## The Press. MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1861.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF STEPHEN A. De Udlas. The conspiracy to break up the Unian 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 mone but patriots and traitors.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

Our readers will find much important intelligence in this morning's paper, from nearly every quarter. By the arrival of the Europa, at Halifax, further particulars have been received of the effect in England of the news of the arrest of Mason and Slideli. If the statements of the Observer were strictly true serious difficulties with Great Britain might be anticipated, but they are probably exaggerations. The Morning Star, indeed, declares that they "are premature, and so exaggerated as to be virtually untrue." It seems almost incredible that the British Government would ungenerously and rashly seek to commence a war against this country on frivolous and idle pretexts; and we can scarcely believe that her people would sustain any Ministry that would adopt such a suicidal policy. At the same time, it cannot be disguised that English sentiment is becoming much divided in regard to the rebellion in this country-one portion of the English people favoring the triumph of the North and the other portion anxiously desiring the destruction of our national greatness by the success of the Secession movement, and the establishment of a slaveholding Government on our Southern border, which would furnish abundant supplies of cotton, and present a good market for English manufactures. The British sympathizers with the rebels will, of course, do all in their power to induce the Government of that country to esponse, in some shape or other, the cause of the Rebellion; but we can scarcely believe that the friends of justice, humanity, and civilization will either be inactive or uninfluential. Be this as it may, the honor and dignity of our country must and will be preserved at all hazards. The spirit of the nation will rise with any new emergency that may be presented, and from haughty England, as from all other countries, we will demand now, as here:ofore, " nothing that is not right, and submit to nothing that is wrong." The news received by the steamer City of Washington gives us further particulars of the contemplated action of the British Government. It is evident that great excitement has been created by the capture of Mason and Slidell, and the British sympathizers with the rebellion are determined to make the most of the pretext thus afforded, for creating a diversion in favor of the LATER FROM EUROPE. Secessionists. As was expected by many American journals when the news of the capture first reached this country, the British Government has determined to demand an "apology" or "reparation." In

anxious to seek a war with England, is totally without foundation; but it cannot be expected that our country will disgrace and humiliate herself to conciliate any foreign Power. The news of a great conflagration at Charleston is fully confirmed. We have received information of it, not only from those who arrived at Fortress Monroe under a flag of truce, and from the despatches in the Richmond papers, but the captain of the United States transport Illinois, on his way of the 12th instant, when he was about six miles distant from Charleston harbor, that a tremendous fire was raging in that doomed city. The buildings destroyed were located in one of the most

what marner, or to what extent, this demand will

be complied with by our Government, remains to

be seen. The usual course of Great Britain is to

promote any naval commander who distinguishes

himself by advancing British interests, even when

he does so at the expense of other countries, and to

make such explanations as it deems most conveni-

ent, at its leisure. The impression which appears

to prevail in London, that our Government is

important portions of the town, and were nearly all constructed of very inflammable material; few or none of them being built of brick or stone. There are different reports in regard to the origin of the fire, but it is quite probable that it was the work of a negro incendiary; and although it is scarcely possible that, while such a strong military organization of the whites exists, a slave insurrection would break out, yet Slidell is a clear violation of the law of nations, beit cannot be doubted that hopes of freedom are Scensionally make desperate efforts to realize them. No matter what may have been the origin of the fire, the people who commenced the rebellion and rejoiced over the full of Fort Sumpter, must now Government has demanded from President Lincoln be in a fearfully distressed condition, and if it be and his Cabinet the restoration of the persons of the indeed true that to the misery caused by the conflagration, the terrible horrors of a slave insurrection

The N. Y. Herald of yesterday, in commenting upon the late fire at Charleston, truly says! It is worthy of remark that Institute Hall, where the Democratic Convention was held, which split the party, and split the nation; the theatre, to which the Successionists retired to hold a saparate convention; St. Andrew's Hall, where the Mozart faction figured; the Charleston Hotel, and the Mills House, where the warring factions respectively held their headquarters; Hibernian Hall where the secession ordinance was passed; the can non and ammunition foundries, the treason shops of the Mercury and Courier, and the headquarters of Governor Pickens, have been all laid in ashes. Does it not look like a retribution of Providence, and an omen and a type of the future destruction of the rebellion?

The official report received from Colonel Brown of the late battle at Pensacola will be read with interest. It is evident that no very effective demonstration can be made in that quarter before large reinforcements are sent there, and a combined attack made by our fleet, Fort Pickens, and a strong land force.

Another important battle has been fought in Western Virginia, in which the Union troops were victorious—the rebel forces under General Johnson, Union troops commanded by General Milroy. The Louisville Journal says that there is a re-

port at Paducah, Kentucky, "that the Unionists of Weakley county, Tenn., had a fight with the Socessionists, a few days ago, on the occasion of the drafting of soldiers at Dresden, and that about fifteen were killed. It is also said that Col. Rogers was concentrating the Union men, who are twelve or fifteen hundred strong, who intend fighting their

A despatch from Cincinnati states that there are strong indications of an approaching battle in Southern Kentucky. The Louisville and Nashville railroad has been repaired as far as Mumfordsville, seventy-two miles from Louisville, and troops and supplies are being rapidly sent forward to that point. On the northern bank of Green river, which is crossed by the road some miles below, Gen. Johnston is stationed with 15,000 Union troops, and General Rosseau was, at last advices, preparing to ioin him.

bank of Green river with 25,000 rebels, who are preparing to dispute i's passage by our army. Gen Thomas' division on the left wing is bearing down on the cest to get into the rear of Buckner's position, and Gen. M tchell is also moving, on the giving sure prosperity to Laneashire through the right wing, towards Green river. Gen Buel, in winter. whose segucity and military skill much confidence is felt by all who are familiar with his career, is directing all these operations, and hopes are entertained of the success of the important demonstration he is about to make. The capture of Buckner's army would be a terrible blow to the rebels.

Mr. Forrest produced Richard on Saturday. He made of the regal villain a rollicking, reckless man, who did not put on the open livery of sin until harrowed and haunted by the spectres of his victims. Anne, as rendered by Mr. Forrest, was the only one

that could afford an excuse to this widow, in view of her husband's wrongs. To-night Mr. Forrest produces King Lear, his greatest part The house will be crowded. MRS. ALEXINA FISHER BAKER will appear at the Arch this evening in Heu of Miss Charlotte Tnompson, who has gone to New York. Miss Thompson had greatly endeared herself to the patrons of the Arch, and it will be difficult to supply her place. At the Walnut, Miss Alice Placide Mann appears in certain comedies. The Conti-

nental is still crowded nightly with friends of the Rebellion" and the "Cataract." LARGE SALE OF FRENCH DRY GOODS, EMBROI-DERIES, GLOVES, TASMONABLE FURS, &c .- The particular attention of purchasers is requested to the large and attractive assortment of French, German, Swiss, and British dry goods, Paris dress goods, embroideries, gloves, shawls, ladies' furs, &c.; also. buffalo robes; embracing about 700 lots choice articles, in silk, worsted, woollen, cotton, and linen fabrics, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, for cash, commencing this morning, at 10 o'clock, the sale to be continued, without intermission, all day and part of the evening, ending with the furs, by

Myers, Claghorn, & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and

Rupture with England. The mail steamer Europa has arrived at Halifax, after having been detained twentyfour hours at Queenstown, to take aboard a Queen's messenger with special despatches for Lord Lyons. The intelligence received by this steamer is of the highest importance. Our readers will find it in the telegram, in another column. Its substance is to this

After the Ministers had held a private caucus at Lord PALMERSTON'S office in London, they proceeded to Windsor Castle, where a special Cabinet Council was held, Queen Victoria presiding. Here it was determined to demand from President Lincoln ample "reparation" for the imputed indignity shown to the British flag by Captain WILKES-to obtain satisfaction, by immediately liberating Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and restoring them to the protection of the Union

Jack; and further, that the American should make a suitable apology to the British nation. It is intimated that the despatches to Lord Lyons contain instructions for demanding this humiliating conduct from the American Govornment. It is added that, in view of hostilities, the

exportation of nitre and other ingredients in the manufacture of gunpowder has been prohibited by England—that the land and sea forces of Canada are to be very greatly increasedand that, to please Lancashire, the blockade is to be rendered a nullity by British ships of war. It is threatened that the demands to be made by Lord Lyons are to be enforced by a British fleet in the Potomac, and that the ironcased war monster, the Warrior, is specially to head this expedition.

It is right to add that some of the liberal London journals think this intelligence premature and exaggerated; but the Observer, a semi-official Sunday paper, as well as the Times, publishes these statements. On this subject, one sentence is as good as a hundred. If we know the feeling of the President, the Cabinet, and the people, the

required apology and "reparation" will be made -NEVER! What Captain WILKES did was justified by the law of nations, by the law of England, as laid down by Lord Stowell, and other of her eminent jurists; and, more than all, by the practice of England. Under such circumstances, we hesitate not to say that, sooner than humble the nation by yielding to the insolent demand of imperious and faithless England, we shall yield to the last necessity, and battle with her on the question. We beat her on the sea over forty years ago, and with a just cause and God's help, have no fear for the result. For the cause of national honor, we are ready, as a nation, to risk life and property-to sacrifice all except the true dignity of

THE EUROPA AT HALIFAX.

IMPORTANT FROM ENGLAND.

THE RESTORATION OF MASON AND SLIDELL, WITH AN APOLOGY, DEMANDED.

The Thunderer has no Hope that the Federal Government will Accede to their Demands. A Special Messenger Sent with Despatches

to Lord Lyons.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR! THE FORCE IN CANADA TO BE IMMEDIATELY

INCREASED

ARMSTRONG GUNS AND 80,000 ENFIELD RIFLES BEING SHIPPED THITHER.

THEY THREATEN TO RAISE THE SOUTHERN BLOCKADE. HALIPAX, Dec. 15 .- The royal mail stoamer Eurona has arrived at this port, with highly-im-

portant intelligence. She was detained at Queenstown till the 2d, by order of the Government. She has the Queen's messenger on board, with

despatches for Lord Lyons. The steamer Jura arrived out on the 29th ult. The London Times, in alluding to the decision of the British Cabinet that the arrest of Mason and first steamer, to demand reparation, and if not com-

plied with, will be instructed to withdraw the Legation from Washington. London, Dec. 1 .- The Observer states that the

Southern envoys to the British Government. Yesterday afternoon, after five o'clock, her are added, their condition must be inconceivably Majesty held a privy council at Windsor Castle. Three of her Ministers, including the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretaries of State and

War, travelled from London to Windsor by special train to be present.

Previous to leaving town, the three Ministers had attended Cabinet Council at Lord Palmerston's official residence.

The Observer also says that a special messenger of the Foreign Office has been ordered to carry to Washington the demands of the British Government for Lord Lyons, and will proceed to-day by packet

from Queenstown. The public will be satisfied to know that these demands are for an apology, and to insist on the restitution to the protection of the British flag the persons of those who were violently and illegally torn from that sacred asylum

The Observer adds: "There is no reason why they should not be restored to the quarter-deck of the British Admiral at New York or Washington itself in the face of some ten or twelve men-of-war, whose presence in the Potomac would render the blustering Cabinet at Washington as helpless as the Trent was before the gans and cutlasses of the San Jacinto. It is no fault of ours if it should come even to this. The arrangements for increasing the force in Canada are not yet complete, but in a very few hours everything will be settled.

In the meantime a large ship, the Melbourne, has been taken up and is now being loaded with Armstrong guns, some 80,000 Enfield rifles, ammunition and other stores at Woolwich. It is not impossible that this vessel will be es

certed by one or two ships-of-war. The rifles are intended for the Canadian military, and a strong reinforcement of field artillery will

The Times' city article of the 30th says: "The position of the Federal States of America is almost identical, in every commercial point, with that which was occupied towards us by Russia before the Crimean war. Russia had a hostile tariff, while we looked to her for a large portion of our general supply of breadstuffs. But there is this peculiarity in our present case, that the commencement would be by the breaking up of the blockade of the Southern ports at once, setting free our industry from the anxiety of a cotton famine, and

"At the same time we shall open our trade to eight millions in the Confederate States who desire nothing better than to be our customers."

"At the Privy Council on Saturday an order was issued prohibiting the export from the United Kingdom, or carrying coastwise, gunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of soda, and brimstone. The Times has no hope that the Federal Govern

ment will comply with the demands of England. The Morning Star declares that the statement It was justly remarked that the courtship of Lady of instructions having been sent to Lord Lyons to obtain the restitution of the Confederate commissioners or to take leave of Washington was premature, and so exaggerated as to be virtually untrue The Liverpool Courier believes that the Warrior has been ordered to Annapolis with the ultimatum of the Government. THE VERY LATEST PER EUROPA.

[By Telegraph, via Queenstown.]

Liverroot, Dec. 2.—The R. M. steamship Persia, from New York, arrived at Liverpool at 8 o'clock this morning.

The speculations of the American press on the San Jacinto affair are eagerly canvassed here, and the general deduction is that there is less cause to

r a rupture between the two countries.
Cotton opens firmer, with some recovery in It is rumored that the Cabinet is modifying its

instructions to Lord Lyons under the influence of the Persia's advices, and hence the detention of the Persia's advices, and hence the detention of the Europa at Queenstown.

A Privy Council was held at Windsor on Saturday, such as was never before known.

The Privy Council, held by Her Majesty on Saturday last, was for the purpose of issuing an order prohibiting the export from the United Kingdom, of carrying coastwise, of all gunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of soda, and brimstone. The Queen's proclamston is published in the London Gazette extraordinary.

The London Times' city article of the 39th ultimo, shows that the fall of 2 per cent. In consols and from 4 to

5 per cent. in shares, while the question of actual war is b per cent. in shares, while the question of actual war is altogether undecided, is not justified by the nature of things. Between January and March, 1814, when war was decided against knasis, consols went down from 63% to 80%, and within two months they had recovered to 91%; yet the rate of discount at the time of the outbreak was nearly twice has high as at present, and the slock of bullion at the bank was considerably lower. Throughout the entire struggle the value of money was unaltered bayond the extent of one per cent.

Commercial Intelligence. LIVERPOOL, Nov. 29.—The Cotton market has been inactive, with a decline of \( \)d. The sales for the week have been 22,000 bales, including 4,500 bales to speculators and 4,250 bales to exporters. The market closed dull at the decline. The sales to-day (Friday) have been 1,500 bales, closing with a downward tendency in prices. The following are the authorized quotations:

False Mid.ling. 11% 11% 11%

The stock of Cotton in port is 591,000 bales, including

84,000 bales American. BREADSTUTES.—The market is firmer and slightly 14s 3d Corn buoyant and 122s higher; mixed Corn 34sa34s 6d, white corn 35a35s. Provisions.—The market closes quiet and steady. Pork unchanged. Beef quiet and steady. Bacon is ad-vancing. Lard quiet at 45565ys. Tallow inactive, but firm at 458550s 6d. Business has been suspended since firm at 488-6508 fil. Business has been suspended since the Trent affair.

Livenpool, Monday, Dec. 2.—The steamship Persia has arrived here. Breadstuffs are flat and all qualities have declined, slightly influenced by the hope of a peacoful solution of the San Jacinto affair.

London, Dec. 2.—Consols for money are quoted at 224,292%. American securities have an upward tendency, and rates have slightly advanced.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. Steamer City of Washington off Cape Race. THE WAR EXCITEMENT.

NAPOLEON OFFERS MEDIATION. Speech of Mr. Bright.

PACIFIC LETTER OF MR. COBDEN. LETTER OF GEN. SCOTT. EXPORTATION OF ARMS AND WARLIKE

CAPE RACE, Dec. 15 .- The steamer City of Washington passed here at 11 o'clock this morning, with dates by telegraph to the 5th inst. The ship Lady Franklin, from London for New York, put into Plymouth on the 3d inst. She took fire the same night, and was scuttled to extinguish the flames. Some Southerners shipped among her crew are suspected of firing her. The steamer Australasian has been chartered to convey troops, and a battery of artillery, and is to

STORES PROHIBITED.

sail on the 12th. It is stated that the steamer James Adger had captured a privateer off Fayal on the 17th ult., towing the prize into that port. [This is evidently a canard, as the James Adger a rrived at Baltimore some time since.] The San Jacinto affair monopolizes the attention

of the press, denouncing it in the strongest terms, and active naval preparations are making. The latest by telegraph to Queenstown, to the 5th instant, says the excitement is unabated. The Paris Temps repeats the statement that Napoleon has tendered his services as a mediator. It was rumored that the steamer Persia had been chartered to convey troops to Canada, but this is

onounced premature. The steamer Australasian was advertised to sail for New York on the 7th instant, but the America At the banquet at Rockdale Mr. Bright made an

elaborate speech on American affairs, but declined to give a decided opinion in the *Trent* affair. He believed that, if allegal, the United States will make fitting reparation. He strongly condemned any warlike feelings, and scouted the idea that the American Cabinet had resolved to pick a quarrel with England, and made a brilliant peroration in favor of the North. A letter from Gen. Scott, in favor of the mainte-

America, attracts much attention. The export of arms, ammunition, and lead America is prohibited. The Paris Patric has an editorial foreshadowing the disposition of France to recognize the Southern Confederacy, if England sets the example.

When the Europa sailed there was a more hopeful look, and consols and cotion slightly improved. but after digesting the tone of the American press a reaction set in, and fears were entertained that the Washington Government would justify the seizure of Mason and Slidell. The English journals are very bitter and hostile, continuing to treat the effeir as an intolerable insult. The instructions to Lord Lyons, on which the Cabinet was unanimous, are explicit and determined.

The London Post says that an acknowledgment of error and a surrender of the prisoners will be received with great joy; but if the Federal Government faile the alternative that England must do her duty.

The London Times continues to assert that it has been Mr. Seward's policy to force a quarrel with England, and calls for energetic military preparations in Canada. A serious decline is daily taking place in Cana-

dian securities, amounting to 12 per cent. The London Times predicts three things to immediately follow an outbreak with the United States namely—the destruction of the Southern blockade, the complete blockade of the Northern ports, and the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France and England.

The Daily News rejoices that the American Congress meets before the English demands can get out, and hopes that it will not with honor and dignity, and that the golden opportunity will not be

A large number of naval vessels are ordered to e ready for immediate commission.

The transport M. lbourne was to leave Woolwich Arsenal, on the 5th, for Habitax, with SU, OLO BESIDE of arms, large quantities of ammunition, and six Armstrong guns. She will be convoyed by the Orphens, of 21 guns.

The iron plated steamer Warrior is to be ready for foreign service immediately, and her destination will depend on the answer from Washington.

The shipment of rifles from England for New Arsenal, on the 5th, for Halifax, with 30,000 stand

The English funds fell 2 per cent. on the 3d. FRANCE.

Appearances indicate that the French papers have been instructed to write in an anti-American tone. The Patrie argues pretty clearly that France will side with England, recognize the South, and take a decided attitude in the international question.

The Liverpool Post gives a rumor that Napoloon had been proposed as the arbiter of the question. The Americans in Paris paid a compliment visit to General Scott, Mr. Dayton acting as chair

man. The Paris Bourse closed drooping. ITALY. Garibaldi, in a recent speech at Genoa, 🗪 the

occasion of an imposing popular demonstration, said that he hoped for the early deliverance of

LONDON; Dec. 5 .= The tone of the French press appears to be changing.

The Paris Moniteur considers a peaceful solution not impossible. It says that public opinion in the United States is very powerful, but also is very fickle, and it would be best to await a solution.

The Journal des Debats approved of this, and reviews the Moniteur's article, and adds that the French Government is in no hurry to recognize the South. Other French journals express the same

The German press generally takes the part of England. The Augsburg Gazette says that the blockade of Charleston is ineffectual, otherwise the escape of the Theodore would have been impossible. The commissioners having reached a Spanish port, and embarked on a neutral English recovery could not be lawfully seized by the steamer, could not be lawfully seized by the It is stated in the Times that nearly every ship loading for New York is taking out large quantities of lead. Lead is not mentioned in the Royal proclamation. The American operations in this market date from the commencement of the this market data from the commencement of the war. In the German markets they commenced in October. As almost all saltpetre used throughout the world comes from Oude, we have practically a monopoly of the article.

On Friday the Cabinet directed Lord Russell to prepare his despatch for Lord Lyons on Saturday. The ministers met again to revise and finally settle its terms, and it was sent off the same evening.

The Times understood that this communication, though couched in the firmest language, presumes

that the Federal Government will not refuse to make honorable reparation for an illegal act. The Times has but small hope of such disavowal.
At the date of the last despatches, the act of the captain of the San Jacanto had been accepted by the Northern public. The New York journals were arging his promotion; that a naval officer who had the spirit to board a British vessel and carry off rebels is enough to insure a storm of popularity. By the time Earl Russell's despatches arrive, the multitude may have already declared to the Government the treatment which Captain Wilkes is to . It becomes us to be prepared for an un-ate issue in Canada in case of war with the

The Times adverts to Mr. Seward's recent intractions to the people near the Canadian frontier. The only inference was that he was about to force a quarrel with England. The Times says the wisest course for Canada will be to prepare to let her at once discipline her militia, and emulate the mother country by drilling a volunteer army. Montreal only wants stout hearts and zendous hands the best of will the spring returns when we can Montreal only wants stout hearts and zealous hands to be safe until the spring returns, when we can finke it secure. The danger to Montreal, or to any other point of the frantier, is less. Canada should not rely too much on us and too little upon herself. The three classes of reserve comprise eight line of battle ships, six frigates, four corvettes, and twelve sloops, mounting a grand total of 1,361 guns. The stanin gunboats attached are not included, which are twenty-one in number, with 42 guns. This, however, does not include the gunboats and mortar vessels laid up. The list is confined entirely to effective vessels at present, or could be rendered so with little delay. The ships in commission for service at Portsmouth mount 342 guns. The total service at Portsmouth mount 342 guns. The total

the British Cabinet's ultimatum-the delivery of the prisoners and full reparation."

The Post says it has been decided by the law officers of the Crown that the action of Captain Wilkos of the San Jaconto was unjustifiable. He had no right to arrest peaceful passengers, sailing under the British flag, and the deed he has committed amounts to a figrant violation of the code of na-tions and a direct insult to this country. Under these circumstances, we need hardly point out that the Government will lose no time in seeking for a the Government will lose no time in seeking for a prompt and complete reparation which it is its duty to require. In this case it will assuredly receive the unanimous approbation of public opinion. We are unwilling to place the worst construction on the outrage committed by Capt. Wilkes, and to look on it as an intentional affront on the part of the Government of the United States.

We hope that Government will at once disavow the act of their officer, make suitable apologies, and restore the persons of the gentlomen arrested. and restore the persons of the gentlemen arrested; and, in fact, make every compensation in their power. Wild as are the words written and spoken by Scoretary Seward, and reckless as the American policy not unfrequently is, we can hardly suppose that the Northern States are seriously disposed to secont a war with England.

that the Northern States are seriously disposed to accept a war with England.

We have in the American waters, including the Mexican expedition and ships already there, a force amounting to not far short of one thousand guns, which we could largely increase with the greatest ense and rapidity. In one month we could sweep all the San Jacintos from the seas, blockade the Northern ports, and turn to a direct and speedy issue the tide of war now raging. This is so obvious that we find it almost impossible to suppose that the Cabinet of Washington can commit an act so madly suicidal as to reject our carnest and positive demands.

The Times says the depositions of the officers of the Trent have been submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and their opinion has been given that the proceedings of the American frigate are not justified by the law of nations. It is, we under-stand, the opinion of these jurists that the right of stand, the opinion of these jurists that the right of the Federal Government, acting by its officers, was confined to the visting and the searching of the mail packet; that, if any men or things believed to be contraband of war had been found on board of her the proper course was to take her into port and submit the question to the prize-courts, which would hear evidence and argument on both sides, and would have decided the case according to precedent and authorities. The Times observes that this proposition seems so clear that it requires only this proposition seems so clear that it requires only to be stated to obtain universal assent. The Cabinet meets on Friday, to consider what action shall be taken on the spinion of the law-officers. We do not wish to speculate us to what styps they may consider necessary. It Mason and Slidell werd wrongly taken, they must be restored, with sufficient moders.

cient apology.

The News says: "Beneath everything, there ex-The News says: "Beneath overything, there exists an under-current of apprehension lest the American Government really contemplate the desparate policy of seeking to fasten a quarrel on Great Britain in order to gain a standing ground for abondoning its design of subjugating herself."

The Times' city article says: "The universal impression seems to be that, in their present unhappy position in the eyes of the world, he United States Government can scarcely command themselves so as to regulate their course by the light of law, reason, or courtery, and that allight of law, reason, or courtesy, and that, al-though this opens a wide field of danger, it should also stimulate all other nations to exercise the ut-

also stimulate all other nations to exercise the utmost forbearance."

The Times of the 30th ult. makes the important
announcement that the Cabinet has come to the
conclusion that the act of the captain of the San
Jacinto in seizing passengers on a British vessel
and carrying them forcibly away, is a clear violation of the laws of nations, and one for which retion of the laws of antions, and one for which reparation must be at once demanded. In all probability the first steamer will carry out instructions to Lord Lyons to demand reparation for the ill-advised act of seizing Mason and Slidell while under the protection of the British flag. Should this just demand not be complied with, we cannot doubt that Lord Lyons will, under the instructions of his Government, withdraw with the British delegation from Washington The Trans expresses the belief that the Cabinet has taken a view of the matter which will be satishas taken a view of the matter which will be satisfactory alike to the patriotism and reason of the country. The *Timus* says the principle on which the Covernment rests its demand is, that a British the Government rests its demand is, that a British ship must, until her violation of neutral rights is fully proved, be held to be British ground as much as if she were an actual piece of British soil, and the right of protection to all persons on board is as valid as on British territory. Now, no such violation has been proved, or ought to be proved, against the Trent; consequently, the seizure of four persons, and dragged from her decks, was entirely illegal

Referring to the report that the seizure was the act of the American commander, not expressly directed by the Government, the Times says it means that the Federals and deliberately deter mined to seize the Southern commissioners, and it is understood that Gen. Scott has declared since his arrival at Paris, that the seizure had been the subject of Cabinet discussion at Washington long beject of Cabir fore he left. The American authorities might have warned the English steamer at Havana that, if they took on

hourd the Southern envoye that vessel to seizure and forfeiture in a prize court. They made no remonstrance against taking them on board, as they were bound to do, but secretly lanned the outrage for which we now ask repara Messis. Slidell and Mason were at the most civil SCIVENISTO A hostile power, and were travelling from in reply to Captain Palmer's complaint. Owing one neutral port to another, in a neutral vessel. If the Government at Washington declare them

rebels, then the right of asylum has been clearly violated. The Times concludes by adjuring the Govern-ment and Northern people to do justice in the The Post confirms the Times' statement and says:
"The demand of Lord Lyons will be plain and

The demand of note byons will be plain and brief, and, if not complied with, the diplomatic relations will be at once suspended."

The Shipping Gazette believes there is a possibility, but 2 remote one, that the Federal Government may disavow the acts of Captain Wilkes, and have go to the length of releasing the Southern commissioners; but it the demand is not complicated in the adaptation of war on the north England in commissioners; but it the demand is not complica-with a decluration of war on the part of England is inevitable. If the Federal Government is resolved at all hazards to force a quarrel upon England,

at all hazards to force a quarrel upon England, they have certainly a good opportunity, but they must be actuated by something little short of madness to avail themselves of it.

The export of saltpetre and warlike stores was formally prohibited. It was stated that one ship, with a large cargo of saltpetre for America, has been stopped, and that the relanding of warlike stores already shipped had been required.

The naval volunteers were offering to come forward to protect the honor of the British flag.

There is no confirmation of the report that 10,000 There is no confirmation of the report that 10,000 roops were to be sant to Canada.

Consols, on the 29th, opened at a further fall of a under the opinion of the law officers of the transactions took place at one per cent decline, and two per cent below the quotations before the news of the Trent affair was received. At the

In railway and other securities the decline was 2.2 per cent., but they also rallied towards the United States 5s, which were quoted before the news at 76a78, are nominally 70a74. In the discount market the general rate continued The French journals universally look at the

Trent affair in the interests of England. FRANCE Letters from France state that the news of the

American difficulty caused immense sensation in Paris, and the first general impression was that ample reparation must be made, to prevent a colli-sion. Communications have taken place between the English and French Governments, and a good understanding on the subject was believed to exist, as already does the question of policy to be carried out with reference to the American question gene-

The Paris Patric maintains that the American Government had no right to arrest the Southern commissioners while on a British mail steamer, and asserts that the British Government should be i mediately prepared to tend reinforcements The same journal also gives a report that Admiral Milne, commander of the British East India squadron, on hearing of the Fan Jacinio affair, forthwith detailed three war vessels to escort the steamers between Havana and St. Thomas, for the protection of Southerners travelling by that route.
The Paris Pays and Constitutionnel consure the

action of the San Jacinto. Commercial Intelligence. [Per Steamer Cky of Washington.] [Per Steamer Cky of Washington.]
LIVERPOOL, Dac. 3.—The sales of Cotion for the last two days have been 7,000 bales. The market opened at a recovery of & d under the effect of the Persia's American advices, but the improvement was not sustained, and the market closed unsettled and with a downward tendency. The advices from Manchester are unfavorable.

BRADSTEFFS.—The market closed unsettled and without sales. Flour is fivener at 4d elegance. Wheat is either the sales are also as the sales when the sales are the sales are also as the sales are a out sales. Flour is firmer at 6d advance. Wheat is still advancing and prices are 2d botter; red Western Wheat 122 2d@123 lod. Corn has an upward tendency and is 6d higher; mixed Corn 34s 6d.
LENNON, Dec. 3.—Consols for money are quoted at 90½ 2003, ex dividend. 19 жоод ex dividend. Аменіоли Securities.—Illinois Central hares 46.045.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—Illinois Central thares 46æ45. Eric Hailroad shares 24æ25.
PROVISIONS.—The market closes firm. Bief is firmer. Pork firm. Bacon busyant. Lard is still advancing; sales at 49æ51s. Tallow quiet.
PRODUCE.—Ashes are still advancing; tales at 37s; common Rosin is dull at 18s 6d; Spirits Turpentine nominal; Coffee steady; Rice steady; Linsout oil dull at 38s. LONDON, Dec. 3.—Wheat has an upward tendency, and prices have improved 1so22; Sugar dull; Coffee has a downward tendency; common Congon Tea steady; Rice firmer; Tailouvis inactive; Linseed oil is still declining, and the state of the state gales at 359 3d @358 6d; Spirits Turpentine dull at 659

Ship News. Arrived from Philadelphia—The ship Ellen, at Trieste on the 28th uit.; the ship J. Leslie, at Liverpool on the 1st inst.; the ship Marion, at Queenstown; and the ship Mary on, at Kinsale.

The Escape of the Sumpter. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.-The Bernuda Royal Gazette of the 3d inst. has the following relative to the escape of the pirate Sumpter. On the morning of the 28th, the Iroquois astonished the St. Thomas folks by dropping into the harbor and reporting that on a dark and squally night the Sumpter had slipped through the fingers of the Dacotah and Iroquois, and gone no one The escape is variously accounted for. Accord-

Sumpter had stolen away, and neither the Dacotah nor the Iraquais could give any account of her. New York, Dec. 14.—Capt. Briggs, of the brig Juseph Park, reports that he was overhauled by the pirate Sumpter, which had the American flag Ayling, in latitude 6 degrees North, longitude 42 sying, in manner a degrees worth, longthin 42 degrees, when he was ordered to heave to, and an officer came on board, saying the brig was aprize to the Sumpter. At the same time the piras ran up his flag, and hauled down the stars and stipes. up his high, and likely down the stars and suppos-The brig was thoroughly overhauled, and every-thing valuable robbed from her.

The officers and crew were only allowed their clothes. A hundred and sixty-five sovereignswere taken from Captain Briggs, who, with his rew, were put aboard the pirate, and the vessel was then The Sumpter then sailed northward, not using

steem, and reported herself to various foreign ves-sels as a United States craft.

On October 27th the schooner D. Trowbridge was On October 27th the schooner D. Trowbridge was captured. On November 2th Captain Lyon, of the letter, and Captain Briggs were landed at Port Royal. Three of the crow of the Joseph Park were entired to join the Sumpter.

Captain Briggs expresses thanks for the kindness shown him by the consul at Port Royal and several American and British shipmasters.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH. FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

BATTLE IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY UNION TROOPS

THIRTY PRISONERS CAPTURED. Western Virginia Clear of Rebels.

DEFEAT TWO THOUSAND REBELS.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT TO BOWLING GREEN. BOTH ARMIES AT SOMERSET, FORTIFYING.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Reported Battle at Lexington. MARAUDING BANDS OF REBELS CAPTURED. GEN, SHIELDS ACCEPTS THE BRIGADIER GENERALSHIP.

FROM GEN. BANKS' COLUMN. FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

THE FIRE STILL RAGING AT CHARLESTON ON THURSDAY NIGHT. THE LIGHT SEEN AT SEA.

FROM WASHINGTON

THE RECEPTION OF CAPTAIN WILKES. Official Despatch from the Commander of the Iroquois.

WHY SHE DID NOT CAPTURE THE SUMPTER

Special Despatches to "The Press." WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1861. The Cruise of the Iroquois in Pursuit of

the Sumpter. The Navy Department has received despatched from Capt. PALMER, commanding the Iroquois, it which he minutely relates his movements, in order to capture the pirate Sumpter. The Government at Martinique, he says, refused to give the Sumpter coals, but allowed her to come to St. Pierre where she obtained a supply from the English

The Sumpter had been received with courtesy at the seat of Government; and Captain PALMER discovered, to use his own language, that this farce of the non-recognition of the Confederate flag by France and England is played out. He had a cor respondence with the Gevernor, the result of which was that he was referred to a paragraph of Wheaton's international law, to the effect that one helligerent could not depart from port until twentyfour hours after another had left. The Sumpter was, at that time, in port, and the Iroquois was obliged to anchor one marine league from the

The majority of the citizens of Port Royal were in favor of the Sumpter, and, therefore, anxious for her to escape. Being French, they sympathized with Louisiana, to which State they thought the Sumpter belonged.

Throughout his proceeding apprehensive and fearful that the Sumpter would escape him, and wished she was anywhere else than under French protection, as the authorities were throwing every obstacle in his way. The Governor, however, repudiated everything unlike friendliness to the distance from shore which the Iroquois was obliged to occupy, and the fact that the bay is fifteen miles wide, and for the reasons above stated. the Sumpter succeeding in escaping. The Iroquots followed, but found no vessel visible on the back

Captain Wilkes in Washington. Captain WILKES, of the San Jacinto, arrived home, in Washington, yesterday, and was cordially greeted by a host of friends. In the evening, a large party of citizens, with the celebrated Marine band, gave him a screnade, at his residence, corner of H and Fifteenth streets, the former headquestous r Goneral McCLELLAN. The band played "The Red, White, and Blue," "The Star-Spangled Banner." and other national and popular airs, after which Captain WILKES, accompanied by Mayor WALLACH, came out upon the front steps of the door, when the Mayor made an appropriate speech, to which he replied. The Traitor who was Shot.

Twelve men were detailed to shoot the traitor Johnston, who was executed on Friday afternoon Eleven of the guns were loaded with ball, and the twelfth gun with a blank cartridge. No one knew who had the gun with the blank cartridge. The traitor was of muscular frame, cool, bold, and defiant. When the word was given to fire the firing party was about twenty paces from the traitor. He never flinched. Three or four of the soldiers when they fired did not sim at him. They have been placed under arrest. At the first fire, three balls took effect. The traitor sat motionless for a few seconds, when he reeled over on his side and kicked violently. Orders were then given to load and fire, when three balls passed through his head, killing him instantly. There were over twelve thousand soldiers present to witness the execution. Johnson was native of Mississippi, but had lived in the North for

a number of years. The United States of Columbia. Gen. George W. Jones, former Senator in Congress from Iowa, is in Washington, on his return home from Bogota, formerly New Granada, bu now United States of Columbia.

During the General's residence at Bogota, of less

than three years duration, he has had to deal with three different Administrations of the Government there, and has cultivated, as in duty bound, feelings of amity with all, never neglecting for one moment to guard well the interests of his own countrymer with each Administration—at the same time, as the papers of that country show, observing himself and counselling his countrymen to the strictest neutrality between the two contending parties to the unfortunate revolution or civil war which has existed there for the last twenty months. It was his good fortune also to have been mainly instrumental in preventing the execution of the late President Ospina and his brother, who were both condemned to be shot, as well as a citizen of Venezuela; though his strenuous efforts in their be half with President Mosquera, now the chief magistrate of the country, could not procure the pardon of Aguilar Monales and Hennandes. He protested against the right of the Mosquera or Liberal, party first to impress the steamers of American citizens into its service without compensation, and prevented the same, and did so afterwards as to the conservative Government party. Our own Government, in notifying that of New Granada of Gen. Jones' recall, spoke of the zeal with which he had fulfilled his former instructions, and uttered the hope that he would execute the last one, namely—to express to President Mosquera the desire of the United States to strengthen the

friendly intercourse now existing between the two countries. The President, in parting with Mr. Jones, warmly reciprocated the sentiments communicated sympothizing with our Government in its present troubles, and expressing for Mr. Jones the strongest as-

An Intended Fraud and Outrage. A very ingenious piece of villainy, and of a dangerous character, has just been discovered by an officer connected with the naval ordnance bu renu. A fifty-pound semi-steel gun, forged by the Franklin forge of New York, and bored, rifled, and finished by Messrs. Carrenter & Plass, was taken to Staten Island for trial proof-where at the ninth round, it burst.

cover up some defects in the base of the bore an entire false chamber had been made, and so nicely ing to one account, a French war steamer came out | fitted in the gun as to defy the most minute detecof St. Pierre during the night, and the Iroquois | tion, until the gun broke. Had this rifle passed gave chase, and when daylight came the latter discovered her mistake; but in the meantime the naval service affoat, it would doubtless have burst and caused loss of life, and serious damage to the The forger attributed this clover piece of villainy to the finishers of the gun.
Miscellaneous. The Europa's despatches excite lively discus-

sion here, but seem not to disturb the Government

which, while desiring no embarrassments with

England, looks with composure and confidence on

events as they seems.

Upon examination, it was discovered that t

Col. J. H. Woon, of New York, met with an ac cident this afternoon, while riding on the outpests By the breaking of his carriage his arm was fractured. The limb was set by Dr. Avery of the Thirfcenth New York Regiment. Ex-Minister CHARLES J. FAULKNER arrived here last night, and will proceed to Richmond to morrow via Fortress Monroe, to effect the exchange of Congressman ELY for that of himself. The following Pennsylvania soldiers died since last statement! J. D. BIDWELL; Fifty-second; JACOB EVERLE, Thirty-first; SIMON GIBBONS

Fifth: JOHN BOLLER, First: - HUFF, Eighty

The first public reception of the season took place at the White House this afternoon. It is in the power of the Van Wyck Committee. who are investigating army frauds, to make some very startling exposures on Monday, when they report.

CALER CUSHING is here to-day. Colonel MURPHY'S Fifteenth New York Bogiment made some interesting experiments to-day near the Navy Yard, to show with what facility the means for crossing rivers can be arranged. A pontoon bridge, three hundred and sixty feet in length, was thrown over the eastern branch of the Potomac, upon which the regiment with heavy wagons passed with perfect safety. A number of floats were plied over, the soldiers using shovels as propellers. The Twenty-third Regiment of Pennsylvania commanded by Col. BIRNEY, was presented to-day

with a flag, the gift of that State. The presentation speech was made by Speaker Gnow, and the flag received in behalf of the regiment by Hon. WM. D. KELLEY, of Philadelphia. Their eloquent addresses were listened to by a large auditory. The grounds were tastefully adorned, and ample provisions furnished for all the military as well as the civilians present. An important decision has just been made by the Secretary of War and the Paymaster General. The decision is, in effect, that a soldier is entitled to pay from the day he enlists, and that he is not to walt till his company is full or the formal muster of the regiment into Government service. The previous practice—that of considering pay

only due from the date of the mustering in of the full company-has deprived the soldiers of a considerable amount of pay and has retarded enlist-There are numerous signs, significations, underurrents, &c., here, which indicate an attack from

the enemy, or an attack upon the enemy, within four or five days. The Treasury Department is in consultation with New York bankers about the "future." The bankers say they have bought all the bonds they an buy, but they will loan the Government any amount upon the pledge of Government stocks as collateral, and the abandonment of the Sub-Treasury, as provided for in the act of 1861. The bankers suggest to the Secretary the issuing of \$250,000,000 of demand notes, to be given to them (the bankers) in exchange for the bonds to be

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

held by them as collaterals.

THE FIRE AT CHARLESTON STILL RAGING ON THURSDAY NIGHT.

THE LIGHT SEEN AT SEA.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 14, via Baltimore .-There has been no flag of truce sent out to-day, and consequently no news from Norfolk has been received, and there are no further particulars of the onflagration at Charleston.

The steamer Illinois has arrived from Port Royal, and reports that the pilot-boat Richard Blunt, of Norfolk, had arrived there. BALTIMORE, Dec. 15 .- I learn from the captain of the Old Point boat that he was informed by the captain of the United States transport Illinois, arrived at Fortress Monroe from Port Royal, that he passed within six miles of Charleston harbor at ten o'clock on Thursday night, and that a tremendous conflagration was evidently then at its height in that city. The reflection on the clouds exceeded anything he over saw, and the whole bay, with the dark outlines of Fort Sumpter, was brightly illuminated. It did not appear like the reflection from smouldering ruins, but from a raging, uncontrollable conflagration. This is five hours later than the date of the Norfolk Day Book despatch.

The Burnt District of Charleston. The portion of Charleston destroyed comprises the most compact and all the business parts of the city, except some wholesale houses northward. Nearly all the public buildings were consumed; and, should the fire extend in the direction in which it was moving at last accounts, it would sweep the entire of the fushionable residences down to Ashley It appears that the docks and warehouses along the Cooper river had not been touched, owing to the wind blowing from that direction. But the fire had crossed the enstern side of Broad street, and would be immense, as very many of the buildings are frame in that quarter. The city generally contains to many frame buildings as to partly account for the extensive nature of the conflagration. The high wind did the rest. Among the buildings in cluded in the burnt district are two iron foundries one of them lately employed in the manufacture of cannon, and the other in making cannon balls and shells. Several churches and nearly all the public buildings, banks, and insurance offices became a prey to the flames. King street is the chief street o not much improved in its buildings was a very important street offices, banks, insurance Thes, stores, &c. Th is no evidence of the post office, i contained all the leading commis

Meeting street presents many other fine public and private edifices, interspersed among many buildings of early date. Meeting and King are the longest strects in the city, running from the South Battery, north and northwesterly, through the cu-tire length of Charleston.

In fact, these and the adjoining streets comrised the very heart of the city, which is now

The Property Destroyed. THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BANKS, AND BUSINESS HOUSES IN THE BURNT DISTRICT-NAMES OF SOME OF THE SUFFERERS. &C. The following is a partial list of the buildings destroyed, with the names of the firms and merchants occupying the business portion of them:

PUBLIC BUILDINGS. Charleston Theatra, Manating street. Institute Hall, Meeting street. Hibernian Hall, Meeting street. St. Andrew's Hall, Broad street. Market Buildings, Market street. Market Buildings, Market street. Catholic Cathedral, Broad street. Circular Church, Meeting street. BANKS, SAVINGS INSTITUTIONS, AND INSURANCE

COMPANIES. Bank of Charleston, Broad street.
Bank of South Carolina, Broad street.
Union Bank, East Bay.
Planters' and Mechanics' Bank, East Bay. Southwestern Railroad Bank, Broad street Farmers' and Exchange Bank, East Bay. Bank of the State of South Carolina, Broad street Charleston Savings Institution, Meeting street.
Palmetto Savings Institution, Meeting street.
Charleston Insurance and Trust Company, Bread South Carolina Insurance Company, East Bay Fire Insurance Company, Broad street. Elmore Insurance Company, Broad street.

HOTELS.

Mills House, Meeting street. Charleston Hotel, Meeting street.

Planters' Hotel, State street.

REWSPAPER OPPICES Charleston Mercury office, Broad street. Charleston Courier office, East Bay. MERCANTILE HOUSES. Stevenson & Co., drugs, 23 Hayne street. W. N. Hughes, books, 67 Meeting street. W. N. Hughes, books, of Meeting Street.

J. Asburst & Co., drugs, Hayne street.

Wilmans & Price, hardware, Hayne street.

Courtenay & Tennent, hardware, Hayne street.

Egleston & Co., clothing, Hayne street.

J. S. & L. Bowe & Co., dry goods, Meeting street.

James H. Taylor, insurance, Broad street.

James H. Taylor, insurance, Broad street. Crane, Boyleston, & Co., dry goods, Meeting street.
Hamilton & Smith, groceries, Market street. Hamilton & Smith, groceries, Market street.
T. M. Coter, groceries. Vendue range.
Tobias & Co., commission merchants, East Bay.
J. E. Adgar & Co., kardware. East Bay.
Horsey, Anten, & Co., hats, Hayne street.
Street & West, grocers, East Bay.
Chafee, Croft, & Chafee, grocers, East Bay.
Jeffords & Co., groceries, East Bay.
Hayne & Tater, West India goods, East Bay.
G. W. Williams & Co., groceries, Hayne street.
Z. B. Oakes, groceries, State Street.
Webb & Sage, crockery, Meeting street.
A. S. Hull & Co., tailors, Meeting street.
E. B. Stoddard & Co., shoes, Meeting street.
Horton & Shepherd, stoves, Meeting street. Horton & Shepherd, stoves, Meeting street.

Adams & Damon, stoves, Broad street.

Adams & Damon, stoves, Broad street.

Cadow, Mackenzie & Co., clygoods, East Bay.

Pierson, Smith, & Co., clothing, Hayne street.

Cameron & Co, iron foundry, Hazel street.

Klink, Wickenberg, & Co., grocories, Broad treet.

Hyde, Gregg & Day, hardware, Meeting street.

Dunham, Taft, & Co., shoes, Hayne street.

Dewing, Thayer, & Co., fancy goods, Meeting Bowen, Foster, & Co., straw goods, Meeting Jennings, Tomlinson, & Co., clothing, Meeting Dennings, Tominison, & Co., clothing, Breeting treet.

D. F. Fleming & Co., hats, Hayne street.
Hyalt, McBurnie & Co., it is, Hayne street.
F. D. Fanning & Co., hats, Hayne street.
Waldron, Egleston & Co., clothing, Hayne street.
Force & Mitchell, shoes, Hayne street.
Nelson Carter, drugs, Hayne street.
Gilliand, Howell, & Co., dry goods, Hayne street.
Hazeltine & Walton, shoes, Meeting street.
H. T. Strohecker, hardware, Meeting street.

H. T. Strohecker, hardware, Meeting street Marshall, Burge, & Co., fancy goods, Meeting Farrar Bros. & Co., groceries, East Bay. Edgerton, Richards, & Co., tailors, Broad street.
C. D Carr & Co., tailors, Broad street.
Chamberlin, Miler, & Co., dry goods, Hayne Irect.
R. Douglass & Co, stables, Pinckney street.
G. Follin, groceries. Meeting street.
Johnson, Crews, & Co, dry goods, Hayne street.
McCarter & Dawson, books, Meeting street.
Walker, Evans, & Co., stationery, Broad street.

MISCELLANEOUS SKETCHES. The public market was situated in Market street, through the centre of which it extended, from Moeting street to the river, a distance of about one-fourth of a mile. In its construction it resembled the famous market of Philadelphia, and was built with brick piers at intervals, over which the roof was thrown.

Institute Hall, or, as it was familiarly known in Charleston, Seceders' Hall, was located in Meeting street, and was the headquarters of the Democratic Presidential Convention which met in that city in

May, 1860.
St. Andrew's Hall was situated in Broad street, and was the headquarters of Fernando Wood's delegation in the days of the Convention.
Hibernian Hall was situated in Maeting street, the protein the pr and is famous as the spot where the South Carolina ordinance of Secession was passed, in December, 1860. As the fountain-head of the present rebel-lion, its destruction seems ominous to the rebel Cause.

The hotels destroyed were of brick, with stucco facings in imitation of stone. The Mills House— the largest in the State—was situated on Meeting

street, and kept by Messes. Nickerson & Purcell The Charleston Hotel, next in importance, was also in Meeting street, and kept by George G. Mixer. The Planters' Hotel (second class) was on State Street.
The Catholic cathedral, on Broad street, was a handsome edifice of brown stone.
The Circular Church, on Meeting street, was of

brick, with stone front. The theatre was on Broad street, built of brick. and under the management of G. F. Marchant. The iron foundry of Cameron & Co., recently seed for the manufacture of shot, shell. &c., was on Hazel street, near its junction with East Bay, and was among the first buildings destroyed.

The Post Office and Custom House are located at the foot of Broad street, and on the eastern side of East Bay, so that it is probable they have escaped the fire, not without some damage, perhaps, from the intense heat.

The City Hall and Court House are located at

the corner of Meeting and Broad streets, in a small park, similar to the City Hall Park of New York, ad have most probably for that reason escaped de-The office of Mordecai & Co., agents of the Havana line of steamships, is situated east of East Bay, and therefore escaped the flames without doubt. Mordecai, it will be remembered, contri-buted the sum of \$10.000 to the rebel war finances. district of the city over one-half a mile long by one-fourth wide. A familiar idea of the area will be obtained when we state that it embraced a space equal to that in New York city bounded by Wall street on the south, Beekman on the north, Broad-way on the west, and the East river.—New York

Union Victory in Western Virginia. CINCINNATI, Dec. 14 .- A special despatch from Cheat Mountain to the Commercial says that yesterday one of hardest and best-fought battles of the war was fought at Allegheny Camp, Pocahontas county, Western Virginia, General R. H. Milroy commanding the Union troops, and General Johnson, of Georgia, commanding the rebels. The fight lasted from daylight till 3 o'clock P. M. The Union loss is about thirty, and the rebel loss over two hundred, including a major and many other officers. Thirty prisoners were captured. General Johnson, of Georgia, was shot in the mouth, but not fatally injured. The Twelfth Georgia Regiment suffered most severely. Gen. Milroy's force numbered 750 men, from the Ninth and Thirteenth Indiana, the Twenty-fifth and Thirty-second Ohio, and the Second Virginia

General Johnson's forces numbered over 2.000. The Ninth Indiana fought bravely to the last. After driving the enemy into their barracks no less than five times, our forces retired in good order. The rebels set fire to their barracks and retired Gen. Milrov has thus driven the last of the rebel

army out of Western Virginia. FROM KENTUCKY.

THE IMPENDING BATTLE. MOVEMENT OF TROOPS,

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15 .- The Enquirer's Louis's ville correspondence, under date of the 14th, say that Gen. Johnston with 15,000 Federal troops i on the northern bank of the Green river and Gen-Rosseau is seven miles distant preparing to Join him. Another brigade under Gen. McCook is also moving to concentrate at Mumfordsville. General Buckner, with twenty-five rebel troops, was covering all the hills two miles back from Green river, and was proparing to pro-vent our troops from crossing that river. General Thomas' division, or the left wing, is bearing down from the east, to get in Buckner's General Mitchell's division, or the right wing, moves this morning toward Green river.

The rebels are on the move, and an engagement s imminent. Gen. Buell is in constant telegraphic communi

Gen. Buell is in constant telegraphic communication with our advancing columns, and is employing all the rolling stock on the Louisville and Nashville road in forwarding troops and supplies. All the bridges are repaired, and the trains are running through to Mumfordsville.

Six new Ohio regiments will pass through Cincinnati this week for Kentucky.

The Commercial's Frankfort despatch says that the Southern Bank of Kentucky, at Hopkinsville, having ordered the Louisville branch to pay large sums to the credit of the Mother Bank in Liverpool to be used, as suspected, to sid the rebellion. pool, to be used, as suspected, to aid the rebellion, the Legislature has authorized the branches to not independently of the Mother Bank until the State authority is re-established. The postmaster at somerset writes, under take on the 13th, that both armies are acting on the defensive, and fortifying. A gentleman in the confidence of Gen Schoeph writes, under the same date, that Gen. Zollicoffer is fortifying at Fishing creek,

five miles wast of Somerset. Dr. John Jackson, without provocation, shot and neverely wounded a Minnesota soldier who went to his house, near Springfield, to buy hay. Jackson was arrested and taken to Lebanon, and will probae tried by military law. He was a Douglas ague rumors are afloat of a fight at Mumfords, between General McCook's division and the emy, but they are not credited.

A BATTLE IN PROGRESS AT SOMERSET. LOUISVILLE Dec 15 -The Lournal's advices from Columbus say that heavy cannonading was heard all day on Friday, in the direction of Somer A passenger from Mumfordsville to-day, reports

of the two armies are near each other. FROM MISSOURI.

that the bridge is nearly repaired, and the pickets

SEDALIA Mo. Dec 14 -Parties from the West SEPALIA, MO., Dec. 14.—Parties from the West arrived here report that 3,000 rebel troops under Gen. Stein passed a point fifteen miles west of Warrensburg on the 11th, evidently for the purpose of escorting some 600 or 800 rebel recruits, with their baggage, provisions, etc., from Lexington to Price's army. The notorious Capt. Sweeney and his band of forty marauders, captured a few days since by a detachment of our cavalry, have been brought here.
Sr. Louis, Dec. 15.—John Hagan, the late post-

master of this city, was arrested yesterday, charged with the ambegalament of saveral thousand dollars and held in \$10,000 bail General Halleck's order relative to an assessment on the Secessionists, for the benefit of the refugees from the Southwest, is not yet carried into effect, but probably will be this week.

The last instalment of the Camp Jackson prisoners was sent to Cairo last evening, to be for-

warded to Columbus.

Reported Battle at Lexington. St. Louis, Dec. 15,—The Democrat learns, from a gentleman just from Lexington, that Generals Rains and Stein, with 6,000 rebels, were in possession of that town on Friday lest, and another large body of troops was expected to reach there westered. yesterday, General Prentiss, it is said, was on the north side of the river with 3,000 Federal troops, and had thrown a few shells into the rebel camp and de-stroyed one of the two ferry boats in their hands. This informant says that he heard heavy firing after leaving Lexington on Friday, indicating that an engagement was progressing between our forces and the rebels. Also, that General Davis' brigade

ington. These statements need confirmation.

The rebel Captain Sweeney and sixty-three other rebel prisoners reached here last night. FROM CALIFORNIA. \$800,000 IN TREASURE EN ROUTE.

GENERAL SHIELDS ACCEPTS THE BRIGA. DIER GENERALSHIP SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10 .- During the past days the heaviest rain experienced for years has prevailed, causing a severe freshet in the valleys. The river broke through the levee and flooded Sacramento, from one to four feet deep, this morning. The people were driven to the second story of their boyes, and all business was superpolar. ouses, and all business was suspended.
Arrived at San Francisco—Ship Seo from Boston, and Challenger, from New York.
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 11.—The steamer Golden.
Age sailed to-day of Panama, carrying four hurddred soldiers and two hundred additional passongers, and eight hundred and sixty thousand dollars in treasure, destined for New York. Among her passengers are General Shields, who accepts the appointment of brigadier general, and Mr. McRibbia. The freshet, from the recent heavy rains, extends throughout the valley portions of the State, doing immense damage to farmers, drowning their cattle, carrying off bridges and tenes. &c.

Portions of Maysville and Stockton are inun-

The entire number of lives lost is not known. Several brick buildings have follen at Marys-The loss of property at Sacramento is estimated at half a million, affecting the property of the en-Communication with many of the country dis-Communication with many of the country districts is cut off, and business has been suspended.

The weather for the past two days has been pleasant and apparently settled, and the waters are consequently receding gradually.

The water has been from two to three feat deep in nearly every house in that city. One-third of the city is still overflowed, but the water is slowly receding.

The funeral of Col Baker is engressing general attention in the city of San Francisco to-day. The attention in the city of San Francisco to-day. The entire volunteer and State military and civic organizations, with the citizens generally, combine to make up the largest procession ever witnessed Nord, francisco, Dec. 12.—Arrived, ships Deer, Nord, from Glasgow; Vistala, from New York.
San Francisco, Dec. 13.—Suiled, ship Common-

dated, as well as Sacramento.

wealth, for Valparaise,
About \$20,000 has been subscribed to the relief of the sufferers by the Sacramento flood. The New Virginia Convention. Where Lieu, Dec. 18.—The Convention has disposed of the boundary question. The boundary includes uncon-ditionally, in addition to the thirty-nine counties included by the ordinance of the August Convention, the counties of Pocahontar, Greenbrier, Monroe, Mercer, and Me-levell. They also take in Hampshire, Morgan, Rerkoloy, Jof-

a majority of the votes cast in the district and a majority of the comprising it, express themselves in Esof the counties comprising it, express themselves in Esvor of coming in at elections to be held an a day appointed by the Legislature. This attempt tooxtomi the houndary is regarded by some as an endeaxor to embarrass the
progress of the new State movement.

The Convention was yesterday thoosesing a section relating to treason against the State. One clause makes
where the same that there could be no
each thing as treason against a State. One clause makes
it treason to write, speak, parit, publish, or circulate
anything to uphold invasion or insurrection suring the
continuance of the same. This chause will probably be
expunged. expunged.

Mr. Battell, of Ohio county, introduced a proposition prohibiting the importation of slaves, making it the duty of the Legulature to regulate, in a humane manner, the family relations of slaves, and providing that after a certain date involuntary servitude, except for slains, wilking the new State, shall cease. Referred to a committee, The discussion on this will probably begin some time next week.

Southern News. 11.1.E, Dec. 15 .- Advices from Memphis, Tennessee, to the 11th inst., say that the Georgia Legisla-ure, by a vote of 27 to 18, passed a bill securing to mar-ied women all the property they owned at the time of their nurrelage.

The Jacksonport (Arkansas) Herald says that Col.
Borland has just returned from Pocahontas, and reports
that the Arkansas border is still in danger. He says
that the Federals at Poplar Bluff number from 6,000 to
7,000. The seconts of the two armies have frequent
skirmishes. Borland says that he wants all the men he an promptly get. The Checokat (Arkansas) Press says that quite a rumor of letters have been opened and their contents betracted on the mail route between Lake Village end

Mr. Laniers was killed at Columbus, Ark., by T. Mr. Laniers was killed at Columbus, Ark., by T. Young. The latter was subsequently hung by the mob. A New Orleans despatch, of the 10th, says that Lieut. Shepperd, the commander of the rebel steamer Mobile, has arrived at Brashear's eight with a lentenant and alno Federal prisoners taken from the United States schooner Annie Dayton, wrecked near Sabine Pass. They were sent to New Orleans.

The Louisville and Nashville Hoad had stopped receiving freight at Nashville on the 1st, the rolling stack being demanded to transport troops to Bowling Green. The Confederate States Court at Richmond, on the 9th, decided that no change of citizenship after the commencement of hostilities can protect an alien enemy's property from sequestration. from sequestration.

The Gavernor of Mississippi cells on the citizens for all the necessary weapons they have, for the use of the relief army.

The relief Provisional Governor Johnson, of Kentucky, has issued a call, at Bowling Green, for twenty companies of volunteers from Kentucky. nies of volunteers from Kentucky.

The first battulion of Tennessee cavalry is going into winter quarters at Moscow, Tennessee.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS .- J. E. GOVED, Seventh and Chestnut streets, is selling his elegant Pianos and Melodeens at greatly reduced prices. Such inducements were never before offered to pur-

SALE OF FINE BOOKS .- N. F. Pancoast, auctioneer, 431 Chestnut street, will sell on Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, a large assortment of books suited to the approaching holiday scason. Catalogues ready and books arranged for examination

AUCTION SALE OF BOOTS AND SHOES,-The atention of buyers is called to the sale of 1.000 cases boots, shoes, brogans, etc., consisting of grain, kip, thick, and cavalry boots, army brogans, etc., to be sold this morning at 10 o'clock precisely, by Philip Ford & Co, auctioneers, at their store. No. 525 Market and 522 Commerce street. \_\_\_\_\_

EXECUTOR'S SALE—VALUABLE MISCELLANEOUS LIBRARY.-M. Thomas & Sons will sell Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday a ternoons the valuable library of the late William Smith, Esq., deceased. The books now arranged for examination with catalogues. Sale of superior furniture to-morrow, 1528 Pine street. See advertisements of both sales.

THECITY

MILITARY MATTERS .- The different regi-POSITION OF THE FORCES.

ments now in the process of formation are rapidly approaching complytion. The National Guards, at their new camp, are receiving numerous acquisitions to their ranks and will soon be full. Col. Rush has succeeded in filling his requirent, a number of companies having already left. Two companies started on Saturday, and the remainder will leave this week. Col. Price's cavalry regiment is doing very well in the recruiting line. This tent's company, formed in the interior of the State, is expected at the camp to-day. The whole regiment is made up of hardy men, and no finer body of men will leave tes State. Col. Gregory is still waiting marching orders. His regiment contains about nine hundred mon Colonels Jones and Stanuton are still actively engaged in recruiting for their respective regiments.

Major Frank M. Etting is in town, and will pay, at his office, No. 204 South Fourth street, such of the sick and wounded belonging to Colonel Wistar's (First California) Regiment as were not present when the men were paid off at Poolesyille.

The Rev. C. W. Heishley, chaplain of the Twenty-eighth Regiment, Colonel Geary, is in Philadelphia, ready to deliver remittances to the families of the soldiers of this regiment. It many he seen at the Government Building, on Chestnut street, below Fifth.

The want of heavy artillery having been severely felt by General McClellan, a regiment is now being organized at his request, and Mr. Charles Angeroth occupies the responsible position of colonel. The regiment is to be provided with heavy siege guns, columbinds, and the new rocket batteries, and is designed for defeating the coast, or for sieging purposes when strong fortifications are to be invested or reduced. Major John H. Oberteufer is the present there are about six hundred men encamped at Diamond Cottage, Camden, the majority of whom are fine, large men. Three more companies are now ready in the interior of the State, waiting transportation. They have a stove in each tent. The camp is named "Camp Oberteuffer," in honor of the lers in the army has caused quite a stir among those in this city who are engaged in the business. A number of the sutlers from this city have stores here from which they obtain supplies.

NAVAL MATTERS.—It is expected that the crew of the U.S. sloop Hartford will be paid of to-day. Slace the arrival of the gallaint eraft, the crew, by squade, have been ell over Philiadelphia, have visited our keveral places of annuscment, and a better behaved set of jolly, patriotic jack tars, we have not seen for many a ay. The members of the Southwark English Claumany The members of the Southwark Englis Company housed their hand apparatus in the navy yard last week. The members were actively engaged nearly all day on Friday, in cleaping the engine and putting it into excellent order. Capt. Turner, at present on duty in the yard, and we may say one of the most active gentlemon and efficient officers in the service, received the company and the apparatus, in a style every way companiable.

and the apparatus, in a style every way commendable. There is an immense amount of material on hand in the yard at the present time, probably not less than two million dellars' worth, and to render this more secure from

fire, the Southwark large, who are "always ready" to do good in the service of their fellow citizens, and the country at large, tendered the use of their excellent hand engine. A squad of members will be detailed to work the apparatus in case of fire in the yard, THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE WAR .- The THE BOARD OF TRADE AND THE WAR.—THE Collowing nettion is now circulating in this city, and was noted upon the Bt-rehauts' Exchange on Saturday:

To the Congress of the United States, earnestly urge on your honorable body to take immediate and decided steps to secure from every Executive arm of the Government a more rigorous prosecution of the war.

A number of gentlement standing around the board refused to sign the paper, believing that all in favor of pushing the war should shoulder a musket and no give a practical demonstration in favor of that which they were expected to sign.

A CHRISTMAS MARKET-FAIR .- The Waston A CHRISTMAS MARKET-FAIR.—The Wastern Market Company announce that on Saturday moning, December 21st, their Annual Christmas Fair of proluce will open at their market building, Sixteenth and Market streets. Their programme promises great attractons. The Fair will continue a week, and on the evening of the 20th, 21st, 24th, 27sh, and 25th, the market will be splendidly illuminated. We understand that the display on this occasion will far surpass that of last year, which was unanimously declared to be the most superb ever witnessed. The lovers of good calling will of Soirse, avail themselves of this opportunity to feast their eyes, at least, with the fat of the land, especially as no charge is made to visitors.

ALLEGED SHUGGLING .- It is stated that a ALLEGED Saturgalism.—It is stated that a barge containing cases of fine China ware, matting, &c., belonging to a prominent officer of a United States war vessel, was captured at Chestnut-street wharf last week by the Inspector of Customs. The officer was compelled to pay the customary duties before he was allowed to land his wares. It was afterwards ascertained that other officers of the ship had been engaged in the nane work, and that dutiable articles had been landed at other wharves. The Collector was also informed that similar goods still remained upon the ship, and he dreeted an inspector to proceed on board and keep an age to the interests of the revenue. The representative of the custom-house was ordered off the vessel by the officer in command; and Captain Turner, the commandant of the station, upon being informed of the circumstance, invited the inspector to again preceed on board. The latter did so, and he was afterwards civilly treated byths officers of the ship.

made to visitors.

THE ORPHANS' GUARD .- On Saturday, about twenty lads, contacted with the Orphunes Arthun, corner of Eighteenth and Cherry streets, paradel as a militury company. The boys ranged from eight to twelve years of age, and, with their nest gray uniform and procision of drill, attracted a great deal of attention. They cision of drill, attracted a great deal of attenion. They marched down Chestnut street, stropping in front of Independence Hah, and then proceeded to the Sooper Shop Refreshment Salcon, where the instructor, Mr. Thomas S. Clayton, introduced the boys to the Committee. The lads then went through the manual at the sommand of their captain, Master Morrison, and were afterwards treated to a substantial collation.

MORTARS AND CANNON .- A number of canmontrams AND CANAON.—A Hutting of Can-non intended for the Government are now hing oftened AU at the Reading Railroad workshops, the firm which forged them tot having lattice of the required size. Mortars are constantly arriving from Pitsburg by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Two & them were deposited on the sidewalk in Janiper street below Mar-ket, yesterday, and attracted much attention.

ACCIDENT TO A RAILROAD EMILOYEE .- A

ACCIDENT TO A HAILHOAD EMPLOYEE.—A day or two since, Mr. Robert Bayletz, who has been in the employ of the Philadelphia and Heading Railroad for upwards of five years, as watchman at the railroad bridge which crosses Visich Crosks, Phanticella, and with an accident, which caused almost instant door. He was engaged at the time, sweeping the stone wall, on the southern side of the bridge, when, losing his balance, he fell over the wall some thirty feet, breaking his arm, and injuring his hipse and sustaining other injuries, which caused his death. He was in the neighborhood of sixty years of age, and had the use of only one leg. ENLISTING MINORS.-On Saturday, in the ant of Quarter Sessions, nearly the whose of the day is occupied in disposing of writs of habers corpus, is-

was occupied in disposing of writs of indices corpus, issued for the purpose of securing the release of minors who had enlisted in the army without the consent of parents. In one case the application was based on the allogation that the man was an unch under the influence of himor as to be incappible of making a contract. The cridence in regard to this point was very conflicting, and Judge Allison held the matter under natusement until Manday. DEATH OF A PROMINENT HIGH-SCHOOL ALUMNUS.—Very many of our readers vill learn with heartfelt sorrow of the death of Malvolm Bac Neille, Es 1, of this city, a brother of Professor McNeille, Es 1, of this city, a brother of Professor McNeille, of the High School, and a most esteemed almonas of that institution. Mr. Mackrille, we believe, extend the High School in 1850, teding at the head of his class, although its youngest member. In 1854 he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His radeditory address, "The Alpha and Omega of Enistence," was a composition of rure backny, which was published to unduly journals, and copied by the entire press. of the country, Mr. MacNeille shortly after entered the esublishment of Messis. T. W. Evans & Co., on Chestant steet, and in a few years had risen to the position of chie clerk, which he held at the time of his death. None who have ever enjoyed his acquaintance in life can forpt the charm of that handsome, intelligent face, Egisted to with a goodness of heart that knew no worldly motive; yet few can share his parents great affliction, that years for sympathy, in the providence of Cod. DEATH OF A PROMINENT INCH-SCHOOL

ORDNANCE FOR THE NAVY .- On Friday morning, several large mortars and car hads of hord shells passed through this city, over the Tennsylven Railroad, to be used on the "morter fleet," which is supposed will soon open up the navigation of the Low Potomac. These mortars and shells were ast at the Fo Pitt works, Pittsburg, and are formidale weap as

Snow Time .- In 1856, the ground was fire covered by snow November 30; in 1857 on I combe 25; in 1858, on November 14; in 1859 and 1868, on the cember 4; in 1861, the first snow storm too planetoward the chase of October. THE PROPOSED NEW CASTLE RATEROAD. The corps of engineers commenced making a survey of the new route proposed for this railroal in the latte sure of last wook. As the weather has so in been favo able for the presention of the work, we may expect a re-port, with an estimate of the probable est of finishin

the road, soon. So far as we can see intellight prospect looks quite encouraging for the grly of the road. THE NINETEENTH-WARD CONTISTED ELECTION TION.—The matter was to have been hard on Saturday in the Common Pleas, but, owing in the engagement of Julies Lindlew in another court, the case was recipe a until this morning.

THE CHESTNUT-STRUCT BRIDGE-She he ing on the application of the Port Warden for an injunition against the city of Wall ulgiphin, to freen the ortion of the Chestrut-accept bridge over the river Schenkill, has been fixed by Justice Reacter Worlness morning next.