to the expectations of many, Mayor Henry has signed the bill appropriating Spring Garden Hall to the use of the Court of Quarter Sessions. Whether the court will avail itself of the opportunity of changing its location is doubtful.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The Money Market.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22, 1859.

The prices of stocks are firmly maintained at previous quotations, but the amount of business transacted is very small, and there is an almost total absence of a speculative feeling at the board. Bank stocks are in demand, with limited offerings. The money market is in about the same condition as for the last week, easy at or a little above bank rates for prime paper, and varying from 5 to 15 per cent. for less known or less favored names.

The New York *Times* says of the weekly statement made by the banks in that city:

"On the bank averages to-day the reduction of loans and discounts is more considerable than was generally looked for. A large amount of bills appear to have run off without particular effort at further curtailment, and as the banks were above the street rate on demand loans to brokers, the aggregate line is brought down to $127,476,495 as against $130,442,176 two weeks ago. The addition to the specie line is nearly a million, as estimated from the movement of the week (including the last California arrival) in our return of this morning. The deposit line is a steadier one, and will probably continue so for a fortnight to come. The circulation is down about a hundred thousand dollars. The statement altogether is received on the street this afternoon as further proof that the turn in the market for money at the close of last week amounts to a return to substantial ease."

The Cincinnati *Commercial*, which has for some time past charged that violations of the compact made between the four great railroad companies in October would cause another rupture, makes the following definite accusation in its issue of Saturday last:

"It is stated that J. H. Riemar, one of the heaviest provision dealers in Baltimore, or indeed upon the seaboard, is in the receipt of letters from Clarke & Co., of Pittsburg, agents of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, agreeing to take four hundred tons of freight from Terre Haute, Indiana, to Baltimore, via Pittsburg and Harrisburg, for sixty cents per hundred pounds, being five cents below the regular tariff agreed upon at the St. Nicholas Hotel between the four Atlantic lines."

The parties to the compact meet in New York to-morrow, (Wednesday,) when a general settlement of all matters in dispute will be attempted—with what success remains to be seen. The losses of traffic suffered by the New York railroads, in the winter season especially, which result almost, if not in every instance from the natural geographical advantages of the Southern lines, are steadily charged to Punic faith by the losers, whose fancied griefs are stimulated and aggravated by the efforts of parties West, with interests to be served by the cutting down of fares and tolls in railroad rivalry.

The coal receipts from the Cumberland region are yet very small. The *Democratic Alleghanian*, of Cumberland, Md., furnishes the following account. It will be observed that the receipts of the Cumberland Coal Company are hardly worth reporting, being a mere homeopathic dose:

Coal transportation for the week ending February 12, 1859.

Shipped over the Cumberland Coal Company's Railroad

	Tons.
Cumberland Coal Company, for the week	307
" " per day	50

—Making only 6,098 tons since January 1.

Shipped over the George's Creek Coal Company's Railroad

	For the Week.	Since Jan. 1.
George's Creek Company, tons	1,350	7,462
American Coal Company	1,453	9,474
Franklin Coal Company	269	1,759
Potomac Coal Company	681	2,372
Barton Company	301	3 000
Piedmont Mining Company	171	2,8 6

The only two companies that are yet doing any business of moment are the American Coal Company and the George's Creek Company.

The Cumberland Coal Company, with its enormous capital of $5 000 000 and its necessarily expensive organization, has not brought more than the coal companies of small capital and means. The George's Creek Coal Company supply the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and consequently send but little to tide water for the general market.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES

February 22, 1859

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

FIRST BOARD.

1000 City 6s R R	99⅜	5 Elmira R....cash.	9¼
2000 do	99⅜	193 Catawissa R....s5	6
1000 do	99⅜	50 do ....s5.	6
200 do	99⅜	100 do ....s5.	6
2 00 Read R 6s '70	84½	50 do s5	6
2000 Ches Val R 7s	40	50 do s5	6
2000 do	40	1 Phila Bank	117¾
2500 Norristown R 6s	99	21 Mechanics Bank	2[illegible]¼
1000 Buck Mount 6s	76	4 Union Bk in lots	2[illegible]
1370 Sch Nav 6s '82	73	1 Morris Cal Pref	105¼
1 Penna R	43	2 W Phila R	49¾
40 do ....cash	43	10 Commercial Bank	.51
7 do ....cash	43	30 Lehigh Scrip cash	28¾
19 F&M Bk lts s5wn	50¾	10 do	28¾
6 Bear Mead.in lts	58¾		

BETWEEN BOARDS.

150 Catawissa R....s5	6	21 Phila Bank	117¾

SECOND BOARD.

1000 Penna 5s	92¼	11 Bk of Kentucky	116¼
2000 do	92¼	50 Read R....s5wn	24¼
12.0 City 6s P R R	99⅜	100 do	24¼
1000 do	9.⅜	100 do	24¼
50 L Isld R....cash	11¼	50 do	24¼

CLOSING PRICES—DULL.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Phila 6s	99⅜	99¾	Sch Nav Imp. 6s	76	77
do R	99⅜	99¾	Sch Nav Stock	9¼	10
do New	102¾	103	do Pref	18¼	19
Penna 5s	92¼	9[illegible]¼	Wmsp't & Elm R		9½
Reading R	24⅛	24¼	do 7s 1st mtg	71¼	72¾
do Bds '70	82¾	83	do 2d		57
do Mtg 6s '44	92	93	Long Island	11⅛	11¾
do do '86	72¼	72¾	Girard Bank	12¼	12½
Penna R	43	43¼	Leh Coal & Nav	50¾	51
do 1stm 6s		101¼	Lehigh Scrip	28¾	29
do 2dm 6s	92¼	93¼	N Penna R	9¼	9¾
Mor Cl Cn Dv off	47¼	47¾	do 6s	67¾	68
do Pref	105	105¾	New Creek	⅜	⅜
Schuyl Nav 6s '82	72¾	73	Catawissa R	6	6¼
			Lehigh Zinc	1	1¼

Philadelphia Markets.

FEBRUARY 22—Evening.

The Flour market is firm at the advance, with further sales of 460 bbls superfine at $5.87½ and 400 extra at a price not made public. The retailers and bakers are buying at $5 67½ up to $6.50@7.50 ℔ bbl, according to quality. *Rye Flour is held at $4 25*, and Pennsylvania Corn Meal at $3 62½ ℔ bbl, without sales. Wheat—There is not much doing, owing to the firmness of holders, who are asking an advance on previous quotations, and about 2 0.0 bus fair to good reds brought 140@145c, and white 160@170c ℔ bus, as to quality. Rye is in steady demand at 90c. Corn is unchanged, and 4,000 bus yellow sold mostly at 79c, afloat. Oats are steady at 53c ℔ bus. Bark—Quercitron is quiet at $33 ℔ ton for 1st No 1. Cotton—There is very little doing, owing to the firmness of holders, and about 150 bales have been disposed of at previous rates. Groceries and Provisions—Not much doing; buyers and sellers are apart in their views. Seeds—There is very little Cloverseed offering, and a few small lots only have been taken, from store, at $6.25@6 50 ℔ bus; 50 bags choice seed sold, from second hands, at $7.37½ ℔ bus. Timothy—A sale of 50 bus was made at $2 40 ℔ bus. Flaxseed is worth $1 75 ℔ bus. Whiskey is dull at 28@29c for Pennsylvania and Ohio bbls, and 26½c ℔ gallon for drudge.

New York Stock Exchange, Feb. 22.

FIRST BOARD.

8000 Virginia St 6s		96⅜	100 Reading R	s60	48⅜
1000 N Carolina 6s		98	150 do		49⅜
3300 Missouri 6s		84¾	44 LaCrosse & Mil R		1
5000 Erie R 2d m bds		57¼	150 do		1¼
2000 Illinois Cen bd		89¼	20 Mich S & N Ia		18
15 Bank of N York		106¼	25 do		17¾
20 Mechanics Bank		115	5 Mich S Guar'd		45
88 Hanover Bank		88	150 do		45¾
85 Bk of Commerce		101¼	100 do	s60	45
10 Del & Hud Co		99⅜	100 do		45⅜
170 Penna Coal Co		81¼	100 do	b60	45¼
100 do	b60	81⅜	100 Ill Cen R	s60	69
5 Pacific Mail S Co		79¼	250 do	s60	69
25 do	s5w	79⅛	50 do		69⅜
100 do		79¼	50 Cleve & Pittsb R		9
100 Cumberland Pref		23¾	50 do		8¾
400 Hudson River R		32¼	50 Gal & Chic R	b30	69¾
50 do	s30	32¼	150 do	s60	69¼
100 N Y Central R	s10	78⅜	225 do		69¾
250 do		78¾	10 do	s60	69¾
1531 do		78¾	400 do		69¾
100 do	s30	78¾	265 do	b60	69⅛
100 do	b7	78¾	50 do	s10	69¾
100 do	s60	78¼	100 do		69¾
200 do	s10	78¾	10 Cleve & Tol R		31
550 do	s60	78¾	200 do	b60	31
2 0 do		78⅜	160 Ohio & R I		61¾
300 do	b30	78¾	1250 do		61⅜
600 Harlem R Pref		40	100 do	b60	61
200 do	s10	39¾	150 do	s30	61⅜
400 do	b20	40	50 do	b20	61⅜
100 do	b60	40	100 do	b10	61⅜
200 Mich Cen R	s60	50¼	150 do	b30	61⅜
250 do		50¾	50 do	b60	61⅜
5 do		50¾			

THE MARKETS.

ASHES.—Pots are in moderate request at $5.62½ a 5 63¾. Pearls nominal at $5 87½c.

FRUIT.—By auction were sold 1,500 boxes Palermo Oranges at $1 55@1.60; 1,640 do at $1.75@1.80; 400 boxes do Lemons at $1 60@1.60; and 400 do at $1.50@1 55—the whole comprising the cargo of brig Carlotta from Palermo.

FLOUR.—State and Western Flour is steady at unchanged prices, with light receipts, and sales to the extent of 9,000 bbls at $4@4 10 for rejected; $5.30@5 50 for superfine State; $5.50@5 10 for extra do; $5 30@5 60 for supe fine Western; $6.05@6.30 for common to good extra do; and $6 40@6.50 for shipping brands of extra round hoop Ohio. Canadian Flour is steady, with sales of 300 bbls at $6 80@7.30 for extra. Southern Flour is firmer, with sales of 3 000 bbls at $6@6.5 for common to mixed and $6.30@7.75 for extra.

GRAIN.—Wheat is dull, with sales of 1,000 bushels at $1 40 for Southern, and $1 60 for do white. Corn is steady; sales of 8,000 bushels at 81@83c for Southern yellow, 81@84c for do white. Western mixed nominal at 85@86c. Rye is quiet. Barley steady, with sales of 1 500 bushels pale State at 93c. Oats are unchanged, and quoted at 50@54c for Southern, Pennsylvania, and Jersey, and 54@63c for State, Western, and Canada.

HEMP.—The market is quiet for all descriptions, and we can learn but of one sale of importance, that of 1,000 bales Manila at Boston, at 8 a.m. at 6¾c, 6 mos. We quote American dressed $220, do Undressed $160 Jute $90@95, 6 mos.

LIME is quiet at 75c for common Rockland, and $1 for Jersey.

PROVISIONS.—Pork is inactive, with sales of 10 bbls at $17.62½@17 62½ for old Mess, $18@18 12½ for new Mess, and $13.37½@13 50 for Prime. Beef is steady, with sales of 200 bbls at $8.50@7 for country Prime, $7 75@9 for country Mess, $8.75@11 for repacked Western, $11.50@12 for extra do. Cutmeats and Bacon are firm but quiet. Lard is firm at 11½@12½c, with sales of 100 bbls. Butter and Cheese are steady.

SUGAR.—L. M. Hoffman & Co. sold by auction 260 hhds New Orleans Sugar, at 6¾@7¾c, six mos.

WOOL.—By auction 50 bales common English, slightly damaged, sold at 40c, cash.

WHISKEY is quiet at 25¾c.

Sewing Machines.—All persons who have been induced to buy Sewing Machines which will not *perform the work* that purchasers expected them to do, are informed that SINGER'S MACHINES never fail to do any kind of work. No one is ever disappointed in these Machines. I. M. SINGER & CO.,
ja27-3m 602 CHESTNUT Street.

Singer's Sewing Machines.—The new Family Sewing Machines, at $50 and $75, are attracting universal attention. In all essential good qualities they are much the best Machines ever offered at a low price.
I. M. SINGER & CO.,
ja27-3m 602 CHESTNUT Street.

CITY ITEMS.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL SABBATH-SCHOOL CONVENTION.—Jayne's Hall yesterday was the scene of much interest, occasioned by the initial religious services in the morning, and the organization of the National Sabbath School Convention in the afternoon. In anticipation of this event, and in view of the large number of delegates and others in the city to attend the Convention, it was resolved to hold the noon-day Business-men's Prayer Meeting at Jayne's Hall, and accordingly, the appointed hour found that immense house crowded in every part, including the galleries. The platform was occupied with some two hundred ministers and delegates, including a deputation of about twenty converted seamen, for which class the prayers of the congregation were, by appointment, that day more especially intended.

The exercises were conducted by the Rev A. A. Willits, and the services, as a whole, were of a most interesting and solemn character. An address was made by one of the seamen, that was full of pathos, and doubtless tended to awaken a deeper solicitude in the minds of Christians who heard him, in behalf of the useful class of men he represented. A thrilling address was also made by the Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, of New York, in which reference was made to the death of his son, and the death of a nephew of the same name, as having occurred at nearly the same time, the latter having met his end while in the discharge of his duty as a sailor, on the coast of the Pacific. Dr. Tyng's appeal to the seamen in attendance was one of the most eloquent and soul-stirring we have ever heard, and so much impressed all present that his suggestions became the theme of all who succeeded him.

By a singular coincidence—as we learned from the remarks of Mr. George H. Stuart—yesterday was the anniversary of the moving of the noon-day prayer meetings from the small ante-room into the main room of Jayne's Hall—an occasion which was, doubtless, vividly brought to the recollection of hundreds who were then present, and who, with Dr. Tyng, remember the warning voice of the lamented Tyng, as on that day he rose in the audience, and, in his peculiarly impressive style, urged upon the multitude to remember that, "notwithstanding their vast increase in numbers, their strength was in God, and in him only."

At 3½ o'clock in the afternoon, the hour appointed for opening the National Sabbath-School Convention, the hall was again filled, several hundred delegates being in their places. After singing a hymn, the call for the Convention was read by Mr George H. Stuart, who, with a few introductory remarks, moved that Professor John S. Hart, of this city, be called upon temporarily to occupy the chair; which having been agreed to, the latter came forward, and, after thanking the audience for this partiality, and making a few appropriate remarks, entered upon his duties.

The Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D., was then called upon to offer prayer in behalf of the object for which they were assembled, following which the Scriptures were read by the Rev Alfred Cookman part of the 78th and the 183d Psalm.

On motion of a member, Mr. J. P. Tustin, of Washington city, was appointed temporary secretary; following which, a motion having been carried to that effect, a committee was appointed by the chair, consisting of one delegate from each State, to nominate officers for a permanent organization, and prepare business for the Convention, which committee was made to consist of the following-named gentlemen: Dr. Kingsbury, of Pennsylvania; Amos Tappen, of Massachusetts; L. A. Hyde, of Connecticut; S. Clough, of Rhode Island; John H. Thompson, of New York; A. J. Dumont, of New Jersey; Geo. W. Sparks, of Delaware; J. Huff, of Maryland; S. H. D. Vaughn, of Virginia; M. H. Miller, of District of Columbia; O. N. Bush, of Ohio; R. Knott, of Kentucky; Rev Wm. C. Mason, of Illinois; Rev. John Hockaday, of Iowa; T. J. Bell, of Minnesota, and Charles C. Goss, of Nebraska Territory. This committee having retired for business, a Committee on Credentials was next appointed, consisting of John. M. Henderson, R. C. McCormick, B. F. Smith, Benjamin Haywood, and R. Sherrerd.

During the absence of these committees, at the request of Ex Governor Pollock, the beautiful hymn, commencing "*What's the news?*" was sung with great spirit by the congregation. The Chairman then called for news that delegates might have to communicate, respecting the condition of Sabbath schools in the various sections represented; which request was responded to from numerous quarters, some of the statements being of a very interesting character, indeed. In fact, there was nothing absolutely discouraging elicited. One gentleman from Richmond, Virginia, stated that the white population of the city amounted to thirty thousand, of which seven thousand were children, and out of this number, five thousand five hundred were enrolled in their Sabbath schools, and that this was without any particular effort. He also stated that of their entire white population, the number of seven thousand were communicant members of church. Their black population—which numbered fifteen thousand—he said they were not accustomed to enroll in their schools; yet they made them welcome, and encouraged them to attend, and of the whole number there were over twelve hundred who did attend the schools regularly. It was the custom in his State, except in their largest cities, on Sabbath afternoon to throw open their churches for the free use of the blacks, and in this way the church accommodations secured to their colored population exceeded the demand by sittings for at least two hundred and fifty thousand persons.

A gentleman from Pittsburg rose and said that on last Saturday afternoon a meeting had been held in that city with reference to this convention, to appoint delegates; and he carried with him the warmest congratulations from his brethren in Pittsburg to the friends of this cause in Philadelphia. A gentleman from New Jersey gave a hopeful account of the prosperous condition of their schools in that State. From New York, the tidings were also cheering, bearing evident indications of progress. Professor Hart here stated that it would be a strange National Sunday-School Convention in which nothing was heard from the great West, especially as that section of our country was so well represented. To this appeal Mr. Chidlaw, of Ohio, being called for, came forward and made an earnest speech in behalf of the cause, without, however, going into any statistics as to the present condition of the schools in that region. Another member, from New York State, gave an account of a Bible class which, in one year, had grown from eight to forty-one in number, and fourteen of whom were, in the meantime, admitted into the church. Being called upon, Mr. Thompson, of New York, made a speech in favor of the true brotherly-love spirit. He had by mistake been introduced as *Judge* Thompson, which, however, he wished to correct, as he was not a judge, or, at least a judge only of Sabbath schools, and in that field he had worked with fidelity for forty years, and he hoped that God would still more diligence than he had ever done heretofore. He was followed by Mr. Ballard, of Massachusetts, who related an interesting incident of a Greek who had been converted, and was coming to Amherst College to fit himself for the ministry.

The committee now being ready to report officers, the following gentlemen were presented:

President, Ex-Gov. Pollock. Vice Presidents—Col Amos Tappen, Mass; Samuel Clough, R I.; Hon. John Woodruff, Conn; Hon. Edward Lambert, N. Y.; A. J. Dumont, N. J.; Geo. W. Sparks, Del; Wm. H. Campbell, D. C.; S. H. Devaugh, Va; R Knott, Ky; Rev. B W. Chidlaw, Ohio; F. W. Ferree, Ill; A. J. Bell, Min; P. O. Hale, Wis; Jas. McCandless, Pa; Rev. C. U. Goss, Neb. Ter. Business Committee—Louis Chapin, Nelson Kingsbury, Hon. R. R. Reed, Jas. W. Weir, Geo. W. Chipman, Jos. H. Bradley, Jr., Dr. L D Harlow, Wm. M. Heyl, S. H. Melvin. Secretaries—Henry Clay Trumbull, D. W. C. Moore, Geo W. Blecker, R. W. Sherrerd, Rev. T. A. Fernley, Geo. Baughman.

Ex-Governor Pollock then came forward and made an eloquent address upon the subject which had called them together. He spoke at considerable length and was greeted with oft-repeated applause. At the close of his address the Convention adjourned until 7½ o'clock in the evening. The evening session was mainly occupied in speeches by the members on topics of a local character. The Convention will continue in session during to-day and to-morrow—morning, afternoon, and evening.

CHINA AND QUEENSWARE.—In this important department of the trade of Philadelphia, she has long maintained an enviable pre-eminence, and which, we may say, has been materially strengthened of late years by several young houses of ample facilities and a commendable spirit of enterprise embarking in the business, and prosecuting it with great success. Of the most active and well-known of these, we may name the popular establishments of Messrs. Boyd & Stroud, and Messrs Turnbull, Allen, & Co. The former of these is located at No. 32 North Fourth street, four doors below the Merchants' Hotel, and now presents a stock of goods in every way worthy of their reputation, and the attention of wholesale buyers. In passing through their handsomely-arranged and well-lighted store a few days since, we were forcibly struck with its system and completeness for transacting business with *facility*. The house of Messrs. Turnbull, Allen, & Co., Nos. 23 and 25 South Fourth street, also offers to the trade an enormous stock of everything included under the head of China and Queensware. The importing and jobbing business of these gentlemen has steadily increased, notwithstanding the adverse times through which we have just passed, and from their present ample preparations to meet the wants of trade, the present season is not likely to prove an exception in this respect.

SABBATH-SCHOOL MEETING.—A general meeting of Sabbath-school scholars will take place this afternoon at Jayne's Hall. Addresses will be delivered by several distinguished clergymen from abroad.

THE LADIES' SHOPPING GUIDE AND HOUSEKEEPER'S COMPANION.—A new and much improved edition of this highly useful work has just been issued by S. E. Cohen. The publisher deserves credit for the judgment displayed in the arrangement of the mass of information with which the Guide abounds. Owing to the systematic indexing of streets and the classification of goods, information sought is easily obtained. To the ladies, this little work would seem to be indispensable. It can be had at all the bookstores.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY was observed with more spirit than on any previous occasion for some time past. The unusual attractions and the lovely weather caused the streets to be thronged by citizens and strangers. Amongst the many objects of attraction, we noticed none that received a larger share of attention than the "Old Franklin Hall Clothing Emporium," of F. H Eldridge, No. 321 Chestnut street. Brother M. P. Willis, as usual, was all "smiles, bows, and courtesies" to the numerous visitors of the old and popular establishment.

WRITING FOR THE NEW YORK LEDGER.—We understand that the proprietor of the *New York Ledger* has offered a writer of this city a thousand dollars a week to indite sketches for his popular journal. The offer was refused, the writer in question being unwilling to relinquish the agreeable task of setting forth to an admiring world the merits of the splendid garments made and sold at the brown stone Clothing Hall of Rockhill & Wilson, Nos. 603 and 605 Chestnut street, above Sixth, Philadelphia.

CHIVALROUS.—There was recently a duel at Napoleon, Ark., between a doctor and a tailor, in which the doctor shot the tailor through the *leg* and the tailor the doctor through the lower extremity of the coat. They were made friends upon the ground, the doctor agreeing to dress the tailor's leg, and the tailor to mend the doctor's coat tail. Had the duel occurred in this vicinity, said coat might easily have been replaced by an elegant new one from Granville Stokes' Fashionable Bazaar No. 607 Chestnut street.

VOTED DOWN.—The citizens of Richmond, Va., on Saturday last, voted against a city subscription of $100,000 to extend the Roanoke Valley Railroad to Keysville.