The Press.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 1861.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.—"The conspiracy to break up the Union is a fact now known to all. Armies are being raised, and war levied to accomplish it. There can be but two sides to the controversy. Every man must be on the side of the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war. There can be none but patriots and traitors."

FOR SALE.—The double-cylinder "TAYLOR" PRESS on which this paper has been printed for the last nine months. It is in excellent condition, having been made to order a year ago, and will be sold at a bargain. For terms apply at this office, or address JOHN W. FORNEY, 417 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

Capture of James B. Clay.

A despatch from Cincinnati states that Hon. JAMES B. CLAY has been arrested for treason, and JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE has had a narrow escape from a similar fate. It is a sad thing that a son of so eloquent and unswerving a friend of the Union as the great statesman of Ashland should have been guilty of affiliating with the wicked traitors who are seeking to destroy it; but he has been among the most active supporters of the Secession cause, and he has endeavored in every possible way to render it "aid and comfort."

JAMES B. CLAY was born in Washington city, in 1817, and combined to an unusual extent the practical ability of a business man with skill and knowledge as a politician. In early life he spent two years in a counting-house in Boston, from which city he emigrated to St. Louis. When twenty-one years of age he returned to Kentucky, and after being engaged for two years in manufacturing, he studied law, and after his admission to the bar continued to practice the legal profession, as the partner of his father, until 1849, when he was appointed chargé d'affaires to Lisbon. He returned home in 1850, and in 1851 removed to Missouri. In 1853 he became the proprietor of Ashland, where he has since resided. In 1856 he warmly advocated the election of JAMES BUCHANAN, and in 1857 he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Congress, in his district, and elected. He had accumulated a large property, invested chiefly in plantations and negroes, and of late years has become a more and more decided partisan of extreme pro-slavery views. By his arrest, one of the most active and dangerous enemies of the Government will be prevented from doing any further mischief.

The National Loan.

The success that attends the financial movements of the Government is a sure forerunner of the certain triumph which it will eventually secure by its military movements against the gigantic rebellion. *Men* and *money* are the great essentials in every contest, and, while the former, taken from the peaceful arts of life, are being moulded into that strong arm whose force shall bring reason and a proper appreciation of government to the traitors, posterity will not fail to award due praise to those patriotic citizens whose means are contributing so much to the maintenance and support of law and order.

The opening of agencies for popular subscriptions to the national loan, and the hearty and patriotic response of the masses, will mark an era in our country's history. Here will date the fact which was proclaimed to the world—but not believed—that the Government was enthroned in the hearts of the people, and not merely viewed as a medium of individual aggrandizement. When these strong pulsations of the popular heart are understood in Europe, as they soon will be, the tone of the press, controlled by the money kings, will be sensibly modified. Instead of striving to belittle our Government, and to get its loans at a heavy discount, they will be amazed at the solidity of our democratic institutions, which they consider incompatible with unity and good government.

It is estimated that over one million dollars per day are now contributed to the treasury—and while the loan yields support and income to our own people, its proceeds are not disbursed abroad to enrich foreign nations, but returned to our mechanics as the reward of honest toil in furnishing supplies and materials necessary to successful action against the rebellion.

It only remains to ask each man and woman in the community to consider that it is their sacred duty to transmit to posterity the rich blessings which the sacrifices and devotion of our Revolutionary fathers bequeathed to them, and that all should, according to their ability, contribute to the Government such support as will insure the suppression of the conspiracy, and make America forever, what she was designed by Providence to be, a safe and sure asylum for the world's oppressed.

"State Rights" in Kentucky.

For what is termed "State Rights," the leaders of the rebellion have always expressed a superior devotion. For this idea they have ever been ready to sacrifice the Union, under the plea that, while the allegiance due to the national authorities might be easily set aside, it was the duty of every good citizen to abide by the decision of the State in which he resided. The so-called "Secession" of Southern States is the only justification which the officers of our army and navy, who threw up their commissions, ever pretended to make for their withdrawal from their posts at the time when their services were most needed. When a Union man in the South is persecuted and ruined, it is on the ground that his highest allegiance is due to his State Government, and that at its bidding he should array himself in deadly opposition to the Federal Government.

Another favorite point of the Secessionists and their sympathizers is that no war of "subjugation" should be made in this country, and that when any treasonable Legislature or Convention chooses to declare that any State is no longer connected with the Union, it should be peacefully permitted to depart from the Confederacy.

It is curious to notice how fully and completely both these principles are disregarded by the traitors in their present war upon Kentucky. There, if anywhere, they were entitled to peculiar respect from the traitors, because the famous State rights resolutions of '98 were adopted by her Legislature, and if any one State more than another deserved a scrupulous respect of her "State sovereignty," it is the one that first enunciated the creed which the traitors have, by shameful perversions, construed into a warrant for their present doctrines.

Yet, Kentucky, although she repudiated and repelled the heresy of Secession time and again, after the question had been presented in every imaginable form, is still not "let alone." The people and the Legislature have decided against any participation in the rebellion, by an immense majority, and although the Secession sympathies of Governor MAGOFFIN led him to veto several loyal acts, yet after they were readopted by a constitutional vote, in spite of his hostility, even he did not refuse to issue a proclamation warning the invaders off the soil of the State. But this position does not afford her the slightest protection. She is assailed with the avowed object of plundering and *subjugating* her, because the leaders of the rebellion declare that in no event will she be permitted to unite her destinies with those of the North, and they are making a desperate effort to conquer and hold her as a dependent province of the proposed Secession kingdom. This is a sufficiently significant commentary upon the sublimated theories of State Rights which the favorite orators of the South in former times delighted to elaborate. And, from present indications, no act of Vandalism and barbarity will be wanting to prove the cruelty and wantonness of the traitors as well as their inconsistency and wickedness. They have already destroyed the Green River locks, which were one of the most valuable improvements in the State; they propose to quarter their unscrupulous and marauding troops upon the people, thus robbing them of their provisions; they are endeavoring to force their way to Louisville, that they may plunder and sack it, and at no point which may unhappily fall under their control, is it probable that they will respect the rights or property of loyal men.

FROM THE SKETCHES we have given upon our first and fourth pages of a number of the sermons delivered in our city yesterday, a very fair idea of the views of the clergymen of Philadelphia may be obtained. Although there are shades of differences of opinion in regard to the causes, objects, and probable results of the war, yet all unite in urging its vigorous prosecution as a sacred duty.

Is Lord Lyons Neutral?

Writing from Washington, on the 27th of August, Mr. RUSSELL informed the readers of the *London Times* that the United States Government had acted offensively and illegally in the arrest of Mr. MURE, "an American naturalized subject," who, when bearing despatches addressed to Earl RUSSELL, by Mr. BUNCH, the British Consul at Charleston, also took charge of "other letters, written by people in the South, who are, of course, Secessionists, to their friends in Europe." Mr. MURE, who is British by birth, and American by naturalization, was seized on board the mail steamer for England, on August 14th, and committed to Fort Lafayette, where he has since remained.

Mr. RUSSELL mentions that the despatch for Earl RUSSELL having been found among MURE's papers, Mr. SEWARD

"Applies to Lord Lyons to come and see it opened, I believe, and assist him in disposing of it. *Lord Lyons declines to do anything of the kind.* The despatches addressed to the British minister have been seized. They are in the custody of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Washington Government. Let the United States Government deal with them. Mr. Seward, of course, cannot send the despatches direct to Earl Russell, and the strange proceeding of forwarding the communications of a British consul with his Government by the Secretary of State at Washington to the American minister at London, who will probably thereupon remit them to Downing street, will be the result—with what after conclusion it is not easy to say."

How did Mr. RUSSELL know of Lord LYONS' declining to see Mr. SEWARD about this despatch? We, who read the news from Washington very carefully, never found *this* fact in it. It is told for the first time by Mr. RUSSELL, who can scarcely be in Mr. SEWARD's confidence, though it seems that Lord LYONS so much fraternizes with this "special" slanderer of the North *as to communicate one of the secrets of the British Embassy to him.* Sir JOHN CRAMPTON received his passports from President PIERCE for conduct not more blameable than this.

The despatch to Lord RUSSELL *was* duly forwarded by Mr. SEWARD, and as duly reached its destination.

We wonder whether it was also under the inspiration of the British Embassy at Washington, that Mr. RUSSELL added the following curious assertion:

"Mr. Mure *seems* to have acted improperly if he has indeed conveyed any despatches for the Southern Commissioners under the cover of the passport granted to him by the British consul as bearer of despatches; but *it is very doubtful indeed whether the arrest itself was not unlawful, as the British flag should have protected him for any political offence*, and if the captain of the vessel had refused to give him up, the question would have assumed a very serious form."

Whoever supplied the doctrine here set forth, whether Mr. RUSSELL, the special letter-writer, or Lord LYONS, her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, clearly, is ignorant of international law. Mr. MURE violated the law in aiding and abetting the public enemy of the United States. As an American citizen he is amenable to the law, but, even had he remained a British subject, he is punishable if he violate our laws—for every man owes *local* or *temporary*, as distinguished from *natural*, allegiance to the country in which he is. Protected by its laws, he incurs submission to them, as his devoir.

Therefore, when Mr. RUSSELL, either uttering his own opinion, or expressing the opinion of his friend, Lord LYONS, that most Extraordinary Ambassador, or publishing a joint opinion, intimates that the British flag, in an American port, should have protected an American citizen "for any political offence," he declares what is untrue in fact and in argument.

The *European Times*, a Liverpool journal, which publishes a condensation of all foreign news, thus fairly comments on the complicity of Lord LYONS and Consul BUNCH with Mr. MURE:

"Lord Lyons, we can readily understand, after the disclosures which followed the arrest of Mr. Muir, *is not in much favor at Washington*, and the same may be said of the British Consul at Charleston, Mr. Bunch. The wonder is that the precautionary steps to which the Washington authorities are now having recourse, were not put into requisition when the civil war first broke out. A delay of so many months showed a sense of self-reliance that no other government in the world, similarly placed, would think of exhibiting. In England, France, or any of the monarchical governments of the Old World, the public prisons would long since have been crammed with persons laboring under the stigma of disaffection to the *de facto* government. The new measure of precaution has not been adopted too soon; but, *if the presence of Lord Lyons and Mr. Bunch is likely to prove a source of irritation to Mr. Lincoln's Government, Earl Russell ought not to hesitate a moment in withdrawing them.* Enough is shown of the Charleston gentleman to warrant the conclusion that he has allowed his sympathies to override his judgment—a fact which is *conclusively proved* by the papers found on Mr. Muir when he was arrested on the point of his departure for Europe. In such a struggle as the one now raging in America between the North and South, a strict and honorable neutrality is the only course which can be followed by any person in the service of the British Government, and, *when it can be shown that this neutrality has been departed from, the Foreign Secretary will neglect his duty if he does not step in and relieve the offender from all further responsibility of an official kind.*"

This plainly suggests to Earl RUSSELL, Foreign Minister of England, that he should relieve Lord LYONS, the Ambassador, and Mr. BUNCH, the Consul, from all further official responsibility in this country. Few tears will be shed, save by their Secessionist friends, over such an untimely exit. The man to represent British neutrality at Washington should be the friend of Constitutional liberty and the determined enemy of treason and traitors.

Affairs in Missouri.

Missouri continues to be the theatre of the most interesting and exciting events of the day. It seems evident, from the tone of the St. Louis journals, that confidence is felt, notwithstanding the surrender of Lexington, in the ability of our troops to yet capture or destroy the army of General PRICE. He has recently transferred a portion of his forces to Georgetown, which is the capital of Pettis county, located on the west fork of La Mine river, thirty-seven miles southwest of Booneville, and about fifty miles southeast of Lexington. It is near the western terminus of the railroad leading from St. Louis, south of the Missouri river, to Sedalia.

BEN MCCULLOCH was supposed on the 21st inst. to be near Fort Scott, in Kansas.

Gen. LANE has achieved a brilliant victory over a division of the enemy, and has issued a proclamation indicating that he will punish treason severely hereafter.

The generals on both sides are busy in devising measures to thwart each other, and an important engagement will no doubt soon occur.

THE Union of all loyal men in support of the Administration, the Government and the war, which has proved so effective, and promises to terminate so successfully in the great Republican States of Ohio and New York, will extend to other quarters, notwithstanding the efforts of the worshippers of mere party organizations. We perceive that in this State the Republicans and loyal Democrats of the counties of Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, Lancaster, Lebanon, Alleghany, York, and Franklin, have come together on a single platform of devotion to the Administration and the war. It may not be out of place to remind the citizens of Philadelphia that in New York city, where the Democratic organization has been used so powerfully to damage the country, Democrats and Republicans are combining for the purpose of nominating a single municipal ticket against the sinister influence of Mozart and Tammany Halls.

The Recruiting Service.

The fact cannot be disguised, that while many districts in our country are responding nobly to the call of the Government for troops, others are shamefully backward. An exchange states that "Adjutant General BUCKINGHAM, of Ohio, will, in a few days, issue an order announcing a plan for an encouragement of recruiting in that State, which will afford citizens an authorized opportunity to promote that service. A committee of prominent citizens will be appointed in each Congressional district. These committees will appoint camp committees, who will receive recruits. All recruits will be mustered in as soon as enrolled, and will be clothed. When fifty are mustered they will be assigned to a regiment, and officers from among them will be detailed to recruit the company to the minimum number. The committee will report regularly to the adjutant general. This plan will enable the authorities to ascertain how many regiments can be immediately filled up in said State." Might not a system of this character prove serviceable in some portions of Pennsylvania?

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.—Mr. Herkness' sale at the bazaar, Ninth and Sansom streets, on Saturday, will comprise about thirty horses, including the well-known, fast-trotting horses "Whiskey" and "Sorrel Ned;" also, a large collection of desirable new and second-hand carriages, harness, &c.

England and America.

An explanation, ingenious if not convincing, of the apparent enmity of the leading English newspaper to the cause of American freedom and constitutional Government, has been given by the London correspondent of the *New York Times*. Nay, more: this writer also endeavors to explain away the undeniable exultation of English politicians—Whig and Tory ("Tros Tyriusve")—over the attempt to break up the great American Republic by detaching the Southern States from the Federal Union which formed that Republic.

When Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the rebellious States "must be acknowledged as belligerents"—when Lord PALMERSTON, with neutrality on his lips, permitted the rebel privateer *Sumpter* to enter the principal port of Trinidad with the Confederate flag flying from her mast-head, and allowed her to coal, British officers, meanwhile, visiting her every day—when the *Morning Herald*, organ of the Derby-Disraeli party, maintained a "special correspondent" at Richmond for months, whence issued his letters exulting over the panic-flight of Bull Run—when Sir JOHN RAMSDEN, a noted Conservative M. P., speaking in the House of Commons of the Civil War in America, joyfully proclaimed that the bubble had burst—when the *Quarterly Review* dedicated an elaborate article to "the downfall of the model republic"—when even THACKERAY's *Cornhill Magazine*, professing to be liberal and friendly, suggested that the North could not object to the secession of the Southern States, when the American republic was itself founded on secession from the British empire!—in a word, when the vials of vituperation have been opened on this country for months, we are told to consider the enmity and abuse as "nothing personal" to the North. No such thing! The press and politicians of England rejoice over disunion in America—only because it will prevent JOHN BRIGHT and his immediate adherents from boasting, as they have freely done since the British expenditure ran up from fifty to seventy millions sterling, of the better and cheaper Government of the United States!

This, the London correspondent tells us, is the explanation generally given by the politicians and anti-American press-men of England, of the abuse which has been levelled at us. The *Morning Star* and the *Daily News*, both said to be influenced, if not owned by Mr. BRIGHT and his friends, have written kindly of the North ever since Mr. LINCOLN's inauguration, but the remaining daily papers of London have taken a different course.

The interest which the ROTHSCHILDS have in *The Times* will account for the determined set which that paper has made against us. To the ROTHSCHILDS it must have been almost a personal indignity for Mr. LINCOLN's Government to borrow money without going for it into the European market, and without employing *them* in the transaction. "Write the loan down," we may imagine ROTHSCHILD saying, "at all events, if I don't profit by it, Jonathan shall pay a heavy interest for it."

Meanwhile, we continue to believe that apart from mere politicians and from cotton-spinning speculators, the *people* of England give their sympathies and best wishes to our cause—which is that of humanity and freedom.

Francis F. Wolgamuth.

This gentleman has been nominated by the Citizens' Union Convention as a candidate for the office of Register of Wills of the city and county of Philadelphia. In reply to the letter of the president of that Convention, informing him of his nomination, he has written the following patriotic and well-timed answer, which we are permitted to publish. Mr. WOLGAMUTH neither electioneered for, nor desired the office for which he has been named. He was undoubtedly selected because of his well-known loyalty, his persistent opposition to the treacheries and corruptions of BUCHANAN's Administration, and his steady adherence to the cause of the lamented DOUGLAS. A merchant in high standing, who never held an office in his life, he is abundantly qualified for the position of Register of Wills, and we sincerely trust he may be elected to it:

A. J. DERBYSHIRE, Esq.,
President of the Citizens' Union Convention:

SIR: Your note of 19th inst. is received, informing me that the Convention over which you preside had nominated me as a candidate for the office of "Register of Wills," and in reply I beg to say, that on the "conditions mentioned" in your communication I accept the nomination.

This is probably all that would be necessary for me to say, but I deem it proper to make one two remarks. The Citizens' Union Convention nominated me for the office of "Register of Wills" without any solicitation, action, or effort, on my part, or of that of my friends.

That Convention, as I am informed, disregarded all former party associations in its nominees. In view of these facts, I feel it proper to state that I have always acted with the Democratic party, and have been, to the best of my humble ability, a consistent advocate of its principles. Believing that the Administration of James Buchanan had violated a vital principle in its opposition to the popular-sovereignty doctrines as advocated by Judge Douglas, I opposed the treasonable policy of that Administration. Believing still that those doctrines are correct, I am prepared to stand by them, whether the people should honor me with an election or not.

With many thanks for the honor conferred upon me by your Convention,
I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,
F. F. WOLGAMUTH.

The conditions mentioned as necessary to be accepted by all the candidates of the Citizens' Union Convention are contained in the following four brief propositions, which are so full in reference alike to great public duties and to the necessity of securing honest municipal officers that they deserve to be printed in letters of gold:

1. It is the unanimous opinion of the Convention that the Government of the United States must be earnestly sustained by all citizens in all its measures for the suppression of treason and rebellion; that our national existence depends on a vigorous and determined prosecution of the war against those who are in arms against it; that the war must be carried on without encouraging our enemies, at home or abroad, to hope for peace on any terms short of the absolute submission of all rebels and traitors to the Constitution and laws, and that, in order to accomplish these objects successfully and speedily, all loyal citizens should now unite in obliterating the party lines which have heretofore divided them, and stand, with one accord, under the flag of our country.

2. The public welfare demands that the servants of the people shall not only be loyal to the Federal Government, but equal to, and scrupulously exact in, the performance of their duties; that all frauds and peculations of men in public office shall be discountenanced and punished; that those whose compensation is derived from the fees of their offices, shall neither charge nor receive, directly or through their subordinates, or otherwise, any other or larger fees than are allowed by law; and that public officers, within the limits of their respective spheres, shall be firm, fearless, and vigilant in protecting citizens from all illegal exactions in these respects.

3. That as all public offices are created for, they must be subordinated to, the public good; and official patronage should not be used for partisan purposes, or to promote the private advantage of those who bestow it.

4. That every candidate for office must rely on his individual merits and capacity for his election by the people; and efforts to gain support from any quarter by bribes, bargains, favors, or promises of favors of any description, must be regarded as evidence of dishonesty and corruption, which unfits and disqualifies him from any position of public trust.

National Loan in the Valley of the Lehigh.

We are pleased to announce that Secretary CHASE has appointed JOHN N. HUTCHINSON, the efficient treasurer of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, as an agent to obtain subscriptions to the national loan. Mr. HUTCHINSON enjoys an extensive acquaintance in Lehigh Valley, and will doubtless render efficient aid in prosecuting the good cause. We learn that he will commence operations at Easton, Northampton county, and afterwards canvass Lehigh and Carbon counties. His efforts cannot fail to be crowned with success, and we congratulate Secretary CHASE on having secured so good an officer. This will give the loyal citizens of that portion of the State an excellent opportunity to subscribe for the Government loan, and thus to assist in conducting the war. As the valley of the Lehigh is one of the oldest and most patriotic in Pennsylvania, we feel assured that its citizens will promptly come forward and invest their funds.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE for an editor to be responsible for all the statements of telegraphic correspondents, and we are very happy in correcting that portion of the item sent from Washington to THE PRESS, a few days ago, in which cowardice and some other offences were imputed to Colonel MAX EINSTEIN, of this city, now under arrest by order of Major General MCCLELLAN. Colonel EINSTEIN is undoubtedly a brave and patriotic man, although we do not think him the most competent to lead a regiment in this crisis.

A BIG BAR.—A single bar of metal lately arrived at San Francisco, from Washoe, weighing sixty-seven and a quarter pounds, and containing $3,769 worth of silver and $1,013 of gold.

BOOKS for subscription to the National Loan have been opened in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The subscriptions the first day amounted to $38,000. The amount subscribed thus far (five days) was upwards of $100,000.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 1861.

Those who know Col. Frank P. Blair need not be assured that he is one of the most self-sacrificing and patriotic men living. His courage has been repeatedly tested. Indeed, if the Blair family are characterized by any one marked element, it is their daring and resolute intrepidity. The parents of Frank, and his brother, Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, Southern born, are thorough Kentuckians, possessing all the peculiar qualities of the Kentucky people, and their children have inherited their determined and unyielding spirit. It is not to be supposed that Frank would recklessly commence a quarrel with his old friend Frémont for selfish purposes; and it is right, therefore, that the alleged grounds of his action should be made known. If they are true, they certainly place Major General Frémont in the most delicate and embarrassing position. His friends assert that when General Frémont reached Missouri the State was comparatively free, that he had supreme command, and, in two months afterwards, it is on fire from end to end, ravaged and desolated, the interior at the mercy of the Confederate rebels, who march from point to point, *en masse*, with impunity, attacking the towns where Union men are in arms to defend them, and threatening the existence of the capital, Jefferson City, if not of St. Louis itself. They assert that he has barricaded himself by an affectation of regal state, excluded all who could afford him information, and surrounded himself by strangers—men utterly ignorant of the wants of the people, and the condition and topography of the State. They insist that he did not reinforce Lyon, although Lyon repeatedly applied to him for reinforcements. They claim that Frémont knew that a large force was opposed to Lyon at Springfield, and that there were two regiments at Rolla, the terminus of the southwest branch of the Pacific Railroad, and within four days forced march from Lyon, who were not ordered to move to his relief, and that other available troops were at St. Louis at the time who were not ordered to move. In the face of all this, Lyon demanded reinforcements from Washington, which caused the sending on of General Frémont to St. Louis; and yet Lyon was left to his fate, to oppose twenty-two thousand with forty-six hundred men. All the personal allegations against Blair are indignantly denied. Indeed, so far as personal matters were concerned, Blair makes no charge against Frémont. He heartily approved of his proclamation in reference to the confiscation of slaves; contending, however, that it should have been issued at least five or six weeks earlier, when he would have had power to enforce it. Issued then, when there was no rebel army north of Springfield, that proclamation would have deterred many slaveholders from committing themselves. These are now prepared to fight with desperation to prevent its enforcement.

I am assured by a gentleman direct from St. Louis that Blair does not ask favor or partiality. He merely insists that General Frémont shall be tried upon his merits; and when it is answered that he (Blair) attempts to control matters in Missouri, his friends respond that, in his double capacity as a representative of the people, and a military adviser of the Government, (he was one of the bravest of those to fight the rebels at the start,) the Administration and his constituents looked to him for energetic co-operation and candid information. Should General Frémont, even now, turn back the tide which is setting in upon him, and drive Price and McCulloch into Arkansas, Frank Blair will be found one of his most devoted supporters and friends.

Without attempting to disclose the movements of the army and the navy, I feel free to speak of the operations of the corps under General Anderson, in Kentucky, and under General Frémont, in Missouri. About the tenth of October General Anderson will have raised such an army of Kentuckians and East Tennesseans as to keep the Secessionists of Tennessee effectually in check; and it is to be hoped that before the same period Frémont will have mustered an army sufficient to thresh the traitors in the neighborhood of Springfield, and then, if he chooses, to attempt his expedition for the descent of the Mississippi. The shores of the Mississippi must be cleared of all hostile batteries, and in order to effect this the gunboats will probably co-operate with such a *corps d'armee* as will converge upon them from either side. Whether this will be successful depends upon information especially confided to Major General Frémont. The great battle, in any event, will have begun along the whole line from the Atlantic to Kansas by the middle of October. Military authorities estimate that we shall then have three hundred and fifty thousand men under arms, exclusive of reserves and of the Home Guards in Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri.

At every point attacked, therefore, we ought to outnumber the enemy. Our armies will be well supplied, well provisioned, well drilled, well equipped, and well commanded. Under such circumstances it is not extravagant to expect success, nor is it reasonable to believe that the rebel troops from the Gulf States will remain patiently under arms in Virginia, while their homes are being assailed by expeditions from the North. They are notoriously deficient in equipments, clothing, shoes, arms, medicines, and general supplies. How, then, can they contend on equal terms with a force profusely provided with all these necessaries? Let us remember that it was proved at Bull Run that, whenever Northerners and Southerners met in a fair field, the former were the better men. Is it likely, then, that an inferior Southern force will stand long against a superior Northern force? I think, therefore, that the plan of the campaign renders success morally certain to our armies. Remember, we are not fighting to subjugate the South, not yet to abolish slavery (that may follow from the act of the traitors themselves) nor to conquer territory. Our object is to defeat and disperse the rebel armies now over-running the Southern States. That done, our work is achieved. When these armies are scattered, the Southern people will be invited to exercise the privilege of electing members of Congress. Postal facilities will be restored to them, and they will be protected from spoliation by the banditti, and enjoy all the rights of citizens of the United States.

The recent elections in Maryland and Kentucky, and the late demonstrations in North Carolina, show how gladly this change will be welcomed. *There will not be a Southern State in which a rebel ticket will stand any chance after Jeff. Davis' armies are defeated in the field.* OCCASIONAL.

American Bishops.

Up to the time when our Independence was acknowledged by England, the Protestant Episcopal Church in America was under a sort of supervision from the Bishop of London. Dr. Seabury, elected Bishop of Connecticut, was consecrated, in November, 1784, by three Scottish bishops. In February, 1787, Dr. William White, of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Samuel Provost, of New York, were consecrated bishops in the chapel of Lambeth place, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and, in September, 1790, James Madison, Bishop of Virginia, was also consecrated at Lambeth. These, we believe, were the only cases where ordination was given to American bishops out of this country. There are now, including the assistant and missionary bishops, forty bishops in the American Protestant Church, under whom are over two thousand clergy, who have the religious instruction of about 2,000,000 persons.

In each diocese there is an annual convention of bishops, clergy, and popularly-elected lay delegates, who provide for all the details of local and specific legislation. Every three years there is a general convention, consisting of all the bishops in the actual exercise of Episcopal jurisdiction and of clerical and lay delegates. The bishops sit in a house of their own. The last Convention was held in 1859, and the presiding officer in the House of Bishops was the Right Reverend Thomas Church Brownell, D. D., Bishop of Connecticut. The Rev. W. T. Campbell, who has distinguished himself by his zeal and tact in procuring the means for building parsonages in weak parishes in Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, conceived the idea of getting up an engraving of the bishops who were assembled on that occasion, and was so fortunate as to obtain the assistance of two eminent artists, both of this city. Mr. Schuselle painted the portraits of forty-one living bishops—one of whom, Dr. Bowman, of Pennsylvania, has since been called to God—and has also introduced the likenesses of Bishops Seabury, White, Provost, and Madison, the first American bishops. They are grouped, in a very pleasing manner, under the presidency of venerable Bishop Brownell, all wearing their graceful Episcopal robes. On the walls hang the portraits of the four earliest bishops. The whole, in a crayon tintograph engraving, (twenty by thirty-six inches,) has been executed by Mr. M. Rosenthal, the eminent lithographer. A more acceptable engraving could not be presented to the notice of members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the price, with key and fac-similes of the bishops' autographs, is only $6. Here, in all, are forty-five portraits. The grouping is capital and well disposed. In the centre sits Bishop Brownell. There, conversing together, may be seen Dr. Potter, of Pennsylvania, and (as he is now to be called) General Bishop Polk, of Louisiana. We recognize, among others here, the late Dr Bowman, side-by-side with Dr. DeLancey, of New York; Bishop Gregg, of Texas; Meade, of Virginia; Potter, of New York; Chase, of New Hampshire: Whittingham, of Maryland; Burgess, of Maine; Odenheimer, of New Jersey; Lee, of Delaware; Hopkins, of Vermont; Kip, of California; Kemper, of Wisconsin. Missionary Bishops Boone, from China; Talbot, of the Northwest; Lay, of the Southwest; and Payne, of Cape Palmas, Africa. These we have seen in the body and can answer for the accuracy and spirit of the portraits—we are assured that the other resemblances are equally good. And so, giving our best wishes to the Rev. Mr. Campbell's truly Christian purpose in bringing out this work of art, and trusting that it may realize his wishes, we heartily commend it to the Protestant inhabitants of this country.

Dr. Moriarty at the Academy of Music.

The various religious assemblies held in our city yesterday found a fitting climax in the great Catholic demonstration at the Academy of Music, last evening, attending the lecture of the Rev. Dr. Moriarty, delivered in behalf of St. Vincent's Home for Destitute Children, on "*The Church and its Present Issues.*" As the initial lecture of the season it was a brilliant success. To say that the house "was crowded from pit to dome" would but feebly express the truth; it was literally crammed to overflowing. The scene presented, when the honored orator of the evening (his production was more an oration than a lecture) came upon the stage, attended by a large number of Catholic clergy, when that immense amphitheatre of living, expectant humanity gave vent to such a welcome as only an enthusiastic Irish audience can give, was one of the most animated and picturesque we have ever witnessed.

During the hour preceding the commencement of the lecture, the audience were agreeably entertained by a band of music. At precisely 8 o'clock, without the usual, but often unnecessary, ceremony of a formal introduction, Dr. Moriarty came forward and commenced his lecture, which was written, though not closely read, and delivered in tones distinctly audible to the most remote.

The crowded state of our columns forbids any extended notice of the lecture itself. In point of style, to those acquainted with its author's oratory, it may be described as one of his happiest efforts. Always argumentative, and prone to employ sarcastic weapons, he excelled himself last evening in the use of pungent wit. The matter of his discourse abounded in ultra Church views, and was, of course, too partisan for indiscriminate popular appreciation; but that the treatment of his theme was able and scholarly, we presume none who heard it will deny.

He opened with a brief review of Christianity, from its promulgation by Christ and his apostles, to the final conversion of Rome from Paganism; after which he traced the history of the Church through succeeding generations down to the Reformation, in the Sixteenth Century. Her actual history, he said, had been strikingly prefigured in the humble birth of Christ; His subsequent entry into Jerusalem amid the shouts of the populace; His agonies on the Cross, and triumphant resurrection. So had the Church alternately been slandered and praised, persecuted, and made triumphant. The loss of England to the dominion of Rome occupied a large share of the lecturer's attention, and Macaulay was quoted to prove the unchristian character of the persons and means employed in the transfer

In conclusion, the present condition and prospects of the Catholic Church were enlarged upon. For years it had been the custom of the world, if any prominent individual entered the Church, (in the expressive though inelegant language of Paddy,) to "drop him like a hot potato." The case of the Duchess of Sutherland the speaker cited as a pertinent illustration. Among the recent and pending acquisitions to their Church, much was said about the late Duchess of Kent, and her daughter, the reigning Queen of England. The former had, he said, died in the Catholic faith, and the latter was now being accused of madness on account of her pro-Catholic tendencies—indications of which the speaker saw in her having lately expressed a desire for the erection of a Catholic chapel in the grounds of Windsor, and her tour among her Irish subjects. He also stated, on what he held to be undoubted authority, that Queen Victoria had ominously refused to take the oath abjuring Catholicity, when it was presented to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the day of her coronation.

The lecturer was greeted with frequent applause as he progressed, and, notwithstanding the discomforts of an overcrowded house, the deepest attention was maintained from the opening to the close.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.

The Steamer Delaware Fired On.

The new batteries at Occoquan opened upon the steamer *Delaware* as she was passing up to-day. The officers report the shot to be from nine-inch guns, and capable of reaching the shipping in any part of the river opposite the batteries. The *Delaware* escaped without injury, and arrived at the navy yard with 300 sailors for the navy. In coming up, she ran down and sunk the steam-tug *Planet*. The crew were saved.

Fast Day in Washington.

The departments are all closed, and business generally suspended. The President attended Divine service, and the churches generally were well attended. The Rev. Dr. CHANNING preached in the Unitarian Church to a crowded audience. The general theme of conversation is on the position of affairs in Missouri. The noble and heroic resistance of Colonel MULLIGAN and the "Irish Brigade," is the subject of general commendation, while General FREMONT is daily losing the confidence of the community, and I may say of military officers and the Executive.

The Secretary of War and the Volunteer System.

Gen. CAMERON's order to the authorities of Iowa not to draft men for the army, as was proposed in that State, is commented upon very generally to-day, some taking sides with, others against the order from the Secretary of War.

It is certainly desirable that the army may be filled up without drafting, but it must be acknowledged that many of the States, especially those in the North, are slow in sending forward reinforcements. The Bull Run affair has been repeated, and worse than repeated in its results, in Missouri, and that, too, solely on account of the meagreness of our army in that State; yet FREMONT is called upon, and is actually sending troops forward to defend the capital, while our Eastern cities are teeming with unemployed, able-bodied young men, who refuse to come forward in defence of their country. This thing is a mystery to all classes here. The very States whose Representatives in Congress were most ready to vote the President an army of 500,000 men have not yet sent in their quota of men for an army of even half that size. Massachusetts is offering men $20 each bounty, and, with that inducement, Gen. WILSON's regiment is filling up but slowly. Vermont and other Northern States are also backward in sending forward men, and the indications are not at all favorable for a full army at an early day without a draft, at least from some of the States.

Pennsylvania Ahead Again.

Pennsylvania has taken the initiatory steps to establish a State military school. It is hoped that other loyal States will follow her example, and that each will, without delay, cause a school for military instruction to be established, with arrangements so favorable as to be accessible to any who may wish to avail themselves of its advantages.

The District Volunteers.

Captain TAIT's District Regiment is the recipient of many favors from our citizens. They have just been made the recipients of a splendid set of colors, garnished by a donation of $100 in gold from JOHN C. RIVES, proprietor of the *Congressional Globe*, with a promise that he would soon repeat the act.

The Destruction of Guns at Ocracoke Inlet.

A good deal of inquiry has been made at the departments here, why an effort was not made to save the guns taken at Ocracoke Inlet, instead of destroying them on the spot. There were two reasons for deciding upon their destruction—one was the difficulty of removing them, excepting at great cost; the other and best reason was that the guns were old fashioned and very inferior to those now in use. Even if lying in Washington Navy Yard, they would not have been used.

Patent Office Business.

The business at the Patent Office has fallen off fifty per cent. since the war was commenced. Many of the clerks have, in consequence, been discharged, and the pay of those retained has been reduced $200 per head. Hon. D. P. HALLOWAY, the Commissioner of Patents, has left the city, for a brief visit to Indiana. During his absence the chief clerk of the office, JOHN L. HAYES, Esq., is, by law, acting commissioner.

Order and Decorum.

Between the provost guard and the new police force, Washington is reduced to a state of orderly sobriety and quiet. The swift cavalier has been compelled, at the point of a pair of bayonets, to reduce his speed to four miles per hour; the soldier is required to forego his grog; bar-rooms are closed after 9 o'clock, and all day on the Sabbath; soldiers, and even officers, are arrested if found without a pass, and caged, while arrests are made by the police for profanity on the streets.

Naval and Military Schools.

The Army and Navy Departments most seriously feel the necessity for an increase of students in our Military and Naval Schools. The Departments are urged to fill up these national institutions without waiting for a meeting of Congress. The secession of the Southern States has left many vacancies, which ought now to be filled up without the interference of red tape.

Fremont and the Press.

The *Intelligencer*, this morning, has a long editorial on Gen. FREMONT, with quotations from the New York *Tribune*, *Evening Post*, *Times*, and *Commercial Advertiser*; Boston *Advertiser*, and St. Louis *Republican*, all tending to show a want of capacity on the part of the General. The *Intelligencer* concludes with this remark:

"We recite these expressions of the public press as belonging to the history of the times, and because it would be useless longer to conceal the fact that the public confidence in the commander of the Western Department (in some of its aspects the most important department of all) has been shaken to its base."

Miscellaneous.

A personal visit to the other side of the Potomac has resulted in nothing worth mentioning.

Many of the staff and field officers were visiting in Washington.

Christian Morehead, of Harrisburg, was accidentally killed at Tennallytown, yesterday, by Casper Ecklestein. They both belonged to the Pennsylvania Twelfth Reserve Regiment.

FROM MISSOURI.

BEN. McCULLOCH MOVING ON FORT SCOTT.

LEAVENWORTH, Sept. 26.—General Lane's command surprised a superior force of rebels, at Papensville, Missouri, on the 21st, and, after a severe engagement, routed them, losing 17 killed, and a large number wounded. The rebels lost 40 killed, and 100 prisoners, and all their tents, wagons, and supplies

Gen. Lane is reported to be moving on Osceola.

The gang of rebels, who recently sacked the town of Humboldt, Kansas, has been defeated by a force from Fort Scott, and their leader, Mathias, killed. On his person was found an order from Ben McCulloch for the enrolment of the Quappaw Indians.

Scouts at Fort Scott report that Ben McCulloch was within thirty miles of Fort Scott on the night of the 21st inst.

General Lane has issued a proclamation to the citizens of Western Missouri in which, after saying for what purpose he is there, and urging those in arms against the Government to disperse and come to him for protection in person and property, he uses the following language:

"Should you, however, disregard my advice, the stern visitations of war shall be meted to rebels and their allies. I shall then be convinced that your arming 'for protection' is a sham; and rest assured that traitors, when caught, shall receive a traitor's doom. The cup of mercy has been exhausted—treason, hereafter, will be treated as treason. The massacre of innocent women and children by the black-hearted traitors who lately burned the bridges on the St. Joseph Railroad has satisfied us that a traitor will perpetrate crime which devils would shudder to commit. They shall be blotted from existence, and sent to that h—ll which yawns for their reception.

"The two roads are open to you, people of Western Missouri. Choose ye between them! The one leads you to peace and plenty—the other to destruction."

The steamer *Major* this morning took to Kansas City six companies of Kansas militia and five companies of Jennison's regiment.

Col. Cook's command of regulars, from Utah, passed Fort Kearney on the 20th inst.

Gen. Prentiss at St. Joseph.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Sept. 25.—Gen. Prentiss arrived here on Monday evening and assumed command yesterday.

The *Journal* says: "No man in the whole Western army could have been sent here who is more acceptable to the people north of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad; and, under his command, the Union troops, whether Federal or State, are willing to do battle.

Movements of General Price.

FURTHER FROM LEXINGTON.

JEFFERSON CITY, Sept. 26.—(Special to the St. Louis *Republican*). Capt. Taggart, of the Twenty-fifth Illinois Regiment, has arrived here from Otterville, where he heard yesterday that Claib. Jackson was advancing on Booneville with some 10,000 men, and Price was marching towards Georgetown, with about 20,000, the army at Lexington having been divided for that purpose at Georgetown, at which point a large number of troops can be concentrated in a short time.

The rebels were reported to be moving forward to burn the Lemoine bridge, but it was well defended.

Scouting parties were reported near Booneville last night.

Gen. Siegle went west from here (Jefferson City) to-day.

Ex-Governor King and Judge Ryland have been released by the rebels.

Nothing reliable has been ascertained as to the whereabouts of Ben. McCulloch.

Two of the crew of the steamer *Clara Bell* have arrived from Booneville. They report that Colonel Mulligan took possession of the *Clara Bell*, and about one-third of her cargo, on the 12th, and then ordered her to drop down opposite his entrenchments. She was afterwards captured by the rebels and the remainder of her cargo seized. She was laden with merchandise for Santa Fe, valued at $13,000.

No considerable number of Price's troops had left Lexington on Tuesday, and no batteries were seen on the river banks between Lexington and Booneville.

Gen. Sturgis, with 1,100 men, reached a point on the north side of the river, six miles from Lexington, on the 19th, but learning that some 5,000 of Price's rebels were stationed in the woods skirting the river waiting his appearance, he marched to Liberty and thence to Kansas city, where he now is.

Reports which are regarded as reliable have been received here that Colonel Montgomery, of General Lane's command, attacked Osceola, in St. Clair county, on Friday last, burned the town by shelling it, and repulsed a large force of rebels.

There are said to be about 14,000 rebels in Lacade county, committing all kinds of depredations upon Union men. Forbert & Co's store at Linn Creek had been robbed again, and this time some $70,000 worth of property carried off.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

[By Pony Express.]

SWEET WATER, (210 miles east of Salt Lake City,) Sept. 25.—The pony express passed here at 9 o'clock A. M. to-day.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 18—P. M.—Arrived 15th, Electric, from Sidney; bark Constantine, from New Zealand; 16th, ship Sea Serpent, from New York; bark Carmilla, from Port Philip.

Commercial trade continues fair and active. Candles have advanced, and 23c was refused for a lot. Crushed Sugar—Prime sells at 13c. Isthmus Butter—Prime, 27½a28½c. J. H. & Co. Lard, 16c. Rio Coffee, 20c. 1,000 gallons Spirits Turpentine were sold at $1.50. Domestic Spirits dull.

GENERAL NEWS.

The sloop-of-war *Wyoming* and revenue cutter *Joe Lane* have been sent from this port in pursuit of the ship *Ashland*, which is probably loading with guano at George's Island. She belongs in New Orleans, and, if captured, will be confiscated.

The second mate and five men deserted from her on Elida island, off the coast of Lower California, and they assert that the captain is a Secessionist, and treated the Northern men on board with savage cruelty.

Soon after the arrival of the clipper *Sea Serpent* the revenue officer seized $12,000 worth of tobacco, consigned to Greene, Heath, & Ollin, on information that the property belonged to Southern owners.

On Saturday a large lot of tobacco, that came on the ship *Sword Fish* belonging to the same company, was seized on the same kind of information.

The reports from the interior show that the recent appeals to the military spirit of the people have not been in vain. At the rate companies are offered, the five regiments will soon be filled up.

Six companies of infantry that have encamped near San Francisco, being part of the 1,500 called for service on the overland mail route, have been sent to Los Angeles. This unexpected movement, coupled with the recent information of the sudden departure of troops, already in the south, for San Bernardino, would indicate that General Sumner has intelligence of recent disunionism among the Southern sympathizers in that part of the State which is hidden from the public at large.

It now appears that the entire overland force is, for the present, to be established at Los Angeles.

The California Steam Navigation Company transports companies of soldiers on the waters traversed in this State by their steamers free of charge.

Major General W. Hallock, of this city, has received his appointment as major general of the regular army of the United States, and has taken the oath of office. He will go East by the steamer of October 1st, to join Gen. McClellan's army.

The Agricultural State Fair opened at Sacramento on the 16th, on a much grandor scale than heretofore. Persons who have attended the fairs at the East state that the exhibition of stock at Sacramento equals the exhibitions at the National Fair at Richmond three years and Chicago two years since.

The new Directory of San Francisco, published under the supervision of parties regarded as undoubted authority in local statistics, gives the basis for estimating the present population of the city at 83,223, composed of 40,000 white males, 37,000 white females, 3,000 Chinese, and 2,000 colored.

Considering that the city polled 11,125 votes at the recent election, the estimate of the Directory appears not too high. The same authority states that 1,013 wooden buildings were erected in San Francisco during the year ending with August, being above one-eighth of all the buildings the city contains. It is a general remark, from these ascertained facts, that San Francisco was never in so prosperous a condition as at present.

The Yreka *Journal* states that the story of a recent massacre of a party of emigrants at Goose Lake was a heartless hoax, for the purpose of harrowing the soul of a resident of that place who had relatives aboard the train.

The Portland *Oregonian* of the 19th inst. contains the following items:

All our late news from the Indian country is favorable to peace. We should have no trouble with the Noz Perces, if we could keep liquor from them.

Gold discoveries have been made on a tributary of the Salmon river, and a large party had left the southern fork for the mines.

Later news from the Sandwich Islands had been received by the brig *Francisco*, which arrived here last evening from Helo. The dates received from Honolulu are to the 20th of August, but are unimportant. The cattle disease was supposed to be subsiding. It was attributed chiefly to the animals drinking stagnant water.

According to a late census the population of the Hawaiian Islands is 9,800, of which 2,716 are foreigners. The population of Honolulu is 4,310, of whom 1,639 are foreigners. The area of the twelve islands is 3,840,000 acres.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.—Arrived May 19th, ship Black Hawk, from San Francisco; June 15th, ship Asteror, do; 28th, ship O. W. Bailey, from Melbourne; 25th, whale ship Compria, from a cruise, with 1,800 bbls of whale and 28 of sperm; 20th, brig Joseph Stone.

Sailed May 15th, bark Crusader, for Hampton Roads, with 850 tons of guano; June 6th, ships Black Hawk, do; 15th, Asteror, with 1,613 tons do; 20th, F. W. Bailey, with 950 tons do; July 13th, brig Josephine, from McKean's Island,

In port June 22, bark Trieste, about half loaded, for Juives Island.

Sailed June 15th, ship Cambria, leaving all well on shore, and no vessel at the island

THE NATIONAL FAST.

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—The National Fast has been generally observed to-day, all business suspended, and all the churches well filled. Broadway is thronged with people, the weather being very fine.

TRENTON, Sept. 26.—There has never been such a general observance of a day of worship as there was to-day. Every place of business was closed, and the churches were all filled, and the people all solemn and serious. It has indeed been a very remarkable day, exceeding the Sabbath in quiet and seriousness.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—A Sabbath-like quiet prevailed to-day throughout the city.

BOSTON, Sept. 26.—The city wore a Sabbath-day aspect, and the churches were attended by large congregations, who listened to religiously-patriotic discourses.

Explosion at Peoria, Ill.

LOSS OF LIFE.

PEORIA, Ill., Sept. 26.—The boiler of Charles R. Carroll's distillery exploded to-day, killing the engineer and another employee, and rendering the building a complete wreck. The amount of loss has not been ascertained. The explosion is said to have been caused by the carelessness of the engineer in letting the boiler get out of water.

Fort Lafayette.

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—The steamer *Peabody*, from Fortress Monroe, landed twenty-five State prisoners at the Hotel de Lafayette, this evening.

THE CITY.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WHEATLEY'S CONTINENTAL THEATRE—Walnut street, above Eighth.—"The Tempest; or, The Enchanted Island."

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE—Ninth and Walnut sts.—"The Marble Heart"—"A Quiet Family"—"State Secrets."

ARCH-STREET THEATRE—Arch street, above Sixth.—"Jennette; or, Le Cretin de la Montagne."

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS—Corner of Tenth and Chestnut streets.—Sanderson's Stereopticon of the Southern Rebellion and Russian War.

The Oyster Trade.

A SCIENTIFIC TREATISE ON THE OYSTER.

We shall leave it for *savans* to determine whether or not the race of American oysters is becoming extinct. It is certain that in some portions of our country, where they are now comparatively strangers, large collections of shells have been discovered—thus indicating that at some former period they must have been quite abundant in those localities. The State of Maine appears to have been particularly favored with these relics of a by-gone race. On the Damariscotta river, (some fifteen or twenty miles from the ocean,) there are deposits of oyster shells extending for half a mile along its banks. Besides this, little islands or beds have been formed in the channel of the river. They appear to extend to a depth of fifty feet or more, and in the lapse of years have become, to a great extent, pulverized. As in the case of coral reefs, which they resemble at a distance, their formation is due to gradual accretions. Their presence is an evidence that this class of bivalves must have constituted an important article of food with our forefathers.

WHERE OYSTERS COME FROM.

Historically, oysters are old "settlers"—little more definite can be said of them on this point, except to affirm positively that they are of post-diluvian origin. Though tolerably abundant in New York and vicinity, they are most prolific on Virginia's sacred coast, and, in fact, are more or less obtainable in all the Southern States. In the New England States, except in Rhode Island and Connecticut, they are justly regarded as a rarity, and command correspondingly high prices. In Maryland they are quite plenteous, and the oyster and fishing trade of the Chesapeake is of considerable importance, furnishing employment to thousands of men.

DIFFERENT SPECIES OF OYSTERS.

For amply sufficient reasons we shall not bore the reader with a scientific dissertation on this topic, or with scientific distinctions where the public's palate can perceive no difference. Enough to know that gourmands recognize but two grand varieties of *ne plus ultra shell-fish*—viz: the salt and fresh. The most celebrated of the fresh oyster that comes to this market is the Cove, which, whether fried, roasted, or stewed, is esteemed a rare luxury. The salt oyster, though a much larger species, is only fit to be eaten from the shell, and in this condition derives nearly all of its palatability from the briny, pearly *liqueur* in which it is floating. The salt oyster may be preserved for a greater length of time than any other variety—a decided advantage, to be best appreciated in connection with the subject of transportation.

OYSTER PLANTATIONS.

Most of the oysters now sold in this city and New York were brought from the South last fall or spring, ere the present troubles between the two sections had assumed any decided proportions, calculated to obstruct the ordinary channels of trade. They were planted in various waters of New York by private enterprise altogether, and by constant "feeding" have yielded a rich return.

By re-transplanting they are supplied to the seaport towns of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, etc., although but in limited quantities. As might be expected, they present a puny appearance, never attaining their full development as in Southern climes.

Oysters are privileged to have their idiosyncrasies. They are sober, sedentary, dreamy fellows. Wherever they are planted they remain permanently, listening with ecstatic thrills to the chant of the sea-shells, and the roar of the breakers, until called from their beds of down by the rakes of the sordid planter. And yet, strange to say, they are unsympathizing with the children of men. How many a horrid nightmare, how many an indigestive travail, how many an aching heartburn, has come of their degustation!

But, sedentary as they are in the *main*, (no pun intended,) and warranted to remain "until called for," in shallow water, their local habitation is not so much a matter of absolutism. Here, an envious wave often sees them shining below among the sand and pebbles, and rudely brushes them away, with a coarse and brutal laugh.

Oyster plantations (or "beds" as they are commonly called) are quite numerous in Georgia, and indeed throughout all the Southern States. As the oysters grow, they adhere to each other in clusters, and resemble large pieces of honeycomb. As they mature, they become separated, and at last begin the world on their own separate responsibilities.

THE DREDGING.

The raising of oysters in beds is a comparatively slow, tedious, and not always remunerative enterprise. The greater portion of those brought to the market are therefore obtained by "dredging," or raking—the former being the more common method. We have already described it in *The Press*. It may be as well to repeat, briefly, nevertheless, that it consists in raking the oysters into a huge net, whence they are raised to the deck of the vessel. The oystermen's harvest has just commenced, and the crop is now being gathered in, along all the coasts and inlets where the bivalves most do congregate.

WHERE DO OUR PHILADELPHIA OYSTERS COME FROM?

The great depot in this city for the importation and purchase of the article is at Spruce-street wharf—where, it may be recollected, a dispute originated last year as to the lease of the wharf-grounds. On Saturday we counted half a dozen schooners, laden with oysters, waiting to discharge their cargoes, at this and adjacent piers. At the beginning of the season the prices generally range high—and indeed, cut off as we are from Virginia and the seceded States generally, it is likely that the price-current, during the present year, will present an imposing array of rates.

As the season advances, however, the high ruling rates will induce the oystermen to increase the stock as greatly as possible, and the result will be a fall in prices. Oysters have been sold at the wharf (though not during the present season) as low as twelve and a half cents per hundred!

Most of our oysters come from both sides of Long Island, the shores of New Jersey, from the Chesapeake Bay, and a few from New York.

As there are upwards of nine hundred restaurants, porter-houses, and refreshment saloons in Philadelphia, (exclusive of the open-air eating stands,) it has been estimated that from seven hundred to seven hundred and fifty thousand oysters are daily consumed in this city during the oyster season! On Saturday, one dining saloon, alone, on Chestnut street, sold twenty-five hundred oysters to the customers; and this, we were assured, was no extraordinary demand.

THE TRADE IN NEW YORK.

New York mostly depends for her supply of the appetizing edibles upon Princess Bay, Mill Pond, and Keyport; but (as one of her journals intimates with a tearful expression of countenance,) "the large, luscious, plump fellows, that used to titilate the palates of gourmands, are rare, and after the present season, will be still less common." New York, however, has no cause for complaint, as next to Baltimore, she has always enjoyed the monopoly of the trade.

THE BALTIMORE TRADE IN ITS RELATION TO OUR CITY.

As we have said above, Philadelphia receives a large supply of oysters annually from the Monumental City, where the trade has been nurtured and cultivated until it has finally assumed the proportions of a profitable and not uninteresting speciality. We can call to mind at least half a dozen houses in that city which have each over $50,000 embarked in the business, while its shipping alone whitens all the waters of the Chesapeake.

For the last twelve or fifteen years, the exportation of oysters to such prominent points in the West as St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Chicago has been almost exclusively monopolized by Baltimore.

We have even heard of their shipment to such extreme points in the South as New Orleans, although we confess our inability to perceive the occasion for this. But the Southern rebellion has greatly embarrassed, if, indeed, it has not put a complete extinguisher, on Baltimore's monopoly in this respect.

Of late years Philadelphia has taken the matter in hand, and there are now several establishments in the city which have devoted a portion of their capital to the preparation of oysters, both for home consumption and exportation. The oysters, to be preserved perfectly fresh and pure, are required to be placed in cans or jars, and hermetically sealed. When thus "put up," as the housekeepers say, they will keep for a number of years—or until eaten!

OYSTER PIRATES.

Near Amboy (N. Y.) the water is so shallow that you can stoop down and pick up the plants. In several of the States where the planting system is in vogue, stringent laws have been passed to prevent the destruction of the beds by sacrilegious and lawless depredators, whose respect for the right of property is about on a par with their respect for the proprieties of the English language.

But Maryland's way of dealing with these oyster pirates was so summary and comprehensive that its salutary effects are now observable in the diminution of the crime. Formerly piratical craft would be frequently captured while cruising in the Chesapeake, and taken to Annapolis. The vessels in such cases would be held as prizes until the damage committed had been fully indemnified, and the crew in any event would have the glorious privilege of a trial by a jury of their peers. Oyster piracy is a rare offence now-a-days. It is somewhat surprising that, as a relic of past barbarism, it has never been even so much as ventilated in a modern novel! "Roderick, The Oyster Pirate," would make a striking and *selling* title for a ten-cent romance!

THE TRADE, PAST AND PRESENT.

Before the gigantic strides of internal improvement—before the land was covered with a network of railroads, and before our vast facilities for inland navigation had begun to reach their full development—(be not surprised, reader, at the abrupt and ridiculous conclusion of this sentence)—the people of the interior scarcely knew what an oyster was! As a humorous writer puts it: "The diminutive, sickly article, put up in mid-winter, taken to the country, and baled out by the venders by the pint or quart, were a caricature upon the race. A pedlar poking a long wire through a keg of water, and occasionally fishing up an oyster as large as a penny, was no uncommon sight."

"SHELLS OF OYSTERS."

After the oysters are eaten, their remnants still have a value in the eyes of practical men—in the eyes of lime-kiln men, for example. We believe that all the lime made in this city is the residue obtained from the calcination of these shells. On the coast of the Chesapeake they sometimes drift to a height of 15 or 20 feet. They are at once gathered up, as coming under the general law of salvage, and carted to kilns in the immediate vicinity. The subsequent operation of their conversion into lime is altogether a matter of chemistry. Ergo, it cannot be strictly said to come within the province of a reporter's pen, and we shall therefore drop the subject.

PROBABLE HOMICIDE IN THE NINETEENTH WARD.—About five o'clock yesterday afternoon, the report of a pistol was heard by a number of boys engaged in playing cricket in the vicinity of Fairhill basin, near the line of the Twenty-third ward. The boys, upon proceeding to ascertain the cause of the noise, discovered a man lying on his face in an open lot, with a pistol just discharged lying beneath him. The pistol was one of Allen's improved seven-shooters, five barrels of which still remained loaded. A slug had entered his head immediately in front of the ear and above the right cheek bone. It had not been extracted up to a late hour.

The cheek and forehead of the man were stained with blood, a part of which, when our reporter beheld him, had become clotted. He was attired in a knit or cricket jacket, plush vest and dark paloons; his shirt was made plain in the bosom, the undershirt being of flannel, and the stockings of white cotton; he wore dilapidated gaiters, but neither drawers, collar, or necktie. In his pockets were found a paper of black thread, some buttons of horn, a steel ring, white handkerchief, and pen-knife. In appearance the deceased was perhaps twenty-five years of age, neatly, but commonly dressed, and of rather prepossessing appearance. He had a thin, careworn face, and might have been out of work before decease.

The locality where he was discovered is of a lonesome description, but the dusk had not closed in when the report was first heard. The precise spot was Sixth street, below the Reading Railroad. The fact of a pistol being found under the man's head, induced the opinion that he had committed suicide. The boys ran directly to the spot and saw no one running away. The majority opined, however, that a murder had been committed. The body was taken to the Nineteenth ward station house, where it remained unnoticed up to midnight An inquest will be held at two o'clock to-day.

WEST PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECTURAL IRON WORKS.—The number of workmen at present engaged at these works is about eighty, who are employed in manufacturing the grain elevator ordered by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and to be put in use by them at Washington-street wharf, on the Delaware. The elevator is designed not only for elevating, but at the same time weighing, transferring, screening, renovating, and purifying the grain, after the model of those used in Chicago The building, being of iron, will have the advantage of fire-proof construction. It is to be 110 by 120 feet square, and 100 feet in height, with one hundred iron bins in the enclosure, of 12 feet diameter by 45 feet high. These bins will be placed on girders, fifteen feet above the floor. The grain will be drawn from these bins to a pit below, and then by a conveyor to the main tower of the building (120 feet high); from thence it is taken by a horizontal conveyor to the centre of the building and emptied into a hopper, from which, by means of stationary pipes, it is carried into the bins. A horizontal conveyor then takes it to a tower of the building, from which it will be sent down a shoot into the vessels lying beneath awaiting its reception.

Mr. Badger, the owner of the works, is engaged in putting up a similar elevator in Brooklyn, N. Y.

No orders from the Government have yet been received at the works, though everything has been put in preparation in expectation of such orders being received.

BRIDLE-BITS, ETC., FOR THE GOVERNMENT.—The Messrs. Shields, on Chestnut street, above Bridgewater, West Philadelphia, have lately received several orders from the Government for the manufacture of bridle-bits, tent-pins, etc., and have a large force of workmen busily engaged. They are turning out about three hundred dozen bridle-bits per week. Their several contracts, received thus far, amount to thirty thousand bits.

At Coleman's shop, Arch street, near Twentieth, for the manufacture of similar articles, a good force of workmen is also engaged on Government work.

ARREST OF A FEMALE VOLUNTEER.—Yesterday a person of medium height, and slenderly built, applied at Camp Stokely to be taken as a recruit. The officer sharply questioned the would-be soldier, and the recruit confessed to be of the softer sex. She was arrested and taken before Alderman Beitler, where she gave the name of Andora Slater. She is known to the police in connection with Wm. Olden, one of the young men who endeavored to collect money on a certificate purporting to be signed by Mayor Henry. At the hearing she gave the name of Eleanor Olden. She was committed for thirty days under the vagrant act.

COLONEL P. WISE, Captains Clark, Newman, and Ritchie have left the Keystone, or Thirty-third Regiment, seeing no prospect for service, and have joined Colonel Morehead's regiment, and are now encamped at Haddington, West Philadelphia. Their men were immediately equipped with uniforms, blankets, tents, &c., and present a fine appearance upon dress parade It is to be hoped that this example may be followed by some other regiments, and the men prepared for immediate service. The old Keystone Regiment has been struggling for existence since May last, and it was high time that these measures were taken by captains who desired active service.

FLUID LAMP EXPLOSION.—A little girl, named Sarah Moore, aged twelve years, residing back of No. 818 North Fifteenth street, was shockingly burned about the body, arms, and face on Wednesday night, caused by the explosion of a fluid lamp. It seems that the parents of Sarah were absent, leaving her, with several smaller children, in care of the house. One of the children was holding some lighted matches while Sarah was filling the lamp, when the fluid took fire, and set the room in flames, also burning Sarah so badly that her recovery is doubtful. The unfortunate girl, who is a cripple, although so badly injured, had the presence of mind to notify those around of the danger to the other children.

FIRES YESTERDAY.—About 3 o'clock, yesterday morning, two unoccupied dwellings on the south side of Catharine street, below Eighth, were discovered to be on fire. The roofs were destroyed—loss about $500.

Yesterday morning about 6 o'clock, a fire broke out in the coal-oil manufactory of Bunting, Dennis & Jones, in Wall street, near Seventh and Catharine streets. The fire originated from the ignition of gaseous matter, known as benzole. The flames communicated to a lot of oil which burned furiously for some time. The loss is estimated at about $100, upon which there is no insurance. Jacob Ritchie, the still-tender, was badly burned about the hands and face.

COMMONWEALTH REGIMENT.—This regiment held a large meeting on Wednesday evening, at Spring Garden Hall, and a number of names were added to the roll-book. Patriotic and truly eloquent speeches were made by Colonel James E. Montgomery, Colonel F. Curran Philpot, and others.

The regiment will hold another gathering at Concert Hall on to-morrow night. The regiment is rapidly filling up. Let all young men join this excellent regiment.

THE NOONDAY PRAYER-MEETING.—The Business Men's Noonday Prayer-meeting, in Sansom-street Church, was largely attended yesterday, the church being filled in every portion. A number of addresses were made, interspersed with singing and prayer. The remarks on the occasion had special reference to the character of the day, and the interposition of the Almighty was ardently besought in behalf of our beloved country.

SEVERELY BEATEN.—A resident of the Nineteenth ward, named Haas, was severely beaten last evening at a lager-beer tavern, in the vicinity of Frankford road and Norris street. The injuries received were chiefly about the head. Two men were arrested, and confined in the Nineteenth ward station, on suspicion of having been the assailants.

SUICIDE.—A woman named Proctor, residing at 1826 Barker street, between Market and Chestnut, committed suicide at an early hour last evening, by swallowing a dose of poison. The cause of the rash act is unknown.

THE State of Minnesota has been ordered by the Secretary of War to raise two more regiments of infantry.