The Press.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—Purchase and Maintenance of Mount Vernon; Railway Comfort; Passenger Railway Accidents—Double Tracks; Personal and Political; Furs and their Uses; &c. FOURTH PAGE.—Our Portfolio; Marine Intelligence.

The News.

The State Legislature met yesterday. In the House, Mr. Lawrence, of Dauphin, (Opposition,) was elected Speaker, Mr. Francis, of Venango, (Opposition,) was elected Speaker of the Senate, and Mr. Errett, (Opposition,) Clerk. The Governor's message will be delivered to-day, and will be published in the Press to-morrow.

Congress re-assembled yesterday, after the holiday recess. No ballot for Speaker was taken, up to the hour of adjournment, by the House.

A man named Andrew Johnson was murdered, in a house of ill-fame, in Currant alley, yesterday. The keeper of the den and two men have been arrested for the crime. In our local columns the particulars will be found.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser*, of last evening, gives the following account of a fire in that city, by which six persons lost their lives:

"About half past five o'clock this morning, a fire broke out in the building No. 203½ Division street, the lower floor of which was occupied as a grocery, and the upper floors for tenements. Christian Schosser, the keeper of the grocery, it appears, left a fluid lamp burning in the store while she went below to make a fire in the kitchen stove, and this lamp exploded, setting fire to the store. Mrs. Schosser gave the alarm and got her children out of the house as quickly as possible, by the back door leading into East Broadway. Six families occupied the upper part of the house, and before they could get down stairs, the child of a woman named Burns was suffocated. Another occupant named Marks Nathenham, after rescuing his wife and two of his children, lost his life in his efforts to save two others. The four bodies have been recovered, but it is thought others remain buried beneath the ruins. The police from the Seventh, Tenth, and Thirteenth precincts were promptly to the fire, and rendered all the assistance in their power.

"P. S.—In addition to the bodies of the four persons taken from the ruins, two more were found about 10 o'clock this morning. They were all taken to the Seventh-ward station-house, where Coroner Schirmer is now holding an inquest. The bodies of the two persons last found have not been recognized. It is believed that these six comprise the whole number who lost their lives by this catastrophe."

The Shanesteles *Democrat* gives the first chapter in "a story of real life," by saying that Miss Harriet E. Smith, daughter of Mr. Horace Smith, of Spafford, Onondaga county, N. Y., will start soon for Washington Territory, away in the Northwest, beyond the Rocky Mountains, to marry a man she has never seen—Mr. D. Spafford. The friends of the parties are intimate, and a correspondence between them has continued for two years, and has resulted in a marriage contract. The young gentleman being engaged in a profitable business, which he cannot conveniently leave, has remitted funds to the lady, with a request for her to join him there.

The Poughkeepsie *News*, of the 29th ultimo, says that on the night previous an attempt was made to murder and rob Mr. J. E. Fuller, agent of the American Express Company. He was on his way home about half past nine, when he was attacked by three men. One of them knocked him down with a cane, while another struck him on the forehead with a hatchet. The third one drew a sword with which he endeavored to thrust at him. The villains becoming alarmed fled, and Mr. Fuller was enabled to reach his residence.

Two more of the prisoners arrested on account of the Harper's Ferry affair—Aaron Dwight Stevens, and —— Haslitt—are awaiting their trials. In regard to the trial of Stevens, his counsel, in Boston, has received the following letter from District Attorney Hunter:

CHARLESTOWN, Dec. 24, 1859.

GEORGE SUNNOT, Esq.: Dear Sir: I have yours of the 20th inst.

The authorities of Virginia have definitely settled that Stevens is to be tried here; and, as per your request, requested by Mr Buchanan, I have so informed him.

When the trial will come off I am unable to say at present—but presuming it will be some time during the winter, probably during the next month. It will be by no means certain.

When it is ascertained, I will with pleasure cause you to be notified.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

ANDREW HUNTER.

Stevens is an intelligent and powerful-built young man of 28 years, who formerly belonged in Norwhich, Conn. He was badly wounded during the attack on the armory, when he was dangerously shot, receiving five balls in his body, three of which the surgeons could not extract. He was next in command under Capt. John Brown, and acted as drill-master in place of Col. Forbes. He is to be tried on the same charges as Brown, and their mutual confidential relations were such that, at Brown's request, Stevens occupied the same cell with him throughout his imprisonment.

The London papers, received by the Canada, which arrived at Boston on Monday, contain the following particulars of a mutiny on board of an American vessel:

"The purser of the African mail steamer Ethiope reports from Teneriffe, that on the 24th of November, at 9 P. M., a boat containing Captain George Walker, and four men of the American schooner William, was left off that port by the French bark Rose Marguerite. Captain Walker, with his boat's crew, shortly afterwards landed and made the following statement before the Captain-General of the island and the British and American consuls, which has been corroborated by his men: He left Savannah on the 24th of October, in the United States schooner William, with a crew of thirteen men and two passengers, females, bound to Smyrna. He had also on board 627,000 in cash, and some bales of silk. Four days after leaving he experienced bad weather from N. E., which compelled him to steer S. S. E. for forty hours, as far as lat. 20 10 N. One the 31st of November the schooner was in lat. 30 16 N., long. 20 W., when he spoke the French bark Jenny, of Marseilles, bound to Martinique; and, as his provisions had been damaged by bad weather, he hailed the bark, launched his boat and accompanied by four of his crew, he boarded her in search of a fresh supply. The mate, meanwhile, was left in charge of the schooner, and was ordered to keep her close astern of the Jenny. Capt. Walker had made one journey to and from the bark, but on his returning to the schooner a mutiny broke out, the mate made all sail, and completely abandoned him with his four men in the small boat. He made every effort to give chase, but darkness shortly afterwards set in, and the schooner was lost sight of. On the following day they were picked up by the French bark Rose Marguerite, Captain Brusson, and left near Teneriffe, as stated above. To the protest which has been entered by Captain Walker before the consuls he swore that, from the proceedings of those on board of his schooner after he left her, which he could partly see during the four hours he was in chase, he believed that the mate, whose name is T. J. Walton, intended to make away with the vessel, and get clear off with the $27,000, which was in Spanish doubloons. The master of the Rose Marguerite had addressed a letter to the French consul at Teneriffe, and stated that he had picked up Captain Walker and four men of his crew in a small boat at sea. Captain Walker and his crew, whose names are Charles Hunter, Peter Lynch, Frank Joseph, and John Reyiers, arrived in Liverpool as passengers by the steamer Ethiope, which also brought the boat in which Captain Walker and his men had been abandoned."

The Cincinnati *Times* publishes the following account of a double elopement, a parallel to which may not occur for a hundred years:

"Esquire Marchant was called on to unite in wedlock, at the Burnett House, a couple who had fled from Fayette county, Ky. At the Spencer House another couple—the male somewhat advanced and the bride but eighteen—were also anxious to unite themselves for life. The proper authority was summoned, and they were accommodated. The strangest part of the affair is this: The bridegroom at the Burnett and the bridegroom at the Spencer, were son and father. Both had eloped from the same vicinity, with the same intent, neither knew the purpose of the other, and both came on the same train. When the young man learned the facts, the Burnett House repaired to the Spencer, and it is said a most glorious time ensued."

Public Amusements.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE.—"Faust and Marguerite" will not be performed after Saturday evening. Miss Matilda Heron, we believe, will be the "bright particular star" of next week.

ARCH-STREET THEATRE.—The well-got-up and well-performed drama of "Peter Wilkins" continues to attract crowds to this house.

AT DAN RICE'S GREAT SHOW, there will be an afternoon performance to-day, got up with special reference to the young folks. The children enjoy themselves very much at the performances provided by Mr. Rice, and many of them regard him as second only to Kris Kingle.

HERR BONEWITZ'S CONCERT.—This evening, at Musical Fund Hall, a vocal and instrumental Concert will be given by Herr Bonewitz. The vocal performances will be executed by Mad'lle Anna Wizer, whose fine contralto voice and admirable style we have frequently had occasion to praise. Madame Volkmann and Herr Bonewitz will perform on the piano-forte. The second part of this concert will consist of "The Last Day," an original symphony in four scenes (so to speak), which will be executed by a large orchestra, led by Carl Sentz. Mr. Bonewitz is a piano-forte player and composer of much merit, and will have a good house.

MR. SAMUEL COWELL.—This comic singer, who has lately returned to this country, after an extended and successful visit to the British islands, announces his entertainments, to be given at Musical Fund Hall, on next Friday and Saturday evenings. He will be assisted Madame Von Berkel, vocalist, with Mr. James Hicks at the piano.

TROJON'S TABLEAU OF ARTS.—We have to remind visitors that among the exhibitions best worth visiting in this city is that at Sanderson's rooms in Jayne's Commercial Building, Chestnut street. Scenery, mechanical effects, automatic models, and Chinese illustrations combine to make this exhibition unusually attractive.

Here a Virginia lady wrote to a gentleman in New York that she had resolved not to patronize Northern productions henceforth, but to dress in home-made linsey woolsey. Two days after she wrote to the same gentleman, enclosing a sample of silk and desiring a dress pattern of the same kind purchased and sent to her. That's the way commercial non-intercourse works.

The Trade between the North and the South.

The history of the world records many instances of the destruction of the commercial and industrial superiority of cities and of nations. The channels of trade have repeatedly been changed. Localities that at one period resounded with the hum of myriads of voices, engaged in great business operations, are now deserted and desolate, and in other places, which, not many years ago, were primitive wilds, the ceaseless hum of active industry is heard and articles of untold millions in value are annually bought and sold. But these mighty changes have not been the result of mere transient ebullitions of feeling. Great wars, produced by minor causes, have, it is true, in some cases, been frightfully destructive of property as well as life, and swept away from sacked cities all hopes for the accumulation of future, as they have destroyed all vestiges of former, wealth. Still, mankind are apt to overestimate the influence of mere political occurrences upon the general welfare. The destiny of nations is decided by the everyday actions of the great mass of their citizens, who by the nature of their own individual existence make up the aggregate national character. The wealth and greatness of the American people have not been acquired so much by the aid of the legislation of their politicians or statesmen, as in spite of it. When laws of a salutary and advantageous character have been adopted, it has been because an irresistible public sentiment, founded upon their knowledge of their interests and necessities, demanded them. This allegation is also true to a great extent of the people of other countries. Politicians, instead of governing the channels of trade and commerce, are more like ships that float upon the surface of the ocean, which, while they may obtain the power to stem its currents, to resist, or to sail skilfully over them, are still utterly powerless to control or change them. The inherent energies and enterprise of the great body of mankind prompt them to seek out for themselves, all over the world, such commercial connections as they know or believe to be personally advantageous. The interference of Governments and politicians with this intercourse is more apt to create barriers to impede than to open new channels to assist it. But it has generally been found that when Governments have done their worst to prohibit traffic which the parties directly interested supposed to be mutually advantageous, their efforts have been but moderately effectual; and man, being a trading animal, has asserted and enforced his commercial rights in defiance of these obstructions.

For these, and many other reasons, we believe it to be utterly impossible to permanently destroy the trade between the North and the South. It is based upon the interests of both sections, and this fact affords a guarantee of its continuance which no popular animosities, sectional tumults, or demagogical appeals can effect so long as the original basis which established it remains, as an active incentive to its perpetuation.

Some years ago, when the anti-slavery agitation was at its height, it took the form, among zealous Abolitionists, of a determined movement against the consumption of any article produced by slave labor. The men engaged in the enforcement of this project were influenced by feelings very similar to those which govern the present Southern advocates of nonintercourse with the North. Having satisfied their minds and consciences, as they supposed, that slavery was a terrible evil, and that it was incumbent upon them to strike a vital blow at its continued existence, they aimed at starving slaveholders into a submission to their theory, by refusing to consume any sugar, rice, tobacco, cotton, or coffee produced by the assistance of slave labor. How effectual their movement was the world knows. The consumption of those articles has never been sensibly diminished; and while human appetites remain unchanged, and superior substitutes for the great Southern staples, in quality, price, or convenience remain undiscovered, the civilized world, however intense its anti-slavery sentiments may become, will go on consuming the products of slave labor if free labor fails to furnish them at a reduced price. No portion of the world would suffer so seriously, if the law of trade which impels men to buy whatever they want where they can obtain it at the lowest price did not exist, as the South; the very section in which it is proposed to resist that law. The principal consumers of Southern products in all countries are more or less deeply tinctured with a latent feeling of hostility to slave labor, and if the rule is to hold good that uniformity of opinion on this question is to regulate Southern purchases, it might with the same propriety be applied to the sale of Southern productions. Fortunately, the South perfectly well knows she has nothing whatever to fear on this account. A single experimental trial of the anti-slave-labor-product system thoroughly established its absurdity, and a trial of the same policy reversed, against sections supposed to be imbued with an anti-slavery feeling, will have precisely the same result.

For ourselves, we have always been animated by an earnest desire to secure to the South a full enjoyment of every constitutional right she possesses; and it is a libel upon the people of the North to allege that the great mass of them do not cordially cherish such sentiments. There is much less of anti-slavery feeling at this moment in the Northern States than in any other quarter of the world from which the South obtains any considerable portion of the articles she consumes. England is thoroughly Abolitionized, and France, Germany, and all Western Europe are much more deeply imbued with an anti-slavery sentiment than the people of the Northern States. While the South necessarily sells her productions to consumers more or less deeply tinctured with an anti-slavery feeling, she must in turn necessarily purchase her supplies from localities entertaining similar views, go where she may.

We were somewhat amused the other day at seeing an earnest appeal in one of the newspapers of Wheeling, Va., beseeching Southern merchants to purchase manufactures in that city, because it was located in a slave-holding State, and therefore supposed to be perfectly orthodox on all existing political issues. But even Wheeling, we believe, is at this time represented in the Senate of the Old Dominion by a gentleman who is a member, in full communion, of the Republican party of the country, a signer of the Republican call for a National Convention, and an earnest advocate at the meeting of the national committee of that party of the city of Wheeling as the place at which the Republican National Convention should be held.

Those citizens of the North, or of Europe, who have even a deeply-rooted sentiment of hostility to the institution of slavery, and a strong aversion to its extension or perpetuation, cannot be forced by any inflammatory appeals of Abolition orators to pause, when they are about to purchase a plug of tobacco, or a bale of cotton, or a tierce of rice, or a hogshead of sugar, to bestow much thought upon the industrial process by which it was prepared for market, or to deprive themselves of a business advantage or a personal gratification on account of a sentimental regard for the real or supposed miseries of the slave, or to advance any Abolition non-intercourse project to force the slaveholder into the abandonment of his present system of managing his plantation. While we all know this consciousness of the folly of *attempting to conduct business on sentimental principles* to exist in non-slaveholding regions, it is idle to suppose that Southern planters or Southern citizens, of any and every avocation, have not too much good sense to reject or refuse to purchase productions they need and desire, and can obtain most advantageously from the North, merely because a score of men out of as many millions were wicked and insane enough to commit a rash and evil deed, for which they have been amply punished, and because among these twenty millions, who have free scope to think and act for themselves, and who cherish every possible diversity of opinion upon every imaginable subject—religious, social, and political—there should have been found a few to express their approval of the wrong-doers.

AUCTION NOTICE.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer 431 Chestnut street, will sell this morning, at 10 o'clock, an assortment of Germantown fancy-knit goods, consisting of opera and school hoods, shawls, talmas, scarfs, nubias, children's hose, &c., &c.; Paris perfumery, fancy jewelry; 40 cases of congress and opera gaiters.

PAGE'S VENUS.—The exhibition of this fine picture will terminate on Saturday, as it is about being removed to Baltimore.

Flogging in the Navy.

Not long ago we noticed the effective manner in which the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, as Commander-in-Chief of the British army, had virtually abolished military flogging. Every friend of humanity will be glad to learn that the Duke of SOMERSET, First Lord of the Admiralty of England, has followed a good example, and issued the following order, dated December 10th:

"The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, being desirous of revising the regulations respecting punishments in her Majesty's navy, are pleased to direct as follows:

"I. All seamen and royal marines belonging to the fleet shall be divided into two classes, hereinafter referred to as the first and second class.

"II. All men now serving in the fleet whose character is marked 'good,' shall be in the first class.

"III. All men on first entering the navy or re-serves, and all men re-entering the navy with certificates marked 'good,' shall be also in the first class.

"IV. No man in the first class shall be subject to corporal punishment, except by sentence of a court-martial.

"V. Men in the first class committing any grave offence against discipline, or guilty of repeated misconduct, will be removed by warrant into the second class. They will not be liable to corporal punishment at the time when they are so removed, but, in addition to degradation to the second class, other punishment may be inflicted, according to the degree of the offence.

"VI. The second class will consist of all men whose conduct has not entitled them to certificates marked 'good.'

"VII. No man in the second class shall be subject to corporal punishment without court-martial, except for the following offences:

"1. Mutinous or highly insubordinate or riotous conduct.
"2. Desertion.
"3. Repeated drunkenness.
"4. Smuggling liquor into the ship.
"5. Theft.
"6. Repeated disobedience of orders.
"7. Deserting his post.
"8. Indecent assaults.

"VIII. Men in the second class, by a continued course of good conduct for a period of not less than twelve months, will be entitled to be restored to the first class.

"The above rules are not intended to relate to cases of open mutiny, where immediate punishment may be necessary to check a disposition on the part of others to join in so flagrant a crime.

"Future punishment returns are to contain the number of men in the first and second class respectively.

"This circular is to be read to the crews of Her Majesty's ships on each occasion of the Articles of War being read."

It may be observed that this is not quite so comprehensive a change as that organized for the army, which actually prohibits corporal punishment for any *first* offence; in the navy such punishment may be inflicted for sentence of court-martial. In the army, too, corporal punishment cannot be inflicted except by sentence of a court-martial, whereas there are reserved eight distinct offences in the navy, for any one of which corporal punishment may be inflicted without court martial—that is, by simple order of the officer commanding the ship. It was owing to statements and incidents in some of Captain MARRYAT'S naval novels, that the British Admiralty issued orders, some thirty years ago, that no seaman or marine should be flogged, without court-martial, until twenty-four hours after the commission of the offence with which he was charged. This gave time for the officer's choler to abate, and was said to have at once diminished such punishments fully one-half.

In England, the general opinion of naval officers has been that it would be impossible to maintain discipline at sea, or even in port, without the terrors of the lash being held over seamen and marines. The Duke of SOMERSET, who has now commenced the milder and more humane system, is a civilian. Very probably he was opposed by the naval members of the Admiralty Board, over which he presides.

Liberalism in England,

Until the year 1828, when the Duke of WELLINGTON and Sir ROBERT PEEL consented to the repeal of the disqualifying statutes, no Dissenter could hold certain offices in England. Above all, no Dissenter could be a judge. A great advance has been made, for religious opinions have ceased to affect a British subject's civil capacity or position. Lord PALMERSTON has just appointed a Methodist, Sir Joseph Arnfield, Huddersfield, Gloucester, &c., and to be prepared for the session of 1861."

PRINCE METTERNICH'S RECEPTION BY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.—PARIS, Wednesday, Dec. 14.—To-day, at two o'clock, Prince Metternich presented his credentials. Two court carriages and six conveyed the ambassador and his suite to the Tuileries. At the Place de Carrousel a battalion of the guard, and a battalion of infantry of the line, with music and standard, were drawn up. The chamberlain and the master of the ceremonies conducted the ambassador into the Salle du Trone.

Prince Metternich, in his speech to the Emperor, expressed his satisfaction at the happy re-establishment of good relations between Austria and France, and hoped that the ties uniting the two countries might become stronger every day. The Emperor's reply was most candid. Prince Metternich was also presented to the Empress, and afterwards paid his first state visit to the ambassadors of England, Russia, and Spain.

A gentleman, whose letter appears in the *Daily News* of Thursday, mentions that a friend of his, intimately acquainted with France and the French, has just passed over from one capital to the other, and he states positively that the statement so often made that French soldiers, priests, and civilians, are all panting for war with England is absolutely false. The letter writer proceeds: "Amongst his numerous instances, my informant mentioned two distinguished generals, and a recent marshal of France. These eminent men, he tells me, never speak of England, save in the kindest terms, mingled with regrets that so much exaggerating and misrepresenting should have led ill-conditioned persons between the two countries." The same writer then gives the fruits of his own personal experience: I travelled much in France during the past summer, conversed with all sorts and degrees of men. On no occasion did I come across the Anglophobia which our agricultural and clerical orators take upon themselves to deprecate in language more strong than polite. I fraternized with soldiers also, high and low. Even in the barracks I failed to discover the anti-English mania." Mr. Cobden, who is still in France, held similar language in his published letter two or three weeks ago.

The time was when the constant dread of a conflict between England and the United States was as great as the fear of an invasion by the French now is; but we hope to say, in a few years, that the two countries at present in the sympathetic ties of an enormous lucrative commerce, to destroy which by war would reduce one country to the verge of bankruptcy, and produce a social convulsion in the other, that the idea of such a suicidal struggle never enters into the head of any sane man. This is the secret of the speedy healing of the temporary little sore on the part of the Americans about the island of San Juan.

The Florida Legislature.

SANDED COTTONS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The select committee appointed by the House of Representatives of Florida to consider the circular of the New York Chamber of Commerce, calling the attention of planters to the great increase of sanded cottons, report that they believe the complaints this year have been without foundation, and recommend to the Chamber a thorough investigation as to the mode of selling cotton in New York, and that steps be taken to compel the commission merchants there to sell each planter's crop on its own merits, as the surest remedy, not only for sanded cottons, but to prevent one planter defrauding at the expense of another.

Later from Havana.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 3.—The steamship Havana, from Havana on the 30th ult., has arrived at this port.

Sugars were firm at 9@9¼ reals. Stock in port, 20,000 boxes.

Exchange on London 13¾@¾ per cent. premium. On New York 3@4 per cent. premium.

Arrived at Havana, ship Vigilant, from New York; barks Brasilian, from Rio, and Harlequin, from Liverpool.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—There is no doubt that Minister McLane has been instructed, in his efforts with the Constitutional Government, to obtain for the Louisiana Company modifications of its contract for the construction of a railroad over the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Messrs. Benjamin and La Sere certainly contemplate a visit to Vera Cruz in the event of the ratification of the treaty, to further the interests of the company.

Only one of the absentees in the House to-day who had not paired off, were Messrs. Adrain, Reynolds, Vallandigham, Sickles, and Pendleton. Their absence was accidental, and the causes satisfactorily explained.

New York Legislature.

ALBANY, Jan. 3.—The State Legislature met today.

The Senate elected Republican officers by a vote of 28 to 7.

Mr. Littlejohn was elected Speaker of the House on the first ballot.

Fire at New York.

SIX PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—A tenement house on Division street, was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. It was occupied by seven families, all of the Jewish persuasion. Six of the occupants were burned to death.

Sentenced to be Executed.

BURLINGTON, N. J., Jan. 3.—Philip Linch, the man who killed Conlton, at Bordentown, about three months since, has been tried and found guilty, and was to-day sentenced to be hung at Mount Holly on the 23d day of March next.

Charter Election at Owego.

OWEGO, N. Y., Jan. 3.—At the charter election held to-day, the Republican ticket was elected by 250 majority over the Citizens' ticket.

Railroad Accident.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 3.—An engine, with a snow plough attached, ran into a passenger train yesterday, between Manchester and Nashua, partially demolishing the rear car and slightly injuring two or three passengers.

Annual Message of Gov. Packer, &c.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 3.—The annual message of Governor Packer will be sent to both Houses of the Legislature at noon to-morrow. Advance copies will be mailed to-night to all the newspapers of Philadelphia.

The House will complete its organization to-morrow, by the election of Clerk and minor officers. Caucuses of the Opposition of both Houses will be held to-night, to nominate candidates for Sergeant-at-Arms, Doorkeeper, &c.

There is quite an active contest going on for State Treasurer. The election takes place on the 17th inst.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.

SENATE.

There is a very slim attendance this morning.

Mr. HAMLIN, of Maine, asked leave to withdraw certain petitions.

Several private bills were read and referred.

Mr. JOHNSTON, of Arkansas, presented a memorial from the Legislature of Arkansas, in favor of the construction of the Pacific Railroad. Laid on the table.

Mr. MALLORY, of Florida, introduced a bill to regulate and increase the pay of the navy. Referred.

Also a bill to modify the pay of persons in the navy. Referred.

Mr. KING, of New York, stated that the resolutions adopted at the Union meeting at Rochester, N. Y., had been forwarded to the United States Senators from that State, and he would request that they be read.

The Secretary read them accordingly.

Mr. KING desired to say a few words on these resolutions. In presenting them, he was gratified to say that the people of New York never wavered in their attachment to republican institutions and the present form of government. All parties there entertained the sentiment that "the Union must and shall be preserved." The sentiment could not be turned to party account. The Union meeting held at Rochester had proved the strength of that sentiment, and the resolutions adopted speak for the whole people of the State. He called the attention of the Democratic Senators, who had expressed disunion sentiments, to these expressions of loyalty to the Union.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, desired to disclaim any intention, as imputed by the newspapers, to assail the President or his message, unless a respectful expression of his dissent to some of its statements be considered in that light. He entertained a strong personal regard for the President; but if he did not, his age and long public service would shield him from attack. He had the right, however, in common with every citizen, to courteously express his views and would do so. He called attention to that portion of the message where the President refers to the Dred Scott decision, as settling the slavery agitation, but could not agree with him. The Supreme Court has done what it could, but the question is not settled, else why are controversies going on everywhere in the State Legislatures, and in both Houses of Congress on the subject. The question has not been settled, hence the continuance of the controversy. He agreed with the President that the Supreme Court has adjudged the right of citizens to carry slaves into the Territories, and he did not believe the Territorial Legislature or any other body had the power to destroy or override that decision. The President had said, further, that property in slaves, to his knowledge, has not been disturbed in any of the Territories. On that he dissented. The whole country of the anti-slavery party in Kansas was to disturb the rights of slaveholders. Was it no interference with slavery in the Territories to shoot down slaveholders in cold blood? The whole contest in Kansas was openly against the rights of the slaveholders. The President had further said that, in case of such an interference, the judiciary would apply the remedy, and it was time enough to act when interference was attempted. He thought the laws existing were entirely insufficient, and the time had now arrived for further legislation, and that Congress was imperatively called on to act at once. It would be too late to act when the mischief was done. The President has asked you in advance to strengthen his arm, to protect the persons and property of American citizens in the Isthmus, and if that can be done, why cannot the arm of the Executive and judiciary be strengthened to protect slavery in Kansas? Mr. Brown then went into an argument to show that the courts could not furnish protection to slavery without statutory laws. He avowed his desire for the enactment of such laws. If it might be called a slave code if the Republicans pleased, but he no more asked for a slave code, than others did for a horse code, or a cow code. While he had a tongue to speak he would demand the rights of the South, under the Constitution and the laws. He disavowed, again, any intention to assail the President. Must he be told that because he was a Democrat, and the President a Democrat, he must not express his views, because he might injure the Democratic party. He would see the Democratic party destroyed before he would consent to withhold the honest expression of his sentiments.

He saw that without further legislation there would never be another slave Territory, and consequently no slave States. Free Territories were pressing for admission into the Union, and it would not be long, unless slave States were admitted, before the free States will have two-thirds; sufficient to change the Constitution. That done, the purpose avowed by the Senator from New York, to crush out slavery under constitutional forms, could be accomplished. What would become of the Dred Scott decision, when the Supreme Court is in the hands of the anti-slavery party? He closed by avowing himself a Union man; and said he would sustain the slave States, in order to preserve the Union, which our fathers had made a slaveholding one.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, referred to the great change which had come over the Territorial question, which had come over the Territorial question, which had been first raised in the Senate. Then he believed in the power of Congress over the Territories. Now he says the Supreme Court has established the right of slaveholders to carry slavery into the Territories, and neither Congress nor the Territorial Legislature, nor any human power, could impair that decision. The men of the South had expressed an equally great change—a revolution which had been forced by what they deemed their interests. The Senator from Georgia had said in his speech at Augusta, that in 1850 there were only four men in Congress who did not hold to the power of Congress over the Territories.

Mr. TOOMBS corrected the statement. He referred only to the Northern representatives.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said that the first time that the doctrine was advanced, that the Constitution protected slavery in the Territories, was by Calhoun, in 1847.

Mr. TOOMBS replied that the first attempt since 1820 was in 1846, and it was defeated.

Mr. DOOLITTLE resumed, contending that Southern men had defended slavery on the general ground that capital should own its labor, and not hire it.

Mr. CHESNUT, of South Carolina, denied the correctness of this statement. The South held the true position, the negro to be that of the slave.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said Southern men did not justify slavery on the ground of negro slavery, but took the broader ground, that the natural position of the laborer is that of slave.

Mr. CLAY, of Alabama, said this was wholly unfounded, and should not be made without sufficient evidence. When the Senator produced the evidence, he wanted not merely a garbled extract but the whole article.

Mr. BIGLER, of Mississippi, said the Senator from Wisconsin mistook the position of the South. They believed slavery elevated the negro. The four millions of Southern slaves occupied a higher position morally, socially, and physically, than any laborers on the globe.

Mr. DOOLITTLE reiterated his charge that Southern men held the opinion that capital must own labor. He referred to Senator Hammond's mudsill speech.

Mr. CHESNUT said every white man in South Carolina stood on an equal footing. It was a grave misconception to suppose that the respectable white men of the South were not laborers. Gentlemen speak of the white laborers of the South as though they never saw one; but they now see a free laborer or the South before them. The people of the South did not despise the white laborer. If anything, the man who did not labor suffered by the contrast.

Mr. DOOLITTLE knew that Southern men differed on this point, but Southern men had advanced the opinions he had before referred to.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, called for the evidence.

Mr. DOOLITTLE read extracts from the Richmond *Examiner*, and quoted De Bow's, and other Southern journals.

Mr. CLAY said the extract read did not sustain the construction, garbled as it was. He wanted to see the whole article. He was sensitive on this point, because a speech made by him five years ago, had been garbled by that filibuster Walker, to carry out the views of the free States will have two-thirds; sufficient to change the Constitution. That done, the purpose avowed by the Senator from New York, to crush out slavery under constitutional forms, could be accomplished. What would become of the Dred Scott decision, when the Supreme Court is in the hands of the anti-slavery party? He closed by avowing himself a Union man; and said he would sustain the slave States, in order to preserve the Union, which our fathers had made a slaveholding one.

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Mr. DOOLITTLE said he regarded his construction as correct. He did not object to Southern men changing their opinion, but did complain that they insisted on Northern men being so also, under the threat of breaking up the Union. He had no objection to arguments, but did not wish them to be accompanied by threats. He then reviewed the Dred Scott decision, denying its binding force, and went into the history of the legislation of the country to show that every Administration, from that of Washington to the present, had recognized and exercised the power of Congress over the Territories. He also asserted that Calhoun, as member of Monroe's Cabinet, had given an opinion recognising this power.

Mr. CHESNUT corrected this statement. Mr. Calhoun had on the floor of the Senate expressly denied the giving of such an opinion.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said it so appeared in John Quincy Adams' diary, and the entry was made at the time. Mr. Calhoun's disclaimer was made twenty-five years afterwards. The opinion of the Republican Senators is not to be changed by threats of disunion. Such arguments are not addressed to their manhood, but to their want of it. They did not believe that the Constitution gave an unlimited charter to slavery, and were pledged to resist such a doctrine. If the gentlemen on the other side seize on the Government to carry out their aggressive policy, they would resist and put down the attempt peaceably, they expected. He could not close without referring to the opithet applied by the Senator from Virginia to the Northern States, as servile States.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, asked that certain portions of the message be referred to appropriate committees.

Mr. MASON, of Virginia, said that one branch of the Government was in a state of paralysis, and there was no saying when the disease will be removed. It was one which, when it attacked the extremities, was apt to extend to the vitals. He did not think the Senate should undertake any business in the existing state of things.

Mr. DAVIS had no fear of the republic. He believed the paralysis would soon be removed, and renewed health follow. Though we might stand on the brink of destruction, let every man do his duty.

After some conversation, Mr. DAVIS postponed his motion until to-morrow. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BOYCE, of South Carolina, resumed his remarks, commenced on Friday last, saying that he had showed that in eight of the Northern States, where the Republicans were in a majority, obstructions had been thrown in the way of the execution of the fugitive-slave law. He took it for granted that in spite of the disclaimers of the Republican party, in their sentiments and practice are at war with that part of the Constitution which provides for the rendition of fugitive slaves. It then follows that they at war with every clause referring therein to slavery, for they all rest on the same basis." Besides, they are at war with the Constitution, when they make as a peculiar issue the question decided by the Supreme Court, relative to slavery in the Territories. That same philosophy compelled them to make war on slavery in the District of Columbia, everywhere, and in the States.

Only one of two motives induce them to carry on this crusade—hatred to the slaves or to the masters. It could not be to the former, because between them and their emancipation lies a sea of blood. The only result is to do harm to the people of the South, against whom their venom and hatred are directed. He condemned what he termed the miserable panderers to the worst passions of the people. Was it fraternal conduct on the part of these fanatics to take sword in hand for the liberation of slaves.

Mr. HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania, who had been referred to by Mr. Boyce, explained that in his remarks the other day, he meant that if the Southern States at any period of time shall determine on a dissolution of the Union for any cause which now exists, the North are resolved to prevent it; and if war should be the consequence of the North determining to preserve the Union and the South to destroy it, the responsibility will rest on the South. If that meant the subjugation of the South he did not so understand it.

Mr. BOYCE rejoined: He understood from the gentleman that if the South shall take her destinies in her own hands, the North will prevent it. But the South could not be conquered by the eighteen millions of the Northern people, as intimated. If the issue was ever made, depend upon it the war would be to the knife. He did not, however apprehend that those people would ever engage in such a strife. The majority of them are loyal to the Constitution and they will tell you to pause in your fratricidal career. The South desire peace, concord and harmony. Will you give them to us?

Mr. ENGLISH, of Indiana, replied to Mr. Haskin, whose remarks, he said, were harsh and unmerited, in reference to the compromise bill that he (Mr. English) introduced into the last Congress. He narrated the history of the bill providing for the admission of Kansas, which in his opinion realised substantially all that his friends claimed for it, and was the best they could secure at the time, under the circumstances which then existed.

Speaking for Mr. Montgomery's bill, the Republicans voted to admit Kansas as a slave State, and thus stultified themselves before the country.