The Press.

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THE PRESS.

PUBLISHED DAILY, (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED,)

BY JOHN W. FORNEY.

OFFICE NO. 417 CHESTNUT STREET.

THE DAILY PRESS,

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SUPPLIED WITH BRUSHES at the lowest rates.
Always on hand, a large stock of
CAVALRY BRUSHES,
Government standard;
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And every Description of Brushes required for the Army.
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WELLING, COFFIN, & CO.,
116 CHESTNUT STREET,
Are prepared to make contracts, for immediate delivery, of
WHITE DOMET FLANNELS,
AND ALL WOOL
INDIGO BLUE FLANNELS,
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CADET MUSKETS AND EQUIPMENTS.—We have just made to order a lot of superior MUSKETS suitable for Philadelphia Cadets. They are light and neat, such as every parent would wish to place in the hands of their sons, affording healthful exercise without being so heavy as to injure the spine.
Also, CADET EQUIPMENTS made to Hiasko pattern.
PHILIP WILSON & CO.,
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DRY-GOODS JOBBERS.

1861. TO CASH BUYERS. 1861.
H. C. LAUGHLIN & Co.,
No. 303 MARKET STREET,
Are receiving daily, from the PHILADELPHIA and NEW YORK AUCTIONS, a general assortment of MERCHANDISE, bought for CASH.
CASH BUYERS are especially invited to call and examine our Stock. ao5-tf

FURS.

FURS! FURS!
GEORGE F. WOMRATH,
NOS. 415 AND 417 ARCH STREET,
HAS NOW OPEN
A FULL ASSORTMENT
OF
LADIES' FURS,
To which the attention of the Public is invited. no22tjal

MILLINERY GOODS.

KENNEDY'S
FRENCH
FLOWERS, FEATHERS,
AND GENERAL MILLINERY GOODS.
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Northeast Corner FOURTH and RACE Streets,
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WINDOW AND PLATE GLASS,
MANUFACTURERS OF
WHITE LEAD AND ZINC PAINTS, PUTTY, &c.
AGENTS FOR THE CELEBRATED
FRENCH ZINC PAINTS.
Dealers and consumers supplied at
VERY LOW PRICES FOR CASH.
oct1-3m

JUST RECEIVED, per "Annie Kimball," from Liverpool, Mander, Weaver, & Mander's preparations:
25 lbs Extract Aconitt, in 1 lb jars.
25 lbs Extract Hyoscyami, in 1 lb jars.
50 lbs Extract Belladonna, in 1 lb jars.
100 lbs Extract Taraxaci, in 1 lb jars.
55 lbs Vin Rai Colchici, in 1 lb bottles.
100 lbs Ol. Succini Rect., in 1 lb bottles.
500 lbs Calomel, in 1 lb bottles.
500 lbs Pil Hydrarg., in 1 lb jars.
WETHERILL & BROTHER,
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IMMENSE REDUCTION
IN
LOOKING GLASSES,
OIL PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS,
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Announce the reduction of 25 per cent. in the prices of all the Manufactured Stock of Looking Glasses; also, in Engravings, Picture and Photograph Frames, Oil Paintings. The largest and most elegant assortment in the country. A rare opportunity is now offered to make purchases in this line For Cash, at remarkably Low Prices
EARLE'S GALLERIES,
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CABINET FURNITURE.

CABINET FURNITURE AND BILLIARD TABLES.
MOORE & CAMPION,
No. 231 South SECOND Street,
In connection with their extensive Cabinet Business are now manufacturing a superior article of
BILLIARD TABLES,
And have now on hand a full supply, finished with the MOORE & CAMPION'S IMPROVED CUSHIONS, which are pronounced, by all who have used them, to be superior to all others.
For the quality and finish of these Tables the manufacturers refer to their numerous patrons throughout the Union, who are familiar with the character of their work.
au22-6m

GROCERIES.

MACKEREL, HERRING, SHAD, SALMON, &c.—3 000 bbls Mess Nos. 1, 2, and 3 MACKEREL, large, medium, and small, in assorted packages of choice, late-caught, fat fish.
5,000 bbls. New Halifax, Eastport, and Labrador Herrings, of choice quality.
5,000 kkses extra new scaled Herrings.
3,000 boxes extra new No. 1 Herrings.
3,000 boxes large Magdaline Herrings.
250 bbls. Mackinac White Fish.
50 bbls. new Economy Mess Shad.
25 bbls. new Halifax Salmon.
1,000 quintals Grand Bank Codfish.
500 lbs prime FRENCH CANDIES.
500 lbs prime Herkimer County Cheese.
In store and landing, for sale by
MURPHY & KOONS,
no8 No. 146 NORTH WHARVES.

COAL OIL! COAL OIL!
GEORGE W. WOOTTEN,
38 SOUTH SECOND STREET,
AGENT FOR THE
NORTH AMERICAN OIL COMPANY.
MANUFACTURERS OF COAL OIL AND REFINERS OF COAL AND CARBON OILS.
WM. F. JOHNSTON, President,
GEO. OGDEN, Secretary.
Also, Agent for BEERS, JUDSON, & BEERS, Patent Glass Cons for Lamps, and wholesale dealer in Dithridge's Patent Oval (fire-proof) and Eastern Flint-Glass Chimneys, lamps, &c. Burners to burn Coal Oil without Chimneys.
Cash buyers or prompt payers are respectfully invited to examine our stock. no21-1m

PORTLAND KEROSENE OIL.
We are now prepared to supply this
STANDARD ILLUMINATING OIL
AT
GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.
Z. LOCKE & CO., SOLE AGENTS,
1010 MARKET STREET,
se2-6m Philadelphia.

TERRAPINS, OYSTERS STEWED AND FRIED, AND CHICKEN SALAD.—Invitation Cards and other notices will be distributed in all parts of the city, with punctuality.
The undersigned is at all times prepared to present, for the inspection of Ladies and Gentlemen, a list of the things necessary for a large or small entertainment, as the case may be, thereby avoiding all unnecessary profusion and waste; and flatters himself, that by his long experience in business, he will be able at all times to give, as heretofore entire satisfaction to all who favor him with their patronage. HENRY JONES, Caterer,
No. 263 South TWELFTH Street, above SPRUCE.
oc1-6m

BILLHEAD PRINTING, BEST and Cheapest in the city, at RINGWALT & BROWN'S 34 South THIRD Street. no20

RETAIL DRY GOODS.

GREAT ATTRACTIONS.
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS ONLY.
Most suitable for
PRESENTS,
will be offered at
No. 1024 CHESTNUT STREET,
No. 1024 CHESTNUT STREET,
No. 1024 CHESTNUT STREET,
No. 1024 CHESTNUT STREET,
FROM WEDNESDAY, the 11th inst.
DURING THE HOLIDAYS ONLY,
A fresh and carefully selected stock of
LACES,
EMBROIDERIES,
LINENS,
WHITE GOODS,
Comprising all the most recently imported novelties in this line.
These wishing to make acceptable, as well as useful
CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS,
Would do well to call at
1024 CHESTNUT ST.,
Before proceeding elsewhere.
200 VALENCIENNE TRIMMED LACE SETTS, $2.50, worth $5.
100 VALENCIENNE TRIMMED LACE SETTS, $5, worth $10.
400 VALENCIENNE TRIMMED LACE COLLARS, $1c2, and upwards.
200 DOZ. HEMSTITCHED HANDKERCHIEFS, 13, 16, 18, 20 cts., and upwards.
500 DOZ. CORDED BORDERED HANDKERCHIEFS, 5c, and upwards.
50 DOZ. PINE APPLE HANDKERCHIEFS, 22c. and upwards.
200 REAL THREAD VEILS, $2 to $25, worth double.
100 POINTE LACE SETTS, $5 to $35.
100 POINTE LACE COLLARS, $2 to $20.
VALENCIENNE, POINTE APPLIQUE, HONITON, MALTESE, and other LACE COLLARS, SETTS, HANDKERCHIEFS, CAPES, BERTHES, &c.
And also in LACES, EDGINGS, and INSERTINGS, by the yard.
FRENCH EMBROIDERED COLLARS and SETTS, SKIRTS, INFANTS' WAISTS and ROBES, &c.
CAMBRIC, SWISS, and LINEN EDGINGS, INSERTINGS, and FLOUNCING, &c.
Comprising a great variety of GOODS in the above line, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS, all fresh, desirable, and at prices defying competition.
JOHN A. MULLEN,
dec7-tf Agent.

HEAVY CLOAKINGS.
Brown and Black Sealskin, 75c to $1.50.
Cheap heavy Coatings and Cloakings
Fine Black Cloths and Beavers,
Good stock Cassimeres at old prices.
COOPER & CONARD,
de14 S. E. cor. NINTH and MARKET.

18¾-CENT DELAINES.
34 37 pieces best styles, just received suitable for Christmas Presents. (18¾c.
60 pieces best American Prints at 12½ cts., terms for Presents. COOPER & CONARD,
de14 S. E. cor. NINTH and MARKET.

CLOAKS.
Handsome styles of well-made, serviceable garments. The best made the best finish, and the best materials for the price. A large stock from which to select.
COOPER & CONARD,
de14 S. E. cor. NINTH and MARKET.

BROCHE LONG SHAWLS REDUCED FOR CHRISTMAS.
Scarlet-centre Long Shawls.
Green-centre Long Shawls.
Two-faced Long Shawls.
EYRE & LANDELL,
de9 FOURTH and ARCH.

BLACK CLOTH FOR CLOAKS.
Esquimax Beaver Cloths.
6-4 Stout Black Doeskins.
Hudson Bay Seal Skins.
EYRE & LANDELL,
de9 FOURTH and ARCH.

OTTOMAN VELOURS.
Plain dark colors and figures.
Rich printed Epinglines.
Woven styles Reps, very cheap.
IMPORTED BALMORALS,
New designs, handsome colorings, nearly four yards wide.
SCARLET FRENCH FLANNELS,
Twilled and plain, of extra qualities, suitable for rheumatic underwear.
LOW-PRICED DE LAINES.
New designs, constantly arriving, of rich printed Mouseline De Laines.
SHARPLESS BROTHERS,
de7 CHESTNUT and EIGHTH Streets.

HOUSE FURNISHING DRY GOODS.—SHEPPARD, VAN HARLINGEN, & ARRISON, Importers and Dealers in Linen, and House Furnishing Dry Goods, etc.
Have now on hand a full assortment of Linen Sheeting, Table Cloths, Napkins, Table, Diaper Towelling, etc., etc., imported under the old tariff, or bought at great sacrifice.
N.B.—Five per cent. allowed on purchases as above, if paid for on delivery. no27tf

WILL CONTINUE TO SELL UNTIL JANUARY 1st, our entire stock of BLANKETS at the old prices.
Will open THIS DAY a large stock of all Wool Flannels.
Our 25 cent White Flannels are the best in the city.
Very handsome neat styles DeLaines at 18¾c; handsome dark grounds, all Wool, at 31 and 37 cents.
COWPERTHWAIT & CO.,
de5-tf N. W. corner EIGHTH and MARKET.

HOLIDAY GOODS.

GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
A choice and varied assortment of articles, suited to the coming season, which have been selected with much care from the latest importations, comprising:
WRITING AND FOLIO DESKS,
WORK, GLOVE, JEWELRY, AND DRESSING BOXES,
CASES,
PORTE-MONNAIES,
CARD CASES,
WATCH STANDS,
THERMOMETERS,
PARIAN, GLASS, LAVA, AND CHINA ARTICLES,
FANS IN CRAPE, SILK, AND LINEN,
DOLLS,
Speaking, Sleeping, Model, China, Wax, and Patent.
DOLLS' SHOES,
HOSE,
MITTS,
GAME BOARDS,
JEWELRY,
PARASOLS,
AND RATTLES.
DOLLS' FURNITURE IN EVERY VARIETY.
THEATRES. THEATRES.
STABLES.
SOLDIER EQUIPMENTS.
PANORAMAS, BOX AND BELLOWS TOYS.
Ornaments for Christmas Trees, Fairies, Balls, Fruit,
PERFUMERY AND TOILET ARTICLES.
HERBARIUMS, SCRAP AND TOY BOOKS.
A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF GAMES AND PAPER DOLLS.
ENGLISH BOWS AND CRICKET BATS.
BASE BALLS, &c. &c.
All the above articles can be had, at Reduced Prices, at
MARTIN & QUAYLE'S
Stationery, Toy, and Fancy Goods Emporium,
1035 WALNUT STREET,
Below Eleventh,
PHILADELPHIA. de7-125-1p

USEFUL
AND ACCEPTABLE
HOLIDAY PRESENT,
A well-made and tastily-finished
UMBRELLA.
For sale by
WM. A. DROWN & CO.,
246 MARKET STREET.
de14-12t

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.
We have just received a most splendid assortment of GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, of all kinds, suitable for LADIES, GENTLEMEN, or BOYS' WEAR.
Also a large and beautiful assortment of new and fashionable JEWELRY, GOLD CHAINS, PENCILS, &c., with a complete assortment of
SILVER WARE,
such as KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS, NAPKIN RINGS, CUPS, &c., besides a great variety of
FANCY SILVER GOODS,
suitable for Holiday or Bridal Presents.
Also, on hand a most beautiful assortment of SILVER PLATED TEA SETS, CASTORS, CAKE BASKETS, &c., all of which will be sold at less prices than can be purchased in this city.
☞ Old Gold, Silver, or Jewelry taken in exchange.
LEWIS LADOMUS & CO.,
dc14-12t 802 CHESTNUT Street.

The Press.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1861.

Books and Authors.

SHAKSPEARE'S FINANCIAL PAMPHLET.

It is not generally known, apparently not known by any of his biographers, that a prose work on political economy, or rather upon national finance, was attributed to Shakspeare, in the reign of Queen Anne. Many years ago, a schoolmaster named Northall, who resided in Birmingham, (England,) where the writer of these lines, then entering into journalism, was editing a newspaper, possessed and was fond of showing an octavo pamphlet, entitled "Suggestions on Money, a Letter to her most High and Mighty Sovereign Lady, Elizabeth; by Mr. W. S." The imprint was at London, and the date was 1587, at which time great preparations were on foot to oppose the Spanish Armada, then fitting out, by direction of Philip the Second. The pamphlet which Mr. Northall possessed was only a reprint, in 1709, and, in a Preface addressed to Queen Anne, in which she was complimented by being compared with and exalted far above Queen Elizabeth, the editor or publisher declared that "Mr. W. S." was Shakspeare; that his suggestions were made when the realm was in imminent danger; and that they were applicable at that moment, when a war was being waged, in the Low Countries, by Great Britain, and money was scarce. The suggestion of "Mr. W. S." was that Queen Elizabeth should issue paper money, as a representative of value, which would take the place of gold, and be redeemable in gold at public offices in London and other large cities, besides being accepted as cash when tendered in payment of taxes. He alluded to the fact that the Carthagenians had stamped pieces of leather, as money; that, "in far Cathay," the bark of a tree, stamped with the sovereign's effigies and title, was a substitute for the precious metals; and that, in Africa, certain shells, called *Kawrie* (cowries?) served the same purpose. In fact, Shakspeare, who was considerably in advance of his time, suggested the formation of a national bank and the issue of paper money. These, so far as we recollect, after the lapse of a quarter of a century since we read the pamphlet, are the leading points of the "suggestions" of Mr. W. S. The style was very plain,—exactly as suited a production suggesting a practical proposition.

FRANCIS BACON AND WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

The second volume of "The Works of Francis Bacon," published by Brown and Taggard, Boston, contains further portions of the Philosophical Works, with a very valuable preface by Mr. Spedding, one of the editors, who, with Mr. Ellis, has also supplied necessary notes to the Latin text. One of these communicates a singular fact upon the tradition of Columbus breaking the egg—which has so frequently afforded a subject to painters: Hogarth, it may be remembered, gave an etching of this as a receipt to the subscribers to his "Analysis of Beauty." The annotater says: "The story of Columbus's egg is one of those popular anecdotes which no refutation can get rid of. It was first told by Benzoni, and then greatly embellished by Theodore de Bry, and is in reality a reproduction of a story perhaps not more authentic told of Brunellesco, the architect, who erected the dome of the cathedral at Florence." A large portion of the [illegible] volume is occupied with six books of Bacon's famo[illegible]us Treatise "De Dignitate et Augmentis Scientiarum," [illegible] universal alphabet, Bacon's suggestions o[illegible] [illegible]am Young, [illegible] Sir (such as Fr[illegible]nklin, Dr. Will[illegible]), and the art of John Hersc[illegible] have proposed[illegible]) and the art of writing in [illegible]her. The A[illegible]ppendix strong reasons a[illegible] Bacon [illegible]hould not be [illegible] alphabet, [illegible] originate[illegible] Porta. Mr. Spedding notices the singular fact that, although Bacon's remarks, on the character of the modern drama, were probably written, and certainly first published in the same year (1623) which saw the first collection of Shakspeare's plays, which had been filling the theatre for the last thirty years, he never alludes to them, and it is doubtful whether Bacon had ever heard of them. As works of literary pretension they attracted little notice. Mr. Spedding says, "Though numbers of contemporary newsletters, filled with literary and fashionable intelligence, have been preserved, it is only in the Stationer's register and the accounts kept by the Master of the Revels that we find any notice of the publication or acting of Shakspeare's plays. In the long series of letters from John Chamberlain to Dudley Carlton, scattered over the whole period from 1598 to 1623—letters full of the news of the month; news of the court, the city, the pulpit, and the bookseller's shop; in which court-masques are described in minute detail, author, actors, plot, performance, reception and all; we look in vain for the name of Shakspeare or any of his plays. And yet during that period Hamlet, Twelfth Night, Othello, Measure for Measure, the Merchant of Venice, Macbeth, Lear, the Tempest, the Winter's Tale, Coriolanus, and several more, must have appeared as novelties." Another curious statement in these notes, quoted from Von Hammer's History of the Ottoman Empire, is that the Turkish practice of having the near male relations of each Sultan put to death on his accession was established as a fundamental law of the State by Mahomet the Second, who said that the majority of legistes had declared the murder of the Sultan's brothers was justified by the necessity of securing the repose of the world, and, subsequently, included not only the brothers of the Sultan, but their nephews and grandsons. The custom has been discontinued. Pope, it may be remembered, alluded to this when, describing Addison, he spoke of him as one who could

"Bear, like the Turk, no brother near the throne."

WASHINGTON IRVING.

The publication of "Woolfort's Roost," which very much reminds one of "The Sketch-Book," completes the National edition of Washington Irving's works, in twenty-one volumes, issued by G. P. Putnam, of New York, who was at once the business-man and beloved friend of gentle and genial Geoffrey Crayon. The writings of Irving will live, with his land's language, but they will be held in different degrees of estimation. The Sketch-Book, Bracebridge Hall, Knickerbocker's New York, and the Alhambra, will always be most popular. Next to these will rank Columbus and Goldsmith, though the latter too obviously draws upon the charming biography by John Forster—indeed nearly all the illustrations, in this edition, are copied from it. The Crayon Miscellany will be read, because of its recollections of Sir Walter Scott, and its description of Newstead Abbey. The Tales of a Traveller and Woolfort's Roost will be welcomed, because they are so much in Irving's first and better style. The Life of Washington, which cost Irving more trouble than any other of his writings, is scarcely equal to what was expected. Had he written it thirty years earlier, when his mind was fresh and his capacity for labor great, it would probably have been a model biography. As it is, it is as honest a memoir as was ever written. Mahomet, Granada, Astoria, and Captain Bonneville, are the least readable of Irving's books. Two other editions are announced—one in large paper, with extra illustrations; the other, to be called the Aldine edition, to be printed on superfine white paper, uncut, similar to the Grant White's Shakspeare. The biography of Irving, by his nephew, may soon be expected.

Looking through Cardinal Wiseman's "Recollections of the Last Four Popes and of Rome in their Times," which we lately picked up at John Campbell's, we found a charge brought against Irving by his Eminence. In the third part of the "Tales of a Traveller," are several robber stories, among which a very striking one is "The Young Painter's Adventure." It is related, in the book, as by a French artist, and Irving tells, in his preface, that it was "taken almost entirely from an authentic narrative in manuscript." Cardinal Wiseman says "True: and astonished and disappointed was the poor French artist, when he found that the manuscripts which he used to lend freely to his friends had been translated and published without his permission or knowledge by M. Wassinton, as he called his literary pirate." The artist, M. Chatillon, was not a *young* painter, but a lean and slippered pantaloon, when he was taken, as he describes, from the Villa Ruffinella, in 1818, by brigands, in mistake for its owner, Prince Lucien Bonaparte. The Cardinal says that, when he was at the English College at Rome, M. Chatillon lent the manuscript to himself and other students, and adds "I believe I was the first to discover and inform him, that it was already published in English, with such alterations as made the account apocryphal; but with such a charm as would deprive the original, if printed, of all chance of success." Cardinal Wiseman's book was published, in this country, as well as in London, in 1858, some eighteen months before Irving died, but it is very probable that he never saw it. By an odd coincidence, another of the "Tales of a Traveller" bears the title of "Buckthorne, or the Young Man of Great Expectations." Could this have suggested the story or the name of Dickens's last work?

In compliance with a request from a correspondent, we conclude this notice by mentioning that Washington Irving, born in New York, April 3, 1783, died at his residence, Sunnyside, near Tarrytown, N. Y., November 28, 1859, and was interred, in the graveyard of Christ Church, Tarrytown, on December 3, the officiating clergymen being the Rev. Dr. Creighton and the Rev. Mr. Spencer.

THE REBELLION.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Destructive Fire in Charleston.

MORE THAN HALF THE CITY IN ASHES.

THE FIRE THE WORK OF AN INCENDIARY.

A REPORTED NEGRO INSURRECTION.

A REBEL ADDRESS TO THE EAST TENNESSEANS.

THE FIGHT AT FORT PICKENS.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF COL. BROWN.

THE BRAVERY OF OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

WHAT FACTS WERE ELICITED BY THE BOMBARDMENT.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

LATE NEWS FROM SCHOEPFF'S BRIGADE.

THE PROSPECTS OF A BATTLE.

MORE ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE OVER THE WHIPPOORWILL.

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI.

JEALOUSY BETWEEN GENERAL PRICE AND GOVERNOR JACKSON.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

HON. CALEB CUSHING ON THE MASON AND SLIDELL QUESTION.

Further Particulars about Gen. Burnside's Expedition.

&c., &c., &c.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

Great Fire in Charleston—A Large Portion of the City in Ashes—A Reported Slave Insurrection.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 13, via Baltimore.—A flag of truce under command of Captain Millward took Mr. Eddy, of North Carolina, to Craney Island to-day.

From Norfolk we have intelligence of a most disastrous fire at Charleston, S. C. A despatch to the Norfolk *Day Book* of to-day, from Charleston, states that a fire broke out in that city on Wednesday night, which was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. At the date of the last despatch, 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon, the fire was still burning. The Round Church, the theatre, the Institute, and other public buildings, are stated to have been destroyed. The fire swept across Broad street.

Assistance had been sent for from Augusta.

The Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons met at Richmond on Monday and elected Lewis B. Williams, of Orange, Grand Master for the ensuing year.

Further in Reference to the Charleston Fire—A Slave Insurrection Reported.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The special despatches received here from Old Point say that the fire at Charleston was the work of the negroes.

The Baltimore *American* of Saturday says: Our private advices from Norfolk do not make any mention connecting the slaves with the conflagration, further than that it was supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The fire is said to have originated in a sash factory, near the junction of King and Broad streets; that it crossed Broad street, and in five hours reached the Institute Hall, the Round Church and the Theatre, on Meeting street, must have passed diagonally across Clifford, Beaufort, Cumberland, Princess, Queen, and Chalmers streets, a distance of nearly a half mile through the very heart of the city. As no mention is made of the destruction of the City Hall, Court House, Guard House, and Christ Church, at the four corners of Broad and Meeting streets, it is to be presumed they have escaped

The Mills House, one of the principal hotels of the city, about a half-square from the Round Church, on Meeting street, is also said to have been burned, together with the Catholic Cathedral, and Asylum, on Archdale street.

The fire was said to be still raging on Thursday evening, having continued for forty-eight hours. The theatre, which is said to have been burned, is the extreme point on Meeting street, that we are enabled to locate the extent of the conflagration, and its destruction would necessarily involve several squares of closely-built frame buildings in its rear. From an examination of the map, we think it likely that the Catholic Cathedral has escaped, though it is not more than a square beyond the theatre.

There is another statement brought by passengers that the Catholic Cathedral is burnt. This, if true, would extend the fire across King street, a distance of four or five squares west of the Institute Hall and the theatre, and would warrant the rumor that one half of the city has been destroyed.

We learn that the fire was checked on Meeting street before it reached the large building of Adams' Express Company, on the corner of North Market street, though most of the storehouses on the other side of Meeting street were destroyed or damaged.

LATER.

We learn that the passengers by the flag of truce from Norfolk state that the greatest excitement prevailed there on Friday morning, and that a great variety of rumors were afloat as to the origin of the conflagration. It was stated that the sash factory was fired by a free negro, who had been arrested, and confessed that it was intended as the first move for an extended slave insurrection.

It was also rumored at Norfolk that a large number of negroes had been arrested, who had been found in possession of arms and knives, and that the confession of the incendiary had been fully corroborated. These, however, are mere rumors, such as would likely be in circulation under all the circumstances, and may or may not be well founded. The despatch in the Norfolk papers, dated at Charleston, at 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, makes no mention of a servile insurrection.

Fort McRae.

The Pensacola correspondent of the Mobile *Advertiser and Register* gives a description of a visit to Fort McRae, from which we take the following extract:

The trip to Fort McRae was very tedious, but I felt well compensated after looking over the fort and hearing the men recount the dangers from fort and fleet. The court, or inner portion of the fort, was in the same condition as the bombardment left it, the garrison having been employed incessantly in repairing other injuries. The outer walls bear evidence of having been roughly handled by the fleet and Pickens, but no serious injury was effected. The west side seems to have suffered most, as it was here the fleet, for six hours, poured in broadside after broadside.

The Boundary of Texas.

It will be seen by the following from the Houston (Texas) *Telegraph*, of the 19th ult., that Texas claims her original boundaries:

A bill has been introduced into the Senatorial branch of the Legislature, by John T. Harcourt, Esq., restoring the original boundaries of the State. It declares that Texas yielded assent to the settlement of her boundary because the question was linked with the series of measures composing the Compromise of 1850, and for the sake of peace and the preservation of the Union; that the United States has been guilty of bad faith in all the questions embraced in the Compromise of 1850, resulting in the dismemberment of that Union, for the sake of which Texas was willing to sacrifice her immense territory; that, finally, the United States has broken and violated her part of the compact, and therefore it is annulled and cancelled. The bill then reasserts title to the boundaries, embracing New Mexico, &c., and authorizes the Government to take military possession. The *Telegraph's* correspondent says the bill meets with much favor, and will probably pass.

THE LATE FIGHT AT FORT PICKENS.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF COL. BROWN.

What Facts were Elicited by the Bombardment of the Rebels.

Col. Harvey Brown has made the following official report of the late fight:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, FORT PICKENS, Nov 25, 1861.

GENERAL: That Fort Pickens has been beleaguered by the rebels for the last nine months, and that it was daily threatened with the fate of Sumpter, is a fact notorious to the whole world. Since its occupancy by Lieut. Slemmer, the rebels have been surrounding it with batteries, and daily arming them with the heaviest and most efficient guns known to our service—guns stolen from the United States—until they considered this fort as virtually their own, its occupancy being only a question of time.

I have been in command since the 16th of April, and during the whole of that time their force has averaged, so far as I can learn, from eight to ten times the number of mine. The position in which I have thus been placed has been sufficiently trying, and I have at three separate times intended to free myself from it by opening my batteries on them, but imperious circumstances, over which I had no control, have unexpectedly in each instance prevented.

Affairs were in this state on the morning of the 9th of October, when the enemy, fifteen hundred strong, attacked by surprise a portion of my command on an intensely dark night. They were defeated and driven from the island with great loss by less than two hundred regulars and fifty volunteers—all the efficient force I had disposable for the purpose. An insult so gross to the flag of my country could not by me be passed unnoticed, and I designed immediately to take appropriate notice of it; but, as I said before, circumstances over which I had no control prevented. I make these prefatory remarks to explain why I have now opened my batteries on the enemy, when, from the smallness of my forces, about one-sixth of his, thirteen hundred to eight thousand. I have not the means of producing any decisive results, and as evidence of my having accomplished what I designed—the punishing the perpetrators of an insult on my country's flag.

Having invited Flag Officer McKean to co-operate with me in attacking the rebels, and to which he gave a ready and cordial assent, I, on the morning of the 22d, opened my batteries on the enemy, to which, in the course of half an hour, he responded from his numerous forts and batteries extending from the navy yard to Fort McRae, a distance of about four miles, the whole nearly equi-distant from this fort, and on which line he has two forts—McRae and Barrancas—and fourteen separate batteries, containing from one to four guns, many of them being ten-inch columbiads, and some twelve and thirteen-inch sea-coast mortars, the distance varying from two thousand one hundred to two thousand nine hundred yards from the fort. At the same time of my opening, Flag Officer McKean, in the *Niagara*, and Captain Ellison, in the *Richmond*, took position as near to Fort McRae as the depth of water would allow, but with the vessels of a great draught of water, it was not sufficiently deep to give full effect to their powerful batteries. They, however, kept up a spirited fire on the fort and adjacent batteries during the whole day. My fire was incessant from the time of opening until it was too dark to see, at the rate of a shot for each gun every 15 or 20 minutes, the fire of the enemy being somewhat slower. By noon the guns of Fort McRae were all silenced but one, and three hours before sunset this fort and the adjoining battery ceased fire. I directed the guns of Batteries Lincoln, Cameron, and Totten principally on the batteries adjacent to the navy yard, those of Battery Scott to Fort McRae and the lighthouse batteries, and those of the fort to all. We received very perceptibly the fire of Barrancas, entirely silenced that in the navy yard, and in one or two of the other batteries; the efficiency of our fire, at the close of the day, not being the least impaired.

The next morning I again opened about the same hour, the navy, unfortunately, owing to a reduction in the depth of water, caused by a change of wind, not being able to get as near as yesterday; consequently the distance was too great to be effectual. My fire this day was less rapid, and I think more efficient, than that of yesterday. Fort McRae, so effectually silenced yesterday, did not fire again today. We silenced entirely one or two guns, and had one of ours disabled by a shot coming through the embrasure.

About three o'clock fire was communicated to one of the houses in Warrington, and shortly afterwards to the church steeple, the church and the whole village being in[illegible]diately in rear of some of the rebel batteries, they apparently having placed them purposely directly in front of the largest and most valuable buildings. The fire rapidly communicated to other buildings along the street until probably two-thirds of it was consumed, and about the same time fire was discovered issuing from the back part of the navy yard, probably in Wolcott, a village to the north and immediately adjoining the yard, as Warrington does on the west. Finally it penetrated to the yard, and as it continued to burn brightly all night I concluded that either in it or in Wolcott many buildings were destroyed. Very heavy damage was also done to the buildings of the yard by the avalanche of shot, shell, and splinters showered unceasingly on them for two days, and being nearly fireproof, being built of brick and covered with slate, I could not succeed in firing them, my hot shot or shells not having any power of igniting them.

The steamer *Time*, which was at the wharf at the time, was abandoned on the first day and exposed to our fire, which probably entirely disabled her. The fire was again continued till dark, and with mortars occasionally until 2 o'clock the next morning, when the combat ceased.

This fort, at its conclusion, though it has received a great many shot and shell, is, in every respect, save the disabling of one gun carriage and the loss of service of six men, as efficient as it was at the commencement of the combat, but the ends I proposed in commencing having been attained, except one, which I find to be impracticable with my present means, I do not deem it advisable further to continue it unless the enemy think it proper to do so, when I shall meet him with alacrity.

The attack on "Billy Wilson's" camp, the attempted attack on my batteries, and the insult to our glorious flag have been fully and fearfully avenged. I have no means of knowing the loss of the enemy, and have no disposition to guess at it. The firing on his batteries was very heavy, well directed, and continuous for two days, and could hardly fail to have important results.

Our loss would have been heavy but for the foresight which, with great labor, caused us to erect elaborate means of protection, and which saved many lives. I lost one private killed, one sergeant, one corporal, and four men (privates) wounded, only one severely.

My officers, non-commissioned officers and privates were everything I could desire. They one and all performed their duty with the greatest cheerfulness, and in the most able and efficient manner. I am much indebted to Major Arnold, my executive officer, for his valuable assistance—his whole conduct was admirable; and Captains Allen, Chelin, Blunt, Robertson, Hildt and Duryea, and Lieutenants McFarland, Langdon, Closson, Shipley, Jackson, Pennington, Seeley, and Taylor, merit my warmest encomiums for the coolness and deliberation with which they performed, without one exception, their duty under a heavy and continuous shower of shot, shells, and splinters for two successive days. Lieutenant Todd, ordnance officer, had full supplies of all required articles, which were on hand at the post, and the department was conducted with system and efficiency. Major Tower, Surgeon Campbell, and Assistant Surgeon Sutherland, in their respective duties, sustained their high reputations. Captains Robertson, Duryea, and Blunt, and Lieutenant Pennington and Seeley respectively commanded Batteries Lincoln, Scott, Totten, and Cameron, and a small battery at Spanish Fort, and the other officers' batteries in the fort, with distinguished ability. Captains Dobies and Bailey's companies were with the batteries at Lincoln and Cameron, and did their duty faithfully and efficiently. The companies of Captains Henberer and Duffy, of the Sixth regiment New York Volunteers, were successively on duty at the fort, and rendered cheerfully important assistance to me. The regular companies engaged at the batteries, all of whom performed their duty so efficiently as to preclude my making a distinction, are Companies A, F, and L, First Artillery; C, H and K, Second Artillery, and C and E, Third Infantry, and Companies G and I, Sixth Regiment New York Volunteers.

In closing, I tender to Flag Officer McKean and Captain Ellison, of the navy, and to their officers and crews, my best thanks for their able co-operation, which would have had the happiest results but for the unfortunate fact that great draft of water prevented their sufficiently near approach to the works of the rebels.

I am General, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
HARVEY BROWN, Colonel Commanding.
Brigadier General L. THOMAS, Adjutant General United States Army, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA, FORT PICKENS, November 25, 1861.

GENERAL: The bombardment of the 22d and 23d has elicited some facts that are of importance, and I notice them that we may in future benfit by them.

First. That with the most efficient guns of the largest calibre, and served in the best manner, no serious injury can be done, to stone or brick walls, or to guns in sand batteries, or to troops serving them, unless probably by rifled guns, if properly protected, at a distance of from two thousand to three thousand yards.

Second. That shells and hot shot are not to be depended on for firing even wooden buildings, unless having in them incendiary composition.

Third. That pieces of port fire are nearly useless as such incendiary composition.

Fourth. That brick buildings covered with slate cannot be fired by either hot shot or shells at the distance named, unless by accident, unless the shells have rock fires.

Fifth. That the trouble and expense incurred in protecting forts by sand-bag traverses, &c., is far more than repaid by the saving of the lives of the defenders.

Sixth. That no dependence is to be placed on James' rifle projectile, either as it respects accuracy or range. If I had had guns to be depended on, I could have silenced the most of the enemy's sand batteries and the guns in Barrancas.

Seventh. That ships with their present armament cannot for an hour contend against rifled guns, and that if our navy is not at once supplied liberally with good rifled guns it will be very likely to be disgraced.

Eighth. That on service here, and I believe the remark applies with equal force to every river and harbor in the Gulf, a gunboat drawing six feet water and well armed with good rifled guns can do more and better service than a forty-gun ship, or than such ships as the *Niagara* and