The Press.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1859.

First Page.—Autographs, Authors, and Books; Seventeenth and Nineteenth-streets City Passenger Railway; Personal and Political; The Life of an Old Pennsylvania Hero. Fourth Page.—The Courts; Marine Intelligence.

The Thirty-Sixth Congress.

The present session of Congress will evidently be an unusually exciting and interesting one, on account of the peculiar condition of parties, the many topics of importance that will be brought forward for consideration, and the fact that it immediately precedes the Presidential election. Already the recent Harper's Ferry affair has given rise to protracted debates in both branches of Congress, and the excited state of feeling existing in all sections of the Union in reference to it is echoed in the Senate chamber and House of Representatives. If, by those discussions, the real condition of sentiment, North and South, is faithfully portrayed, more good than evil may result from them. The impression appears to prevail at the South that large numbers of Northern men were closely identified with John Brown's movements, and that there are many persons at the present time who not only admire the fortitude with which he met his fate, but who would be ready to imitate his example.

A full and proper inquiry into the recent disturbance may do much to dissipate this delusion, and to assure the people of the South, that, however much Northern sentiment is disposed to resist what is considered Southern aggressions, there is but little disposition to invade any legitimate Southern right, and a warm desire to shield the South from any serious danger with which she may be threatened.

The purport of the forthcoming President's message has been foreshadowed in his personal organ, and the country has thus been informed that, not content with such allusions to recent events as might perhaps not be inappropriate, he is disposed to offensively affirm and emphasise the doctrine to which his Attorney General, with a sort of extra-judicial zeal, unprecedented in the conduct of his predecessors, has endeavored to give prominence before the country, that the Constitution virtually makes all our existing domain unembraced in the present States (a vast region comprising half the area of this Republic) as thoroughly a slaveholding region as Georgia or South Carolina. The legal soundness of this doctrine has been disputed and denied by many of the leading legal minds of our country, and but a very small portion of the American people are at this day disposed to admit its correctness. Practically, it may be of little importance, for the destiny of our Territories will almost inevitably be decided in accordance with the wishes, sentiments, and interests of their future inhabitants, and those who, by settlement upon their soil and by developing their natural resources, will gradually advance them to the rank of sovereign States. But the people of the North, with their present convictions, while they are almost universally disposed to refrain from disturbing slavery in the States where it now exists, do not wish to be directly responsible for its extension. If the National Government is to be legally placed in the attitude of instituting, protecting, and cherishing it in the Territories, the whole Union becomes politically responsible for it, and virtually the citizens of every Northern State will be as essentially and closely identified with a legal system for upholding it in regions over whose government they exercise a direct authority as the citizens of Southern States, who by their local laws sustain it. This feature of the policy of the Administration is particularly odious to a vast majority of the Northern people, and it is one which, if persisted in, must inevitably destroy every vestige of Democratic ascendency in all States north of Mason and Dixon's line.

The experience of the last few years has clearly indicated the character of the political results which must be anticipated if this theory is to be publicly avowed and persistently acted upon by those who control the organization of the Democratic party.

So thoroughly has the feeling in regard to this prominent issue seized possession of the public mind, that it is to be feared many grave questions of eminent importance will not receive the attention they should obtain during the present session of Congress. Among these are the revision of the tariff, the San Juan Island dispute, the organization of new Territorial Governments, the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution, our relations with Mexico, the proposed Pacific Railroad, and the deficiency bills necessary to meet post office and other expenditures unprovided for at the last session of Congress. Besides, further investigations should, and probably will, be made into the manner in which the public moneys are expended under the direction of the Administration. It is probable that many additional schemes of corruption for which it is directly or indirectly responsible, and many abuses of a flagrant character, remain still unexposed, notwithstanding the startling developments made during the last session.

The British Ministry.

The great present difficulty in the British Ministry is the Reform Bill, which they are pledged to introduce in the approaching Parliamentary Session. Lord Palmerston and his immediate followers are Tory to the backbone, and, as such, are very much opposed to any measure which will diminish the usurped power of the Aristocracy, and augment the legitimate power of the Democracy. We say *augment*, rather than *restore*, because, in point of fact, the British people enjoy, at this moment, not only more substantial freedom than any other people in Europe, but a great deal more than any of their ancestors ever enjoyed before. Lord John Russell, who is quite as much of an Aristocrat as any of his colleagues, has taken up the idea of reforming the Reform Bill of 1832, upon three grounds: First, he wants to outbid Palmerston, and probably drive him out of the Premiership, in hope of himself succeeding to that office, which is the virtual sovereignty of England, for the time being. Next, he wants to win the popular favor. Lastly, he knows—none better—that, if the self-styled Liberal party do not pass a measure of Parliamentary Reform, the Conservative party, led by Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, will certainly do it, and thereby become extremely popular.

The latest news from England is that the Cabinet has selected three of its members (Sir Cornwall Lewis, Sir George Grey, and Mr. Milner Gibson—two conservative-liberals, and ultra-liberal,) to consult and report upon what the new Reform Bill shall be,—that they have so reported,—and that the decision of the Palmerston Ministry is simply to increase the number of voters, by extending the elective franchise.

We are strongly disinclined to believe this rumor, upon the following grounds: It is utterly impossible that Mr. Milner Gibson, a leader of the extreme Manchester party, could recommend such a milk-and-water measure as this. He and his party are pledged to seek for the disfranchisement of small boroughs, and the transfer of the elective franchise to large constituencies. This is also one of Lord John Russell's ideas, far short as his programme is from what the country and the time demand. Lastly, the rumor reaches us, without the slightest confirmation from any other quarter, from the London *Morning Advertiser* alone, the public-house gazette, which is famous, or rather infamous, for its weak inventions of all sorts of news, home, foreign, and political. We are persuaded that the Palmerston Ministry has not yet agreed upon the principle, far less the details, of its intended Reform Bill.

Benton's Abridgment of the Debates of Congress.—The Twelfth volume of this highly important work, published by Appletons, New York, has reached us through Mr. John McFarlane, Arcade Hotel, now sole agent for it. It includes the proceedings in Congress from December, 1832, to July 4th, 1836, a period including the discussions on the United States Bank, the dispute with France, and other important subjects. We can only acknowledge this useful and reliable book now, but hope soon to find space for noticing it more fully. It will be recollected that Mr. Benton only lived to complete this work.

Auction Notice.—We invite the attention of the public to the sale of fancy furs this morning, at half past ten o'clock, by B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, comprising a fine assortment of ladies' fancy furs, in sets and single pieces. Victorines, muffs, and cuffs to match.

Letter from Washington.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

Washington, Dec. 8

As I intimated, Roger A. Pryor made his maiden speech in the House yesterday evening. Coming after Mr. Nelson's conservative Union essay, it did not sustain the reputation which went before the young Virginian from the Fourth district. Mr. Pryor has been prominently before the public for some years—so much so that most persons think him far older than he is. He is probably about thirty-five, but does not look over twenty-five. He is tall, slim, and beardless, with a sinewy frame, and decided features, which in repose are as placid as mother's milk, and, when excited, scornfully turbulent about the mouth, and glancing impetuously from the eye. He is courteous, gentlemanly, and mild-spoken—and by the turn of a phrase, he is exactly the reverse, so far as the character of his actions and phraseology indicates. He becomes distinctly excited in both. The manner in which he wears his hair makes a strong contrast to his manner at such times, it being long and thrown back *a la Puritan*.

Incited by his friends, he too readily entered into the debate. Again, it was an indiscretion, in my humble opinion, to tackle Nelson, who, though a new member also, and but *fresh from* his maiden Congressional effort, was flushed with the victory which the united voice of the galleries proclaimed it to be. What matters it whether Nelson was a Southern Oppositionist or a Northern moderado? He spoke words of Union and conservatism, which were peculiarly and particularly welcome to the House at the emergency he so ably confronted.

Mr. Pryor did not like Nelson's sentiments chiefly because the Republicans applauded them. He accused the member from Tennessee with worshipping the physical materialism of the Union instead of the spirit of the Constitution. He (Pryor) loved that spirit, but when its divinity was dethroned, he no longer would bow to the empty throne. He held that the Union was in danger, and when Nelson sought to prove that it was not, he was acting in a spirit of hostility which was calculated to bring ruin and disgrace. As far as Pryor was concerned, he would threaten and menace no longer; when it was needful to do either, he would accompany it with a blow. He condemned both Gilmer and Nelson with giving aid to the Republicans at this crisis, and helping to place Sherman in the Speaker's chair. But they should not escape; nor should Sherman sit there so long as legitimate and parliamentary resistance could prevent it. He appealed to the anti-Lecompton Democrats to succor the South with a rather strange idea of political reciprocity.

Nelson, who is nearly twice the age (or seems so) of Pryor, made a rejoinder full of spirit and point. He repudiated the insinuations of Pryor, so far as assimilation towards the Republicans was concerned, and admitted with pride his connection with the South American party. He said the reputation of Mr. Pryor had preceded him, and he did not, from ill health or some other cause, sustain it. He could not reply to Mr. Pryor because Mr. Pryor had not used any argument which it was necessary to refute. He owed his indebtedness, however, to Mr. Pryor for some hints gleaned from the editorials of the latter; one especially he found of immense use in his canvass in Tennessee, and it was that—in speaking of the present Administration—"from the highways and by-ways of the Government there comes up an insufferable stench." This palpable hit to dissociate the brilliant Virginian from the ranks of the Administration Democrats created a general cheer.

A second ballot for Speaker was soon after had, which resulted—for Sherman 107, the Grow men uniting with the first vote. For Bocock, 88, Gilmer 22, and the rest scattering. The anti-Lecompton rebels keep to themselves as before, with the exception of Adrain, who is confined to his hotel.

To-day, we have a bright, crisp, frosty morning—a clear sky to look at, and a good wintry atmosphere to sniff. There is no diminution of the attendance in and around the halls of Congress.

The morning has been devoted by talking to points of order. The members are scattered about in all directions, and as I write—just two P. M.—Mr. Reuben Davis, of Mississippi, feels bound to out-Lamar Lamar. The latter made so good an impression on his section yesterday that Mr. Davis felt encouraged to the conflict to-day. He has made a lengthy and very inflammatory speech; one calculated to burn itself out and *not* set fire to the Potomac. He speaks with much volubility, and is not easily understood. He concluded with an appeal to all parties to strike down rebellion; something after the fashion of those who build houses of cards for the pleasure of blowing them down. One good effect of Mr. Davis' speech was that both parties laughed with right good will at many of his sallies.

The National Democratic Convention met last evening. Hon. David A. Smalley presided. Twenty-nine States were represented, and it was determined to hold the National Convention at Charleston on the 23d April next. Mr. Buchanan desired it to be held in June, but said he supposed his desire would, no doubt, make the committee do exactly the reverse. Whether he thought the time unlucky or unpropitious, it being the anniversary of his birth-day, or not, I cannot say. Probably, as his time for good or ill luck is coming to a close, the fact that the 23d April is also the birth-day of Stephen A. Douglas had its influence in making him desire to change the date from that on which the star of "The Little Giant" burst upon the earth.

The health of Judge Douglas is still of a character to need great care and attention. In a few days, he will depart for the South. His prospects are more effulgent now than ever. He is inundated with correspondence from all the leading Southern States, and Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Tennessee, and Missouri contain many active politicians in favor of his nomination.

As I close, E. Joy Morris is addressing the House with emphatic force in favor of Sherman, and showing that "The Impending Crisis" was written by a Southern man, giving the experiences of a Southern man, and addressed especially to Southern men. Ezek Richards.

To the Editor of The Press—Sir: In your paper of yesterday an unusual space is allotted to the controversy now existing in one of our city banks, in reference to its late president. The considerations urged in the article in favor of that officer are most pertinent and emphatic, and appear to me to indicate a fair solution for the difficulty. I have not the least direct interest in the affair, but the strictures you have submitted upon it extend beyond the immediate instance which called them forth. To me they suggest the case of another bank president, who lived and died among us, and who encountered on his vessel a storm compared with which the blast of '57 was but a breeze. Every point in your reclaimer for Mr. Boker applies with increased fitness to the other; and yet, in an arraignment of more than twenty years in his native city, not a paragraph has been spared to him in the style and spirit of those with which your two columns are filled. The marble at his grave in this December air is not more cold than is the treatment of his countrymen towards him!

But I am not about to make a speech from Christ's Church burying-ground. Indeed, the main object of this scrawl has not yet been named. It is to invite attention to the *monetary system* under which we live. This formed the inevitable back-ground of your sketch, and the implied condemnation of it which abounds in your sentences is the most hopeful sign which I have met with in print for many a day. Your allusion to our present banking laws prompts the remark, that next to the guilt of encouraging wrong is that of enacting *impracticable* laws against it.

I know it will be hard to make room for such a subject as this between the closely wedged claims of party politics—especially just now when the Speakership and the Presidency each demand more than half of our attention; but the "*Press*" to my knowledge, has more than once acknowledged the importance of the plain cause of industry, of real labor; and if this cause embodies itself anywhere it is in the monetary system of a free people. I hope you will not only state the errors of our monetary laws, but will point out a remedy in plain English, and if I can render any help in such an attempt it is at your service. Penn.

Philadelphia, Dec. 7, 1859.

Lecture of Henry Ward Beecher.—Last night, at Concert Hall, Henry Ward Beecher delivered a lecture, announcing as his subject, "Heads and Hearts." The audience was a very large one. The allusions of the speaker to John Brown, eulogizing his character and denouncing those who depreciated him, brought down a storm of hisses, and at one time the excitement was so great as to alarm the timid. Order, however, was finally restored, and Mr. Beecher permitted to proceed with his lecture.

Mr. D. Dougherty at Lafayette College.—The eloquent and truth-telling Address, on Fears for the Future of the Republic, which Mr. Dougherty delivered, last July, before the Literary Societies of Lafayette College, Easton, (and which we reported in The Press at the time,) has been published in octavo, at the request of the Societies, and is worthy of reperusal and consideration.

Sale of Elegant Furniture.—T. Birch & Son hold a sale of elegant furniture this morning, at ten o'clock, at their auction store, No 914 Chestnut street.

Evening Sale.—In the evening, at 7½ o'clock, they will sell silver-plated ware, vases, bronze goods, china, &c.

Erratum.—In an article in yesterday's *Press* on Judge Bouvier, we were made to say that the late Mr. Benjamin Johnson was *foreman* of the present publishing house of J. B. Lippincott & Co., of this city. For *foreman* read *founder*.

Rev. Wm. Berry, rector of St. Matthew's (colored Episcopal) Church, has been tried in Detroit, and fined fifty dollars for attempting to join in marriage, contrary to the statutes of Michigan, Thomas Slaughter, colored, and Eliza Watson, white.

We have advices from Austin, Texas, to the 26th ult. No election of an U. S. Senator had then taken place. The chances were decidedly in favor of the election of Judge Roberts, of the Supreme (State) bench, as a compromise between Governor Houston and Col. Wigfall.

Academy of Music.

Well, we have heard Adelina Patti. The public opinion upon her singing will be the same as ours, we think—that she has succeeded, and that she deserves the success. The New York *Express*, which has a thoroughly conscientious as well as competent musical critic, thus expressed itself upon Signorina Patti when she first astonished New York: "Everything conspired in favor of the young singer: her captivating person, her brilliant black eyes and rich brunette complexion, her girlish form, her charming manner, heightened the effect of the musical talent she displayed, and quite carried away the audience. At her first entrance upon the stage the applause began, and demonstrations of delight continued till the close of the opera. The *débutante* was called out several times during the evening; was showered with a perfect storm of flowers; garlands, wreaths, bouquets, and baskets were thrown to her, and her success was pronounced. She bore her blushing honors meekly, accepted the applause, but, like a true artist, never once interrupted the business of the stage, or disturbed the illusion of the scene to snuff up the incense; she was self-possessed but modest, acted well, and was dressed perfectly. There was but one opinion among the audience, (which was extremely fashionable,) and that was that a great career awaits the young Patti." This is exactly what occurred here last night, at Signorina's *début* in Lucia di Lammermoor. She was enthusiastically received and warmly applauded to "the very echo which doth applaud again," called back and called out repeatedly, and bouqueted (we *must* make a word in honor of the occasion) beyond anything we ever saw before.

Stature small, figure slight, but well made, features remarkably expressive, and splendid eyes, are the leading personal points in this *débutante*. She has yet to learn a great deal of stage work—for example, what to do with her hands, how to control the vibrations of her body when singing, (which La Grange never did learn,) and how to walk the stage. In a word, to be the *reverse* of poor little Madame de Wilhorst, who used to run off the stage with little, mincing steps, very ludicrous to behold. Signorina Patti has not occasion to learn action—*that* she has with her musical organization, which makes her emotional expression by voice and action to suit the feelings of the scene. She is already a good actress.

Her voice is a high soprano. She exhibited very little of its lower range. Her execution is wonderful, especially considering her age. (On *that* point we have to say that we have known her since she was a child, and she cannot yet be seventeen.) Her articulation is clear and distinct—remarkably so, reminding us of Jenny Lind in that particular.

Her most successful pieces were the duet with *Edgardo*, which closes act I; the beautiful and touching duets in the first scene of act II, especially the second "*Tu che vedi*," and the whole of the closing scene of this act; and that heart-rending solo in the last act, which closes her performance. This last, with its deep pathos finely expressed, was the gem of the opera and of the evening.

There is no fear of this young prima donna's success—provided that she is not overworked. Her voice will acquire fullness as she grows older; if it be strained or forced it must inevitably get thin and sharp. At present, it is very sweet.

A new tenor, Signor Stigelli, took the character of *Edgardo*, hitherto in the hands, in this house, of Signor Brignoli. He has a very good voice, much more capable of ascending or descending than Brignoli's, but not half so sweet. His execution far surpasses Brignoli's, and he acts well also. We have seldom heard the music of this part so equally and fairly sung. His solo, "Sulla tomba," was beautiful, but this was eclipsed by his duo with *Lucy*, "Verranno a te sull' aura." In Act II, where his fine acting seconded his singing, he was very successful—but his great triumphs were the two solos in the last scene of the opera.

Signor Ferri, who sustained the character of *Ashton*, fully confirmed the favorable impression he had made in the Sicilian Vespers.

The choruses were above the ordinary mark. The scenery, which we have so often admired, again seemed worthy of admiration. The scenery in this house is excellent.

The Sicilian Vespers will be given, for the last time, to-night. There will not be a Matinée to-morrow, but performances will be given in the evening, in which Signorina Adelina Patti will assist.

Rosa Bonheur's New Pictures.

The intimation given to the public yesterday morning, that two of Mdlle Rosa Bonheur's pictures would be open for exhibition at the gallery of Messrs. James S. Earle & Son, in the afternoon, attracted a throng of visitors, which actually prevented some who went from approaching within *examining* distance of the pictures. The exhibition of her "Horse Fair," in the spring of 1858, won for its gifted author golden opinions among our connoisseurs of art, and that magnificent picture alone will always secure for her subsequent efforts the homage of a visit from all who saw it. One of the pictures now on exhibition at Mr. Earle's is entitled "*Los Burriqueros*"—in English, mule-drivers—the picture representing a company of Spanish muleteers crossing the Pyrenees; the other, "Morning in the Highlands;" also a fine portrait of Rosa Bonheur, painted by Dubufe, who is represented as standing in an open field, her left hand holding her portfolio, while her right arm is carelessly thrown over the neck of a bull. Animal pieces are evidently the forte of this distinguished female artist. In the language of her biographer, "her mission is to decipher the sublime poetry of animal nature; to pencil the wonders of animal life, and translate upon canvas their grand characteristics." Messrs. Earle & Son have placed our citizens under obligation in affording them the pleasure which the examination of these pictures so richly affords, and we have no doubt that during the short time they are to remain they will attract thousands of admirers. We shall refer to them again.

Dan Rice's Great Show.—In this place of amusement the citizens of Philadelphia have a resort where they can take their families to witness athletic and equestrian feats of the most wonderful character, together with extraordinary performances by trained animals, unconnected with any of those objectionable associations too often attendant upon similar exhibitions. The establishment is managed with tact and energy, and new features are introduced every few nights. On Monday evening, Joe Pentland, who was formerly a great favorite in this city, as clown, but who for the past three years has been performing in Europe, made his first appearance, meeting with a flattering reception, and will play throughout the week. He is an excellent clown, full of life, and never offensive in word or action. Other new features have been introduced, which we have not space to mention; and last evening a grand spectacle, occupying stage and ring, which has been in preparation for a long time, was brought out with new and appropriate costumes and appointments. It is entitled "Dan Rice's Dream of Chivalry," and is well calculated to display the extensive resources of the Great Show to advantage. It is replete with combats, processions, exciting incidents, and gorgeous pageantry, including a spirited representation of a grand tournament.

Pulpit Portrait No. V.—The next number of our series of Pulpit Portraits will appear to-morrow. The subject of it will be the Rev. D. S. Burnet, of Cincinnati, one of the most eminent ministers of the denomination known as the "Disciples of Christ." Mr. Burnet has for the last few weeks been preaching a course of sermons in the church, Twelfth street, below Melon but has now returned to resume his charge at Cincinnati. Persons desiring extra copies will please leave their orders *to-day*.

Sales of Real Estate.—By order of Orphans' Court, Trustees, and others.—Thomas & Sons' sale on Tuesday next, 13th instant, will comprise upwards of 20 properties—a large portion *peremptory sales*. Pamphlet catalogues to-morrow.

Extra Valuable Real Estate.—Their sale, 20th inst., will include the very valuable estate of the late J. T. Bailey, deceased, Chestnut st., second property west of the custom house, and other valuable property. See advertisements, handbills, and lithographic plans.

Union Meeting at Boston.

Boston, Dec. 8.—A "Union meeting" was held at noon to-day, at Faneuil Hall. It was largely attended, hundreds being unable to obtain admittance.

Hon. William Appleton called the meeting to order, and ex-Governor Lincoln presided.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Blagden, of the Old South Church.

The President briefly alluded to the circumstances which seemed to call for the present demonstration.

A series of ten resolutions were read. The third resolution says: "However narrow or incomprehensive was Brown's iniquitous scheme, it was an undisguised assault upon the peace and welfare of the whole country; that we deeply sympathize with the people of Virginia in the trying scenes they have passed through, and proffer them, their civic authorities, and those of the Federal Government, our unfailing countenance and support in the maintenance of the laws of the land and the public peace."

The sixth resolution pledges "our lives, fortune, and sacred honor to uphold the Union."

The seventh resolution declares fealty to the Constitution, and faithfully and unreservedly to carry out all its obligations.

The eighth resolution discountenances everything tending to produce alienation between the North and South.

The ninth denounces the apologists for the late raid at Harper's Ferry as guilty as those who induced it.

Speeches were made by Hon. Edward Everett, Hon. Caleb Cushing, and letters were read from ex-President Franklin Pierce, ex-Governor Morton, ex-Governor Clifford, Professor Felton, Hon. B. F. Butler, E. D. Beach, Judge Marston, B. F. Hallett, and numerous others.

As a public demonstration the meeting was the greatest ever held in New England. The sentiments of the speakers called forth repeated approvals.

The resolutions submitted were adopted by acclamation. Adjourned.

Among the passengers by the Persia, at New York, are Colonel Preston and family, (minister to Madrid,) Baron Rothschild, and the remaining portion of the late Minister Mason's family.

Mr. Smith O'Brien has been lecturing in Dublin, on "America and her Institutions."

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.--FIRST SESSION.

U. S. Capitol, Washington, Dec. 8.

SENATE.

Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill making appropriations to facilitate the negotiations for the acquisition of Cuba.

Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, gave a similar notice of his intention to introduce a homestead bill.

Several other notices were given.

One for the construction of a railroad on Pennsylvania avenue.

Mr. Mason's (of Virginia) resolution came up for consideration.

Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, resumed his remarks showing the importance of the inquiry relative to the sacking of the arsenal at Liberty, Missouri. The seizing of an arsenal recently is regarded as a matter of great importance; yet the President in his message never alluded to the seizure of the arsenal in Missouri. A resolution was adopted in March, 1856, calling on the President for all information in the departments relative to the affairs of Kansas, yet the report of Captain Leonard had never been sent to the Senate. He proceeded, in reply to an inquiry put by Mr. Yulee, of Florida, to lay down the principles of the Republican party—reading their platform, and defending the doctrines therein contained.

Mr. Saulsbury, of Delaware, inquired if the Constitution did not give power to establish slavery in Kansas.

Mr. Trumbull replied that it was a Constitution of freedom, not of slavery. The word "slave" does not occur in it.

Mr. Yulee stated that it appeared, then, that the whole object of the Republican party was to exclude slavery from the Territories. He desired to know whether the exclusion did not apply to the District of Columbia, and all the forts and arsenals which were under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Government? How was it in the new States of the Union?—for the logical sequence of his (Mr. Trumbull's) argument would be that slaves are now illegally held in Louisiana, Missouri, and every other new State. He wanted light thrown on these matters, for the question was a serious one. The doctrines of the Republican party plant seeds of revolution. That is the platform on which it is impossible for the country to stand. The Trojan horse had been introduced, out of which will issue armed enemies of the existence of the country.

Mr. Trumbull thought the gentlemen were entirely mistaken as to the principles or views of the Republicans, and he would endeavor to enlighten them in a calm and candid manner. He did not like to hear them use the word South in this matter. Not more than one-twentieth of the people of the South are slaveholders, and that class should not arrogate to themselves that they are the South. The exclusion of slavery from the Territories operates on all alike. Northern men will have no more right to carry slaves there than Southern men. The Republican party had its origin in the question of slavery in the Territories. This Territorial question is not settled. The Democratic party unsettled it. He went on to allude to the term "Black Republican" which had been used.

Mr. Yulee said the term "Republican" having been consecrated by the Father of his Country, a sectional party had no right to appropriate it. He would not call them "black," but leave it to themselves to supply the proper designation.

Mr. Trumbull replied that they call themselves Republicans because they advocate the principles of Jefferson. If his party had made any departure from those principles, he would condemn such a departure. The fathers of the old Republican party were the models from whom their principles emanated. The very words in the platform to which the Senator from Florida had objected were written by the hand of Jefferson.

Mr. Yulee. To create, and not to destroy, a free Government.

Mr. Trumbull. Yes; and we perpetuate a free Government by maintaining the principles we advocate. The other party call themselves Democrats when their legislation is all shaped for the interests of a slaveholding aristocracy, comprising only one out of sixty of the inhabitants of the United States.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama. Do you recognise the right to reclaim fugitive slaves in the Territories?

Mr. Trumbull. I do under act of Congress, not under the fugitive-slave act, unless it is made applicable.

Mr. Clay. How do you reconcile the obligation in your platform to give all men freedom, without counteracting the right to reclaim fugitive slaves?

Mr. Trumbull. That obligation is merely a repetition of the doctrine enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. Our fathers did not undertake to carry out their principles perfectly. Every government is an encroachment, more or less, upon the natural rights of man; they were men who had fled from the despotism of the old world, and enunciated general principles, carrying them out as far as circumstances permitted.

Mr. Clay. Explain how you can reconcile as consistent with the personal integrity of the framers of the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution, their holding of slaves, entailing them as slaves, and distributing them by their last will and testament among their descendants, with the declaration that all men are entitled to life and liberty.

Mr. Trumbull. Under the circumstances they did not regard it as a crime to hold slaves.

Mr. Clay. Are there any circumstances under which crime can be justified, excused, or tolerated?

Mr. Trumbull. I don't call it crime in the citizens of the South to hold slaves.

Mr. Clay. Is not polygamy a crime? Your platform classes slavery and polygamy together.

Mr. Trumbull. It is a crime under some circumstances. I take it that it is not a crime in Turkey.

Mr. Clay, interrupting. I thank you for that concession in this Christian country.

Mr. Trumbull. We regard it as a crime, but other nations do not regard it so. I don't regard holding slaves as a crime, as they are often held in the Southern States. I think it is wrong, but it is better to endure that wrong than undertake to right it by a greater crime and greater evil.

Mr. Clay. Then, I understand you that right and wrong are merely conventional, and depend on the laws and moral sentiment of society.

Mr. Trumbull. Not entirely; although many things are criminal or innocent according to circumstances. When we speak of crime, we mean violation of the laws of the land. There are no laws against polygamy in Turkey or against slavery in the South. This thing of holding persons in slavery depends upon the circumstances who have slaves. I hold it as an evil; but, in my judgment, it is not a crime in every instance. I have never so regarded it. I do believe that slavery is illegal in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, asked if he spoke for his party or himself alone?

Mr. Trumbull said he spoke for himself, and explained the principles of the Republican party as they are understood by the people North and West, who are conservative, Union-loving, law-abiding people.

Mr. Pugh asked if Gov. Chase, of Ohio, was an exponent of the principles of the Republican party.

Mr. Trumbull replied that the platform was the only authorized source whence to derive their principles. There might be as much difference between the sentiments of Republicans, on some points, as between Mr. Pugh and the rest of the Democratic party on "squatter sovereignty;" but he did not think there was. This was the creed of thirteen hundred thousand men, and no doubt some difference existed in their opinions on certain points. He (Mr. Trumbull) maintained that neither Congress nor a Territorial Legislature had the power to create slavery in a Territory, and took strong ground in favor of colonizing, under the fostering care of the Government, the free colored population of the United States, and those who may hereafter become free, by voluntary acts of States or individuals, in some place or territory not too remote, until they shall be enabled to form a Government for themselves. He expressed the wish that this should become the settled policy of the Republican party. He read from the writings of Jefferson and speeches of Henry Clay bearing on that subject.

Mr. Trumbull continued. Having given my *understanding of the Republican platform*, I wish to ask Southern Senators why this persistent misrepresentation? Why are we called Abolitionists? What is to be gained by it? Is the South to gain anything by making their inhabitants believe that the great Republican party of the North is ready to put knives and pistols into the hands of the slaves to murder their masters? Will there be any less likelihood of insurrection, when you have inculcated throughout the slave population that the Republican party is ready to arm them to slaughter their masters? Why not then treat us as brethren? We do not mean, when we say that all men were created equal, that every man in an organized society has the same rights. We do not tolerate it in Illinois. I know there is a distinction between these races. The Almighty has marked it upon their faces, and man cannot, by legislation or otherwise, produce a perfect equality between these races, so that we can live happily together. I had always been a Democrat, but now I am denounced as a Black Republican, as an Abolitionist—for some Governors choose to call all of us Abolitionists. Now, I have changed no sentiment on the question of slavery since I ceased to act with the Democrats. I have lived under it, and would be as far as any Senator from interfering with this domestic relation.

He then proceeded to reply to Mr. Chesnut's (of South Carolina) remarks in relation to Seward's "irrepressible conflict" doctrine. Did it comport with the candor of that gentleman to attribute to a great party, which had declared its principles in Convention, what any individual might say?

Mr. Chesnut. Does the gentleman think I did not present a candid view of the question?

Mr. Trumbull. I think you did not fairly state my principles.

Mr. Chesnut. What I quoted was taken from the speech of a Senator who is considered on all hands as a flag-bearer—the leader who stood, with one or two exceptions, a head and shoulders, like a tower, lifted above the rank and file of the Republican party. Such men appear often in all parties—men of ideas, who lead. Such was the gentleman from whose opinions I drew my quotation yesterday. Does the Senator repudiate the Senator from New York (Mr Seward) as the leader of the Republican party? I doubt if he will have the temerity to stand here and deny that Mr. Seward has a right to speak the sentiments of that powerful party of which he is the head.

Now, sir, I do not desire to catechise the gentleman. I think he has passed. And, according to my own judgment, when he takes his reasons from the shorter, he takes his words from the longer and larger catechism. If I heard aright, I think he said that it was one of the provisions of their creed that Congress had full and sovereign power over the subject of slavery in the Territories; and, in virtue of that, they intended to exclude slavery in the Territories. The inquiry was made by the Senator behind me. If, then, you admit the power to legislate, how will you deny the power to establish? The gentleman replies: "Why, Congress cannot establish or do anything, except so far as the Constitution permits." Good doctrine; but how does he show, according to sound doctrine, that the Constitution permits them to prohibit? That portion of his creed is certainly in contravention of the Constitution. But, sir, I will not argue the powers of Congress on the subject of slavery. It is an exhausted subject. But if I should undertake it I would be able to show that the whole doctrine of the Senator has not the shadow of a foundation. In regard to the question whether he would take the opinion of a party from an individual. Ordinarily, I would not; but when I find a party acting upon such principles; when I find him who is acknowledged as a distinguished leader of that party, and so considered and admitted; when I take his well-considered and elaborate opinions—opinions which have had their effect upon the country—I feel at liberty and authorized to hold them up as the well-considered opinions of a leader of this great party of the North. That is the reason why I chose, upon that discursive debate, to predicate my remarks upon that subject.

Mr. Trumbull. The Republican party acknowledge no man—however high my respect for the Senator from New York, I do not acknowledge him—as the leader of the Republican party, nor hold myself responsible for what he may say as the leader of the Republican party. We acknowledge no leader. Our Republicanism is not a Republicanism of leaders.

Mr. Chesnut. Does the Senator repudiate the views of the Senator from New York? If so, then I have done the Senator injustice.

Mr. Trumbull. I repudiate the construction you have put upon those views. Mr. Seward had no expectation of working the change except through the action of the several States and in a constitutional way. The inference drawn from the "irrepressible conflict" of Mr. Seward was not legitimate, when that gentleman had himself taken the occasion, in the same speech, to guard against any such interpretation.

Mr. Chesnut. If the Senator will read that speech again, he will discover that he communicates to the people of the North that it is in their power to say that this conflict shall be carried on; that through their power they can produce those results. He rallies the freemen of the North for such a conflict. How was that to be reconciled with the interpretation of the Senator from Illinois? We know his views as expressed to-day—views broad enough for any purpose. I consider I have done no injustice.

Mr. Trumbull. I am sorry the Senator should not have been willing that qualifying remarks should have gone out with those he thought proper to give. I would like to know whether the whole speech, or only portions of it, have been circulated in the South, to incite an unkind feeling against the North.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama. The whole speech was published in the Charleston *Mercury*, word for word.

Mr. Chesnut. It had more effect to bring the Southern mind to the condition in which you find it than anything else. It is fully understood.

Mr. Bragg, of North Carolina. It was published in every Democratic paper in North Carolina, for the purpose of informing the people of the South of the objects and purposes of the North.

Mr. Trumbull. I am very glad, indeed, but am also sorry that it had such an effect as stated by the Senators. I think it has been misunderstood. The sentiments were not new in this country. Mr. Seward is not the author of the declaration of these principles, that there is a conflict between right and wrong, between good and evil.

He then read a letter from the Father of his Country to Lafayette, saying that he should rejoice in a feasible scheme to relieve Virginia of slavery. Mr. Trumbull contended that the declaration of Mr. Seward was nothing more than the views expressed by Washington, and Southern men in 1798. He also quoted the language of Jefferson—that there is nothing more certainly written in the Book of Fate than that these races should be free. It would be seen that the idea was not new. It had its origin in Virginia years ago; and the idea foreshadowed by Jefferson, although not a part of the creed of the Republican party, he trusted it might hereafter become its creed—that is, the deportation of the free negro population from this country. He trusted the Republican party would make it a part of their creed to procure some region of country not far distant to which the negro population could be taken. He feared the consequence of Jefferson's prophecy, unless this was done. In favor of this movement he quoted from a speech of Henry Clay, advocating colonization.

In conclusion, Mr Trumbull said: It seems to me impracticable to transport this great population to Africa. Let us obtain a country nearer home, and to show the sympathy of the North for the South—I know I may say for the people I represent—we will contribute liberal means to relieve this country of this free negro population, and of all the slaves that shall be voluntarily emancipated, by planting them in some contiguous country to this. I hope that will become the policy of the Republican party. I hope we may join hands with the South, and instead of reproaching each other—instead of saying anything to create a misunderstanding in the different sections of the Union—we may come together as our fathers stood together, shoulder to shoulder, to establish our Independence—that we may come together side by side, as brothers, adopting a policy which shall eventually rid us of this institution of slavery—the only one that threatens our permanent prosperity.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, referred to the fact that Mr. Trumbull had not only introduced an amendment to embarrass the resolution under consideration, but made a long speech on the general subject of slavery at a time when the importance of speedy action is apparent to everybody. Mr. Trumbull complains that the President did not send the information we wanted. But why did he not call for it again? It is not true that a large number of arms were taken at Liberty, or that a large number of arms were kept there. Only enough were taken to arm about one hundred men, and three light pieces of field artillery. They were not kept two weeks, and when they were returned the whole amount of the expense for repairs and losses was only $160. This is the transaction held up as a parallel to the recent foray in the State of Virginia. The Senator had said more lives were lost in consequence of the taking of the arsenal at Liberty, than at Harper's Ferry. He did not know as these arms were ever used. The department had no information that they were. They were taken for the purpose of preserving order, and to harm no one.

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, stated that Mr. Wise's letters to the Governors of Ohio and Pennsylvania called for no aid whatever, but mentioned that he had information that combinations of armed men were forming in those States for the purpose of making an incursion into Virginia either to rescue Brown, or to secure hostages in his place. Whether these combinations were really formed, he (Mr. Mason) did not know.

Mr. Davis could see nothing humiliating in the Governor of Virginia calling on the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to take care of the lawless men within their limits. He believed a conspiracy had been formed, extending not only through the United States, but to England. Money had been contributed and a military leader sent here from England to take command. The insurrection was foretold in England long before it occurred here. Col. Forbes received his first funds in England, and expected further aid here; but when it was not forthcoming he denounced his associates. The most odious feature in the whole transaction was that, in this conspiracy, we find a lurking, sordid, commercial purpose to disturb the South, and raise the price of cotton.

Mr. Mason appealed to both sides of the Senate to let a vote be taken without further debate. If the amendment should be adopted, he would wash his hands of the whole matter, satisfied that it could result in no good.

Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, said that some remarks which had been made the other day demanded a reply, but he had no wish to embarrass the investigation. He saw no particular emergency requiring haste. Cotton and negroes commanded a good price, and this was an evident attempt to get up a panic and excitement for the purpose of calling out gentlemen at the North of the Fifth-avenue stripe, who have long purses and make large contributions. He proceeded to reply to Mr. Iverson's remarks respecting the public sentiment in the North, and declared that free form of speech did not exist in the South, alluding to several cases where people had been expelled or mobbed for expressing obnoxious sentiments.

During Mr. Wilson's remarks a colloquy occurred, in which Mr. Iverson said they would tar and feather every one in the South who preached sedition. [Applause in the galleries.]

Messrs. Brown, of Mississippi, and Bragg, of North Carolina, participated in the colloquy.

Mr. Wilson had no defence to make for the action of the Massachusetts Senate. He spoke in severe terms of Governor Wise, whose whole life had been one of agitation. He believed an investigation would show that Wise and his confederates had formed a plan that in case Fremont was elected, to seize the city of Washington and Harper's Ferry—the very act for which he has hung Brown. He alluded to the New York *Herald* as furnishing brains for the Democratic party, and containing materials from which editorials were rehashed in Washington.

Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, obtained the floor, but the hour being late, the Senate then adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE.

The proceedings were opened with prayer.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, rose to make a speech, when a running discussion occurred on the pending question, whether it was relevant to make speeches, as the previous question had heretofore been demanded and seconded, to cut off the discussion on Mr. Clark's resolution, and Mr. Gilmer's substitute.

The Clerk subsequently rose to put the question as proposed, whether it was competent for him to decide questions of order pending the election of Speaker.

Mr. Millson, of Virginia, objected to a private citizen, elected by a former House as a subordinate officer, presiding over this body.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, agreed with Mr. Millson. He would not favor a violation of the express law of Congress.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, differed from both these gentlemen.

The point of order was then withdrawn.

Mr. Davis, of Mississippi, was in favor of the continuation of harmony. He believed the Government wants saving. He was no disunionist *per se*, and would make as many sacrifices as any man to preserve the Union; but notwithstanding his devotion to the Union, there are evils greater than disunion itself. He insisted on a strict observance of the Constitution in order to secure to every section its just equality and rights.

It was the duty of all conservative, patriotic men to rally to the support of the Democracy, the only national party, to put down the Abolition spirit. There was, notwithstanding what had been said to the contrary, great cause of alarm to the country. We should act instantly, or it will be altogether too late.

He quoted from the speeches of Senator Seward to show the dangerous sentiments he avowed to distract the country and accomplish the overthrow of the South. To say the labor of the two sections was conflicting and irreconcilable was a declaration of war, and hence the South were alarmed and looked to their defence. He earnestly appealed to all patriots to put down these treasonable designs. In alluding to the remarks heretofore made by Republicans, he said: Armed men have been sent to the South to kill their people and deprive them of their property. Could the South be patient under these circumstances, and could they be blamed for taking means for their defence? We of the South want peace. Let the North stand by the compact of our fathers. Seward is a traitor, and deserves the gallows! [Applause from the Southern side.] Virginia has hung the traitor Brown, and if they get hold of Seward they will hang him! [Laughter and applause.]

Mr. Morris, of Pennsylvania, said that, occupying a perfectly independent position, he was at liberty to vote on all questions according to his sense of duty to his country. He was opposed to all unnecessary agitation of the subject of slavery, and did not wish to discuss it unless it came before them in a legitimate way. This wicked Administration had countenanced every act of violence and fraud on the people of Kansas, and brought into Congress a Constitution fraudulent from beginning to end, and which would not stand the test of an examination. His friend (Mr. Sherman) had stood nobly firm for the rights of the people against the Government, standing up for law, order, concord, and peace, and for this the gentleman should have his vote as long as there was any probability of his election. He knew the gentleman was a friend of the protection of domestic industry, and would so organize the committees as would secure the fair consideration of that question. He knew Mr. Sherman to be a man of just temper and mind, and incapable of perverting the rules into an instrument of despotism. An objection had been urged that Mr. Sherman had signed a recommendation for the circulation of Helper's book. He (Mr. Morris) did not sign it, nor had he read the book. So far as he understood it, it was written by a native of a Southern State, almost exclusively addressed to Southern men, and showing the experience of Southern men as to the value of slave labor. Gentlemen magnify the book and make it a formidable engine of mischief to the peace of this country. Had not his friend declared that he was against that book so far as it contemplated an infringement of the constitutional rights of the South? What had the House to do with Helper's book? Were they, as a college of Jesuits, to expurge the literature of the day, and were they to act as censors of every incendiary work? It was a most extraordinary proceeding, and lifted Helper into a consequence he never dreamed of obtaining. Who repealed the Missouri Compromise, and broke the bonds of peace? The Democratic party. Who got up the Kansas-Nebraska bill? The Democratic party. Who refused to carry out the provisions of the Kansas bill, deluding Kansas by saying she should have a free expression of her will, and then denying it? The Democratic party. Who brought the question of slavery here? The Democratic party. And yet gentlemen were to sit in this hall and hear the whole North accused of acts of conspiracy against the Southern States. Was it fair? Was it honorable and fair dealing, that the proceedings of small bodies in the North should be taken as the indices of those living in that section? His constituents were eminently loyal, and he insisted that they should not be made *participes criminis*, and it was a libel to hold them and the North responsible for the actions of a band of bad men. It might as reasonably be charged that the whole South were responsible for the ordinance passed by South Carolina, nullifying the laws of the United States, and providing for an armed resistance. The man who was then the President was a citizen of Tennessee, and he, in dealing with that subject, met with a response, not only from the East and West, but from the South. The proceedings of the Nashville Convention, too, fell dead on the loyal heart of the South. He would never despair of making the Constitution and the Union perpetual, and hoped they would all live together as a band of brothers. But they never could live peaceably so long as gentlemen come into this Hall and insist on misrepresentations, and involve innocent people in the acts of criminals.

Mr. Moore, of Alabama, in reply to Mr. Morris, said that such a charge as the gentleman had mentioned had never been made by the South on the entire people of the North. He knew there were men in the North as true to the Constitution as those of the South; but when it was said there was in the North no sympathy for John Brown, it was a libel. The papers of the North were full of demonstrations of sympathy, and some were in mourning for Brown. Mr. Greeley, a prominent organ of the Republican party, said that in future time Brown's name will be held in glory and honor. So far as he knew the sentiments of those he represented, he but expressed his deliberate conviction when he said the success of a purely sectional party would virtually be a dissolution of the Union. If the Republican party could be defeated the Union could be preserved; but if such a party was to succeed, the sooner the Union is dissolved the better. The South were on the defensive. If they could not get their rights in the Union, and under the Constitution, they were prepared to have their rights out of it.

Mr. Corwin, of Ohio, suggested that the House take the course resorted to in the House when the New Jersey contested election case prevented a prompt organization. On that occasion the venerable John Quincy Adams was selected as chairman until a Speaker was elected. It had been his fortune to witness here every one of the crises to which reference had been made in the debate. He was here during the nullification times, and in 1850. If the gentlemen could now summon to their aid the calm and wise course which animated gentlemen in those times, all unpleasant feelings would be removed. [Applause.] He had heard with infinite pain the repeated threats, that if the Republican party was successful at the Presidential election, the South would be willing to encounter the fatal consequences of a dissolution of the Union.

Mr. Lamar, of Mississippi, inquired whether ex-President Fillmore did not make that very threat.

Mr Corwin replied, that probably such an assertion had been made. Prior to Mr Fillmore's election as Vice President, he expressed, in a formal manner, every opinion *held by the Republican party of this day*. But it was found when he succeeded to the Presidency, that he so administered the Government as to secure the approbation of every conservative man, North and South, for his impartiality. So would it happen to every man who comes into the Presidency; no matter what speculations he may have previously expressed, he will execute his constitutional powers. He did not think it fair to judge the Republican party by what Senator Seward or any other man has said. He had never read the speech of that Senator so repeatedly quoted from. There were hundreds of thousands of men who vote with the Republicans who had never read it; for there were men in that party who do not consider them as the worshippers of any idol. As to the charge that Seward was implicated in the conduct of John Brown, he said no man could be connected on such questionable testimony as was sought to be produced. He thought that this mode of criminating men ought to be put away. He doubted not that if they would trace the history of our country, they would all find something they would be willing to forget; if every man would examine himself, he would find something to regret. So of parties and Governments. In the course of his remarks, he said the principles of the Republicans were those of the framers of our Constitution, and for this he held himself responsible, but only as a lawyer. [Laughter.] He differed from some men who voted with that party. As to Helper's book, he did not believe it would change the opinion of a single man, woman, or child on the face of the earth.

Mr. Stanton here explained that when certain members signed their names recommending the circulation of the book so often referred to, its compilation was not completed. It was to be made up of statistics from Helper's book and quotations from the Fathers of the Republic. The superintendence of the book was in the hands of gentlemen in whom they had confidence.

Mr. Corwin resumed. In the course of his remarks he said the South was entitled to a good law relative to fugitives, and such was his belief concerning the people of Ohio. His speech was somewhat discursive, and much that he said kept the members in exceeding good humor. He thought there was no occasion to quarrel.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, argued that the doctrines of the Republicans in Ohio were subversive of the Constitution. Cut off the Western Reserve, and it would be as strongly Democratic as any State could boast. He said Mr. Corwin was supporting men and platforms which had no affinity with the fugitive-slave law, the perpetuity of the Union, or the sanctity of the Federal compact. He asked Mr. Sherman whether he believed in the constitutionality of the fugitive slave law?

Mr. Sherman declined, as he did the other day, to reply to any interrogatories; and referred to his public record for the last four years. He did not expect the support of the gentlemen on that side. [Applause.]

Mr. Cox said Mr. Sherman had an opportunity to manifest his love for free States when the Oregon bill came up, but he went out of the door so fast that you might have sat on his coat-tail. [Laughter.]

Mr. Sherman said he was engaged with a special committee at the time.

Mr Cox replied that all the members of the special committee, with the exception of Mr Sherman, voted on the bill. He concluded by exposing what he called the mosaic of the Republican party in Ohio.

Without taking a ballot, the House adjourned.

The Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad.

RECEIVER APPOINTED.

Cleveland, December 8.—J. K. Edgarton, Esq., of Pittsburg, was to-day appointed receiver of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad Company.

Pittsburg, December 8.—The District Court, to-day, on application of the domestic creditors appointed a sequestrator for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad. This action was induced by the appointment of a receiver in Ohio, by the United States District Court, upon application of certain bondholders.

The New Style of Government Envelopes.

Washington, December 8.—The Postmaster General has ordered of the contractor a further supply of the new self-ruling stamped envelopes, upon an improved pattern. The new edition will appear some time in January.

The Sunbury and Erie Railroad Track Laid to Warren.

Erie, Dec. 8.—The track of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad was yesterday laid to the borough of Warren. There are great rejoicings to-day among all classes of the people.

Schuylkill County Politics.

Pottsville, Dec. 7.—The Democracy of Schuylkill county met in County Convention, at the Court House, on Monday last, and adopted a resolution instructing their delegates to the 4th of March Convention to support Hon. Jacob Fry, of Montgomery county, for Governor.

Minister Preston and Baron Rothschild Passengers by the Steamer Persia.

New York, Dec. 8.—Hon. Mr. Preston, United States minister to Spain, and Baron Rothschild are among the passengers by the steamer Persia, which arrived at this port to-day.

From New Mexico.

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The Santa Fe mails of the 7th and 14th ult. have reached Independence. But few Indians were encountered on the route, and they were friendly.

No Portland Steamer on Saturday.

Portland, Dec. 8.—No steamer will sail from this port for Liverpool on Saturday next.

Arrival of the Anglo-Saxon.

Portland, Me., Dec. 8.—The steamship Anglo-Saxon, from Liverpool on the 23d ult., arrived here this morning. Her advices have been anticipated.

The Ohio River.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 7.—The river is rising rapidly, and there is now ten feet six inches of water in the canal, and eight feet on the falls. The large boats, for the first time this season, ascended the falls to-day. The weather is very cold. Two inches of snow fell yesterday. The mercury marks ten degrees above zero.

Markets by Telegraph.

Charleston, Dec. 7.—Cotton—Sales of 5,000 bales to-day at irregular prices.

Savannah, Dec. 7.—Cotton unchanged; sales of 800 bales.

Mobile, Dec. 7.—Cotton dull; sales of 2,000 bales at 10¾@10⅞c for middling.

New Orleans, Dec. 7.—Cotton unchanged; sales of 11,000 bales. Sugar buoyant at 7⅛@7⅜c. Molasses 38@41c. Flour advancing; sales at $6@6¼. Freights have slightly advanced. On Cotton to Liverpool 17-32d. Exchange on London 9@9⅛ per cent. premium. On New York ⅜ per cent. premium.

Detroit, Dec. 7.—Flour active at $5.75@5.87½ for extra. Wheat steady; red is 1@2c lower. Receipts, 2,500 barrels Flour.

Mobile, Dec. 8.—Cotton—Holders are willing sellers; sales of 5,000 bales at 10⅝c for middlings. Augusta.—Cotton unchanged; sales of 800 bales.

Liverpool Cotton Circulars.

New York, Dec. 8.—(By the steamer Persia.)—Hewitt's circular reports that the Cotton Market has been dull all the week. The demand has been moderate, and there was a considerable disposition to realize prices at the close. The market closed flat with a slight decline on New Orleans and Mobiles, and a decline of ⅛d on Uplands. Imports of the week 15,000 bales; stock 130,000 bales, against 1[illegible]0,000 last year. New Orleans Middlings, 7⅜d; Mobile do 7⅛d; Upland do 6⅞d.

Marriott's circular says the recent import not having been landed, the trade buy sparingly. The choice lots offered are not good, and holders act with much general confidence.

Clare says there is a slow market; but it has an evident healthy tone. The Manchester market alone gives any degree of steadiness here. Desirable lots are scarce, and prices for them well maintained. The lower qualities, especially sandy, are easier.

Kearsley quotes American lower from general dullness, but for the useful range of sound New Orleans new crop the demand far exceeds the supply yet here.

Stolterfoht says the market is quiet, if not depressed. The sales to arrive are more difficult, although sellers are willing to be accommodating in price. A few cargoes now have arrived, which has caused a decline in the better descriptions on the spot. The middling qualities are supported, except Uplands, which is ⅛d lower. Orleans middling, 7⅜d; Upland do 6⅞d. Richardson & Spence report the supply of new Cotton as limited. The prices are fairly supported. There is no confidence in the maintenance of these prices, and qualities afloat are offered at a decline of ⅛@¼d. Indeed, a decline of ⅛@¼d has been conceded in some cases. The prices of the old stock here is nominally quoted. New crop Orleans middling, 7 5-16d. Wakefield & Nash report the market easier, with some concession in the prices for inferior qualities. Orleans middling, 7⅜d; Uplands, 6⅞d.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

American Academy of Music, Broad and Locust streets.—"The Sicilian Vespers."

National Hall, Market street.—Old Folks' Concert Company.

National Theatre, Walnut street, between Eighth and Ninth.—"Dan Rice's Dream of Chivalry."

Walnut-Street Theatre, corner Walnut and Ninth streets.—"Irish Assurance and Yankee Modesty"—"An Hour in Seville"—"Brian O'Linn."

Wheatley & Clarke's Arch-Street Theatre, Arch street, above Sixth.—"A Daughter's Vow"—"Object of Interest."

Temple of Wonders, northeast corner Tenth and Chestnut streets.—Signor Blitz.

McDonough's Gaieties, Race street, below Third.—Entertainments nightly.

Metropolitan Hall, Jayne's Commonwealth Building, Chestnut street, near Sixth.—"Theodor's Museum of Art."

City Councils.—Both branches of Councils held stated meetings yesterday afternoon.

Select Council.—The following communications were received and appropriately referred:

From the Commissioner of City Property in answer to a resolution, stating that the space of new paving required opposite to property of the city is about 5,200 square yards, which, at fifty cents per yard, will cost $2,600 out of the appropriation of $3,000 made for the purpose.

The special committee upon the subject of the erection of wooden buildings reported back the ordinance prohibiting such erection, referred to them, with *sundry amendments*. The ordinance was suggested by the fire marshal and recommended by the Mayor. It prohibits the future erection of any building whose exterior is wholly or partly of wood in any portion of the built-up city.

The first amendment was in favor of manufacturing buildings, which was favored by Mr. Benton and opposed by Mr. Neal. Mr. Cuyler considered the bill, as framed by Fire Marshal Blackburn, wholly unexceptionable, and advocated its passage.

Mr. Wetherill thought that some of its provisions would prevent the construction of any rolling mills or other manufactories, for which large sheds were necessary, and the erection of which, under some of the provisions of the bill, would be illegal.

Mr. Benton advocated the passage of the amendment in favor of the exemption of wooden factories, and urged that at any future time the ordinance if passed, may be repealed. The bill was recommitted.

The Finance Committee reported in favor of releasing the sureties of Mr. Wm. V. McGrath, late City Treasurer. Adopted.

The Committee on Water reported resolutions for the transfer of certain items of appropriation. Agreed to.

Mr. Leidy presented a report from the Chief Engineer of the progress made towards the completion of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad, which was ordered to be printed in the appendix.

The Committee on Railroads reported in favor of permitting the Thirteenth and Fifteenth streets Railroad to construct a turn-out upon their track at Broad and Carpenter streets, in order that their cars may run to the Baltimore Railroad depot. Laid over.

The ordinance providing for the removal of the office of the Girard Trust, and the filling up of the same, was passed finally.

An election for manager of Wills Hospital resulted in the unanimous choice of Mr. Robert Bethell.

A resolution, that the Committee of Highways furnish to Councils a full list of all culverts ordered to be constructed during the year, with all particulars concerning their dimensions, &c., was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Davis offered a resolution that all the contracts that have been awarded in the Department of Highways prior to July 1st 1859, for constructing culverts under the ordinance of November 11, 1858, shall be presented to Councils, together with all contracts for opening, paving and grading streets, or for any other purpose, that have not been commenced, and are not now under process of execution; and that the Chief Commissioner shall at once notify all contractors to whom this may apply of the passage of this resolution. Referred.

A resolution to release the securities of John Ward was presented and agreed to.

Mr. Norman called the attention of the Chamber to a portrait of Thomas Paine which had been sent there by the owners of the picture—Mr. Forrest, L. Taylor and others—who were desirous to donate it to the city, and that it should have a place among the Revolutionary heroes in Independence Hall.

On a former occasion the question was not considered, because the portrait was not in the room.

Mr. Norman offered a resolution that the picture be accepted.

Mr. Neal moved to refer to the Committee on City Property.

Mr. Jones hoped not, but that the picture be accepted.

Mr. McIntyre wanted to know if the picture was an original or a copy. He would look with disfavor upon any measure which would crowd the Hall with mere copies.

Mr. Norman replied that it was a copy by Mr. Otis, and a perfect *fac simile* of the original.

Mr. Drayton objected to the reception of the portrait, as from his earliest childhood he had been taught to reprobate the character of Tom Paine. While conceding the intellectual greatness of the man, his immoralities were never denied, while his infidel teachings should be sufficient to exclude his portrait from a place in Independence Hall. He was sorry to oppose the measure, but felt bound to speak as he had done.

Mr. Norman was not acquainted with the gentlemen who desired to donate the portrait. They gave it, not because he was an infidel, but because he wrote ably for the cause of Independence. No man had a cleaner record than Tom Paine during the Revolution, and his patriotism and veneration should be remembered. If we reject his portrait because he was an infidel, Mr. Norman said he would vote for the removal of several portraits already there on the same ground, among them are the portraits of Jefferson and Franklin, whose orthodoxy is doubtful.

Mr. Neal strongly opposed its reception, and read several extracts from Paine's Age of Reason, and from the works of John Adams condemning Paine's career and principles, in support of his argument.

After some further debate, the motion to postpone the consideration of the subject for one week was agreed to.

The Chamber refused to concur in the amendment of Common Council to the bill prohibiting passenger railways from shortening their routes or constructing curves, without the sanction of Councils.

The amendment of Common Council, permitting the Hestonville Passenger Railroad to lay their rails over the Wire bridge, was concurred in.

A resolution to drain the parade ground, in the southern part of the city, by means of a culvert, was agreed to.

An ordinance to authorize a loan to meet the debt of the city maturing in 1860 was passed unanimously.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise for proposals for a loan of $700,000 was agreed to.

A resolution to erect an additional section in the market in Moyamensing avenue was referred to committee.

A resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Markets to make an abatement in the rents of Walnut-street ferry was agreed to.

The bill for the election of vaccine physicians was called up, and after some debate its further consideration was postponed.

An ordinance to establish a Saturday-night market at Broad and Race streets was agreed to.

A resolution, relieving the suspension of the Hope Engine and the Marion and America Hose Companies, was agreed to.

A resolution from Common Councils authorizing the Commissioner of Market Houses to advertise for proposals for four additional sections on Girard avenue, was agreed to.

Adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

A communication was received from the Guardians of the Poor, asking the transfer of certain trust funds in the hands of the Treasurer. Referred to the Committee on Trusts.

Mr. Loughlin, a petition asking for the passage of an ordinance authorizing the appointment of police officers in the Twenty-third ward. Referred to the Committee on Police.

Mr. Wistar submitted the following protest:

The undersigned, members of Common Councils, protest against the passage of that part of the ordinance fixing the tax rate for the year 1860 allowing 13 cents in the hundred dollars to those parts of the city which supply their own poor, for the following reasons:

The ordinance is based upon an appropriation of $328,917 for poor purposes which would leave a balance of not quite four thousand dollars for further appropriation to that department. This sum the undersigned believe to be entirely inadequate.

In 1855 the expenses of the poor department were	$300,000
In 1856	248,000
In 1857	243,000
In 1858	274,000
In 1859	284,000

In other words, the average expenses have been about $270,000 a year, and the smallest sum expended was $243,000—$328,917 is the sum asked for the year 1860.

The present guardians are now in the exercise of their duties, and are therefore exceedingly likely to decrease the sum required, and in practice it has been found that extra appropriations are always asked for and made, and extra appropriations for deficiencies in 1859 for about $15,000 have been passed by this body, and will probably be passed finally. All such appropriations will have to be added to the appropriations for 1860.

The undersigned therefore protest against the passage of the ordinance because it gives a false basis of taxation, and as a consequence does injustice to those portions of the city supporting their own poor, because it unfairly diminishes their poor rate allowances for the year 1860.

The document was placed on the minutes.

Mr. Ward submitted a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Highways to report whether the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad Company have violated an ordinance in laying their track at Front and Swanson streets. Agreed to.

A communication was received from H. T. King, Esq., Solicitor, calling attention to certain liens filed by the Board of Health. Referred to the Committee on Surveys.

The supplement to the ordinance authorizing the appointment of a Committee on Printing and Stationery, passed by Select Council, was concurred in.

The ordinance passed by Select Council, supplementary to the ordinance regulating the passenger railroads, forbidding the construction of turn-outs, or the shortening of the routes, was concurred in.

Mr. Hacker, of the Committee on Finance, submitted an ordinance authorizing the sale of city loans in the sinking fund, to meet loans falling due in 1860. Agreed to.

Also an ordinance making an appropriation of $3,000 to pay the clerks in the controller's department for the registration of warrants since consolidation, and for recording twice-paid warrants. Also $200 to John Dallam, for a similar service under a committee of Councils.

Mr. O'Neill moved to amend, to raise the appropriation to Mr. D. to $300.

Mr. Miller said the whole work could be done for $300, and this proposed appropriation was squandering the people's money.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Quinn moved to amend to make the sum $1,000, and other amendments were proposed, which gave rise to lengthy political debate of no interest to the public, and of but little credit to the participants.

An amendment to make the sum $1,200 was agreed to and the ordinance passed.

The bill, from the other branch, authorizing the mayor to advertise for proposals for the new loan, was concurred in.

Several bills authorizing certain items of appropriation to be transferred to the Highway and other departments, to meet expenses between the present time and the first proximo, were concurred in.

Mr. Miller presented a report providing for the construction of a new bridge over the Reading Railroad, on the line of Front street. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Craig, from the Committee on Trusts, reported a resolution authorizing the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department to draw certain warrants in favor of the steam fire engine companies, Decatur and Good Will Hose. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution providing for the introduction of an alarm box into the Good Will Hose. Agreed to.

There was no further business of public interest transacted.

An Extraordinary Case of Attempted Arson.—A fire broke out about two o'clock yesterday in a large four-story building owned and occupied by Messrs. Lippincott & Son, at 916 Filbert street, and known as Lippincott's building. Mr. L. is a manufacturer of mineral water, and occupies the cellar and first story of the main building in his business. His family reside in the country, and when in the city he and his son sleep in the third story of the back building, and were there on Wednesday night. The second story of the main building is occupied by two sisters named Curtis in the mantua-making business—the front part of the room being used as a store, and the back part as a chamber, being divided by a curtain. The third story, and the one in which the fire originated, is occupied by Messrs. Kraft & Tubener, in the manufacture of looking-glass and picture frames. The fourth story is occupied by Arthur Hagan as a tailoring establishment.

Between seven and ten o'clock on Wednesday evening an unusual movement and mysterious sounds and noises were heard by the Misses Curtis in the room immediately over theirs, but, presuming that they were occasioned by the employes of Hagan, or by those of Kraft and Tubener, were not alarmed. They also heard what appeared to be two persons carrying something up stairs. The noises ceased about 10 o'clock in the evening. About 12 o'clock, when Hagan and his employes left, the building appeared to be filled with a peculiar kind of odor, accompanied by stifling fumes and an unusual degree of heat—so much so that Hagan and his workmen were compelled to leave sooner than usual. About this time the Misses Curtis, who had retired at ten o'clock, were awakened by the heat and singular smell, and upon looking up to the ceiling observed something drop. They arose at this juncture, and after searching the premises for a long time, they finally concluded that there was something wrong in the room overhead. They accordingly ascended the stairs, found the door of the room securely fastened, and that the fire was raging inside.

Mr. Lippincott and his son were notified and broke open the door. After vain endeavors to put the fire out, they called for assistance. Officer Simler summoned the Diligent engine company at once, and in a short time the flames were extinguished. Loss by fire, about $200.

At an early hour yesterday morning, Officer Simler was satisfied that there was something wrong, and reported it to Lieut. Patton, who very properly directed that every person who came to Kraft & Tubener's establishment should be taken into custody to await an investigation of the case by Fire Marshal Blackburn.

The preparations made by the incendiary were of a most startling complete and extraordinary character. On the third floor, fronting on Filbert street, in Kraft and Tubener's room, where the fire broke out, a large amount of combustibles had been collected, consisting of shavings, chips, and other inflammable articles. There was also a can of turpentine containing at least five gallons of this fluid which had been capsized on the shavings. It was in this mass of substances that the fire originated. It burned through the flooring immediately above the bed occupied by the Misses Curtis, and had it not been for the timely discovery the burning mass would in a few minutes have fallen on the unconscious victims.

The most singular part of this affair, assuming even that the whole party in custody are innocent, is the multitude of stories told by Kraft to account for the circumstantial evidence that everywhere surrounded him. It was in evidence that there was a larger insurance on the property than it was worth, and that Kraft had made arrangements on the day of the fire for an extra insurance of a thousand dollars on a lot of paintings that were to be brought to his store. No trace of these paintings was visible, and the story is regarded as a fabrication.

Kraft was last evening committed by Alderman Hibbard to await his trial. The other parties, with the exception of the boy, were discharged.

Great credit is due to Lieutenant Patton, Officer Simler, and Fire Marshal Blackburn, for their promptitude and energy in unravelling the entangled web surrounding this extraordinary case.

Trouble among the Fancy—*Descent on the Gamblers.*—Between 11 and 12 o'clock last evening, a number of the Mayor's Detective Officers, accompanied by a section of the reserve corps, paid a visit to several of our city gambling houses. The first establishment visited was that of Wm. Knox, No. 41 South Eleventh street. On entering, the room was found filled with a large number of gentlemen, to the number of fifty or sixty, who were busily engaged in a game of faro. The banker, Mr. Charles Garrison, was seated at the table at that time, dealing out the cards with all the affability and dexterity becoming his responsible situation. The table was surrounded by a most anxious and excited crowd, eagerly bartering for checks, and watching with an interest as intense as life the spots on the freshly appearing card. A large number of checks were on the table, as well as some eighty-five dollars in bills. As soon as the detectives announced their errand, there was a scene such as may be easily imagined. The trepidation was most intense. There were men in that eager and excited throng whose names would read harshly in a police item—men of all classes and descriptions—men from the counting-house and court-house, from the mansion and the hamlet—all fired by the one desire for gain, and all eagerly watching the slow and calculating banker with a painful intensity.

The warrant of the officers specified the object of their search, Mr. Charles Garrison, who was taken into custody. The checks, the faro-table, the cards, and their silver-case, the card-counter, and all the paraphernalia of the worthy trade were recovered, and are now at the Central Station. Mr Garrison gave bail and will have a hearing to-day.

About the same time visits were made to the house No. 19 South Ninth street. No game was in progress, and no evidences of its contemplation were visible. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Hickman were arrested on the warrant. These charges are based we believe on the oath of a victim at the gambling-table. We apprehend that this will be the end of the affair, as we have never yet heard of the end of a dozen cases like this already on the record. The reason of this is, that in many cases these affidavits are made and the arrests carried out for the purpose of extorting money. Dishonorable as this practice is, it is nevertheless a common one, and the proper officers should take measures to prevent its occurrence in the present instance.

Restored to his Parents.—A day or two ago we announced the disappearance of a boy about ten years old, who left his home on Friday last, and that a handsome reward had been offered for his recovery. The parents of the boy, named Comly, reside in Sixth street, near Vine. Every exertion was made by the detectives to ascertain his whereabouts, and daily inquiries were made by his friends, who were exceedingly attached to him, as to the result of their endeavors. Yesterday morning Mr. Comly, the father of the lad, called at the Mayor's office to take further measures for his recovery. Whilst conversing with Chief Ruggles in reference to the matter a milkman, named Boston, called and stated that his little daughters had met in the street, near the Good Intent Works, in the Twenty-fourth ward, a boy who answered, in every particular, the description given in the advertisement. He was crying bitterly, and they persuaded him to accompany them to their father's house. Upon being interrogated, he said that his name was Stopely, that he was an orphan, that he resided with some relatives who were absent on a bridal tour, and that he had been turned into the street. He said that his spare clothing, which was packed in a bundle, had been lost in his wanderings, and that he had slept in barns and sheds. After hearing this statement, Mr Comly could scarcely believe that the boy was his son. He accompanied Mr. Boston, however, and in a short time had the satisfaction of embracing his child. What could have induced the boy to leave his home in the first place, and afterwards to concoct such stories, remains a mystery.

Rev. John Chambers, of this city, addressed the young men of Baltimore on last Wednesday evening. The *Patriot* of yesterday, noticing the fact, says:

"Last evening quite a goodly congregation assembled in the Charles-street Methodist Episcopal Church, (notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather), to listen to a discourse from the Rev. John Chambers, D. D., of Philadelphia, with special reference to the young men of our city. After singing two appropriate hymns, and the reading of Paul's 6th chapter of the Second Letter to the Corinthians, he announced the following text: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you; and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty'—selected from the 6th and 7th chapters of Corinthians. The reverend gentleman, with characteristic strength and vigor of style, reviewed the subject-matter of the text with ability, and at the close gave a sound, practical application to those present—earnestly beseeching those who were not at peace with the Almighty to consider the affectionate invitation of the text, and unite with his people."

Interesting Exercises at Zane-street School.—Yesterday afternoon, at the Zane-street Girls' Grammar School, the young ladies who composed the last graduating class, and who are now pupils in the Normal School, were presented with their diplomas for meritorious conduct and good scholarship, in a neat speech by Mr. Steinmetz, of the School Board. These were received on behalf of her comrades, in some graceful remarks by Miss Mary G. Dunn, who in return presented Miss Webb, the principal teacher of the school, with a splendid "odor case," as a token of the affectionate regard entertained for one whose parental solicitude had softened the rigor of instruction in the recitation rooms. A valedictory address was then delivered by Miss Conway. Several school directors who were present, also made speeches appropriate to the occasion. The girls were in holiday attire, and wore their prettiest smiles. The affair was most interesting, and will not soon be forgotten by the delighted participants.

Sale of Pictures, &c.—Messrs. C. J. Wolbert and Co. sold, yesterday morning, a number of fine pictures, statuary, &c., belonging to the estate of J. J. Vanayckel, Esq. The sale took place in the second story of Chickering's Building, No. 907 Chestnut street, and attracted a large number of connoisseurs. Rothermel's picture of the "Giant's Staircase" sold for $987.50. The "Birth of Venus" brought $760; "Lake Lucerne" sold for $360; "A View near Chamouni" sold for $152.50; "A View in Italy" brought $100; and "King Lear," a sketch by Rothermel, was sold for $115.

Delaware County Passenger Railway.—This road, extending from Logan street, in the Twenty-fourth ward, along the West Chester road to the Howard House, near the Delaware county line, a distance of four miles has been completed, and will be placed in operation in a few days. The cars will be run every two hours, and application will be made to Councils for permission to carry freight between midnight and daylight to accommodate the farmers in bringing produce to market.

Political.—The friends of the People's party held a meeting at Fourth and Washington streets, on Wednesday evening. Thomas H. Seaburn presided. Several speeches were made, and a series of resolutions were adopted. The People's party will elect delegates to the State and National Conventions, on Tuesday next.

False Alarm.—The alarm of fire, about two o'clock yesterday afternoon, was caused by the striking of the telegraphic signal box, in the Eighth-ward station-house, by some blundering officer or unauthorized person.

Petty Larceny.—Alderman Fennington yesterday morning, held Michael Angel for a further hearing on the charge of taking a lot of brass valued at seven dollars, from the foundry of Morris, Tasker, & Co., at which he was employed.