MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1861, EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF to break up the Union is a fact now known to all. Armies are being raised, and war levied to accomplish it. There can be but two sides to the controversy. Every man must be on the side of the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war. There can be none but patriots and traitors."

FOR SALE-The double-cylinder "Taylor" Press on which this paper has been printed for the last nine months. It is in excellent condition, having been made to c-der a year ago, and will be sold at a bargain. For terms. pply at this office, or address John W. Forney, 417 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

THE TONE of the English journals received by the mails of the America indicates that, while a war, for which gigantic preparations were being made, would inevitably have ensued if Mason and SLIDELL had not been promptly surrendered, the course adopted by the Administration will be entirely satisfactory, and will be hailed with delight by all the friends of our country in the Old World. There are some important interests in England which anxiously desire the commence ment of hostilities, because they imagine that they would result in the total downfall of republican institutions, and that, by opening the Southern ports, British manufacturers would secure an abundant supply of cotton. But, on the other hand, the British capitalists who have immense investments in American securities, and a very large portion of the Eeglish people who either sympathize with the national cause in this country, or keenly realize the horrors of a protracted contest with America, will now, since what they deem the national honor of their country has been vindicated, resolutely oppose all hostile measures, and do all in their power to secure a lasting peace.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

Another important victory has been gained in Missouri. On the 28th instant, General Prentiss. with four hundred and fifty men, encountered and dispersed a body of rebels nine hundred strong, under Colonel Dorsey, killing and wounding one hundred and fifty of them, capturing thirty-five prisoners, ninety-five horses, and one hundred and five guns. The Union loss was only three killed and eleven wounded.

By the surrender of Mason and Slidell, which is fully discussed in the diplomatic correspondence. the editorials, and in the letter of "Occasional," that we publish this morning, the Administration has avoided a war with England, and all the energies of the Government can henceforth be devoted to the suppression of the rebellion. Few will be inclined, after sober reflection, and after reading a full statement of all the facts involved, to question the wisdom of the policy that has been adopted. The most cherished hope of the rebels has been destroyed, and they will be intensely mortified and annoyed by a decision which has deprived them of the powerful aid of Great Britain.

A telegraphic despatch from Washington gives us a graphic account of the review of the Pennsylvania Reserves, which took place at Johnson's Hill

Hon. Alfred Ely, the member of Congress who was captured at Bull Run, and who has recently in exchange for C. J. Faulkner, gives a graphic description of the treatment of the Union prihostages for the privateers are treated far worse than we treat the vilest criminals; but the repre-

rest of the traitors on board the Trent, he anly employed. Strong entrene ments are being this proceeding, and signified his willingness, rather than increase surrounding perils and imerected on Tybee Island. The guns of Fort Pulaspending difficulties, to send them forward on garded their capture as utterly insignificant in Seventy-ninth New York Regiment, and six rebels were captured. A rebel boot, which came down now taken the responsibility, and he will be Fingal could run the blockade with a cargo of cotsustained for doing so. ton, was chased by one of our gunboats, and run ashore. The chances of the escape of the Fingal

are evidently very small. The comments of the English journals, received by the last European mail, furnish additional reasons for the surrender of Mason and Slidell. Imcities, kept open a market for our produce mense preparations were being made for the com- with foreign nations, and encouraged our domencement of active hostilities if they had not been delivered up, and the sympathizers with the rebellion were greatly rejoiced at the prospect of inflicting terrible injuries upon us. The journals the surrender of the rebel envoys. Wilmer & Smith's European Times, of the

appear, and to afford a theme for orators when they appear in public. An amusing scene, of which Mr. G. F. Train, the contractor for street railways, was the hero, took place at lunstall, in Staff shire, on the evening of Tursday last. At this place Mr. Train was aurounced to deliver a lecture in aid of the funds of the local Athengum, the chief bailiff presiding, and in the course of it the lectu-rer had to touch on the existing relations between this country and his own. In the course of his obthis country and his own. In the course of his observations, Mr. Train was interrupted by a person in the body of the room, who expressed a hope that he would "speak the truth." A request like this was certain to be followed by a "scene," in the course of which Mr. Train was called to account by the same dissatisfied listener with having called the volunteers "a set of fools" This produced another "scene," in the course of which the chairman declared that, if order was not preserved, he awould leave the chair; but the threat cantrain the awould leave the chair; but the threat had little effect. At length the chairman took the sense of the meeting by a show of hands, and a large mojority were in favor of hearing Mr. Train. From this point to the close of the proceedings there appears to have been a running commentary between the lecturer and a portion of the au-diebee. As a sample, we may eite an inter-jectional remark thrown in by one of the com-pany most opposed to Mr. Train: "We don't want our mails stopped." "Quite right," retorted Mr. Train, with his customary quickness, "the Americans did not stop your males or your fe-males,"—a sally which, the report assures us, produced a burst of merriment. But it was up-hill work with the lecturer. He maintained that

if America had done wrong she would apologise, but he asked would the people of England settle the question without hearing the other side? Mr. Train excited, no doubt, by the taunts of a portion of the company, gave expression to the summary way in which he would have acted if he had been way in which he would have acted it he had been in the position of Captain Wilkes. "I would have tried the commissioners in a prize court in New York: I would have convieted them of high treason; I would have honged them, and then sent them to England if England insisted on their being given up." These remarks, it is needless to say, were followed by hisses and great confusion. It given up." These remarks, it is needless to say, were followed by hisses and great confusion. It was in vain Mr. Train informed the meeting that Mason was the author of that abominable measure. the fugitive-slave law and that Slidell had been making hostile speeches against England for the last quarter of a century. The extenuating cirmissioners did not appease the wrath of the more bellicose portion of the audience. But, notwithstanding, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Train, for the ability he had displayed, and the chief bailiff of Tunstall advised his friends and eighbors not to be too hasty in judging of the

American question. Thurlow Weed writes to the Albany Evening Journal, in a letter dated London, December 7, as

The preparations for war, here, are on a gigantic scale. For other reasons, England is fully pre-pared. Everything is upon a war footing. But that the ice in the St. Lawrence presents a barrier, there would be British war steamers upon the Western lakes in a month. I am, you see, writing on the supposition that a peremptory demand for the surrender of Slidell and Mason has been made and refused, and that Lord

Lyens is on his way home. If this assumption proves unfounded, I should venture, even while I know how greatly the burning of the Harvey Birch must have exasperated our people, to ask the Government and the people to our people, to ask the Government and the people to take coursed of their judgments rather than their feelings. I cannot but hope that you have all realized the fact that both Governments are in a false position; that on this question of maritime taw and usage we have changed sides, and are, consequently, both wrong or both right. But perhaps the real solution is that the times and circumstances, rather, here obstanced where the the morald is added and of this current time. Hundreds of where the table the morald is added and the control of the times. When it causes to do that it degenerates into empty punctilio. We have nothing to do with what seemed right and necessary twenty years ago, unless that right and necessary twenty years ago, unless that right and necessary twenty are a demand of this current time. Hundreds of where the table the moral of the times. When it causes to do that it degenerates into empty punctilio. We have nothing to do with what seemed right and necessary twenty years ago, unless that right and necessary twenty are a demand of this current time. solution is that the times and circumstances, rather, have changed; that the world is older and wiser than it was, and that neither Government would

now do, or permit the other to do, what all nations practised a century ago.

But even if we feel that we are right may we talents, without detriment to the common innot, fer the sake of peace, make a concession or do even a magnanimous act to preserve amicable relations with a friendly Power?

It will be said that England manifested un

friendliness in too ready a recognition of the rebels as belligerents. Granted; but do not let us forget that we have ever encouraged rebellions in Ireland and Canada; and that our sympathies were with Russia in the war of the Crimen; and that we quite promptly sent home a British minister because attempts were made to recruit soldiers for

the Crimea in America.

Again: If there must be war with England, should we not choose our own time? Are we prepared now? Such a war is just what the traitors desire. It opens their ports and blockades ours, thus reversing our relative positions. And in the event of a sudden war with England, what becomes of California? But I will not pursue the subject, having only intended to set you all to thinking.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL." It is difficult to decide who will be most annoyed and indignant at the action of the Federal Government in the release of Mason and SLIDELL-the traitors in arms against the Union, or the despots of the Old World. And

remendous preparations of the Federal Go-

vernment, and at the daily evidences of dis-

satisfaction among their own people, JEFFER-

son Davis and his associates hailed the pros-

pect of a difficulty between the United States

and England as a sure promise that they were

our sacred Constitution and our beloved

Union. Their whole treachery was on the

eve of sinking into oblivion, and, like drown-

ing men, they caught with desperate avidity

at the straw thus held out to them. They

were ready to see SLIDELL and MA-

son hung in chains, and in fact greeted

them for months. Every popular demon-

tyrannical of all the robel leaders, than because

THE FACT that war cannot be successfully

neighbors, and retired with all the treasure they

could lay their hands upon. In this way they

were enabled to subsist vast armies, and to

compete with the paid and better disciplined

But civilized States are not supposed to car-

ry on war for the sake of plunder. Whether

the object be defence or conquest, modern

warfare involves immense outlays. Sometimes

this vast expenditure can be met by voluntary

loans, as has thus far been the case in the

struggle in which we are engaged; but this

mode cannot always be depended upon, espe-

cially in wars of long duration; because, for

the most part, such loans are made by the

classes whose capital is embarked in the vari-

ous industrial pursuits which a state of war

most seriously affects. Recourse must then

be had to taxation; for in taxes every man is

represented according to his means. Under

With these facts patent to all, can it be true

that there is any considerable party in the coun-

try, professedly in favor of a vigorous prose-

cution of the war, yet ready to seize upon this

bugbear of taxation and turn it to political

account? That such appeared to be the fact

in the several fall elections last held, may not

be disputed. In Congress the contradiction

has been more recently observed; we have

seen men declaring for a vigorous prosecution

of the war, yet stubbornly resisting a tax upon

the merest luxuries of life, that the revenues

might be increased; voting unlimited supplies

of men, and denying the means of their out-

fit and subsistence. In effect, such is the

In this emergency every patriot must feel

willing to drop his last dime into the common

treasury, if that be pecessary to sustain the

Government. No less measure of patriotism

rises to the level of this crisis. It is no time

to discuss the policy of parties in the past.

ce Let the dead past bury its dead," It is no

time for any man to make up his record on the

tariff question. The next generation will ask,

not if this or that man proved loyal to State

issues, but, rather, was he equal to the times

in which he lived and acted? Did he grapple

with vital issues of this terrible present? And

it will fare ill with any man who leaves a

Consistency is a good thing so long as it ac-

cords with the temper of the times. When it

public questions do not touch the domain of

absolute right or wrong; and to none of this

From Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 28.—Appleton Oaksmith, an alleged

accomplice of Skinner, who was recently convicted

of fitting out the ship Margaret Scott, in New

Bedford, for a slaver, was before Judge Sprague

not guilty, and was required to give bail in \$5,000

to appear for trial in March. Uaksmith was re-

cently lodged in Fort Lafayette, charged with

fitting out the steamer Augusta, and a week since

was transferred to Fort Warren The vacht Wild

Pigron, at this port, has been seized on suspicion

of fitting out for a slaver. It is probable she will

be released on her owners giving bonds not to engage

terest.

in the slave trade.

weak spot in his record touching these.

nature of the contradiction.

taxation the burden falls equally.

soldiery of their enemies.

Washington, December 29, 1861. In the postscript to my letter of the 18th instant, I attempted to foreshadow the probabiloyal men, who are disposed to complain of lity of the release of Mason and Slidell on the this action, should carefully await the wrathdemand of the British Government, and I ful explosions from both these classes before gave such reasons for what then appeared to committing themselves too far. When the be an act of unavoidable but painful necessity, traitors, SLIDELL and MASON, were captured, as were at least conclusive to my own mind. a thrill of joy was felt throughout the entire In order to recall this letter, I will ask you to Rebellion. Daily diminishing in numbers, in reprint the following paragraph: courage, and resources, terror-stricken at the

"England knows she is strong. This is our hour of weakness, and she may make it her opportunity to strike. She can now be arrogant and insulting, for now her arrogance and insult cannot be rescribed. The Northern coast is exposed to her large and powerful navy; our towns are not fortified, and the may bring desolation upon our people and our manufacturing interests. All this she knows Her armaments are large and well appointed; her army armanents are large almost to a war footing; she is prepared to throw large bodies of troops into the Eastern and Northern portions of our Republic Canada is filled with armed men, and the frontier about to secure an ally that would prove a most effective assistant in the destruction of Canada is filled with armed men, and the frontiers of Canada are simply so many garrisons. Our commerce is at her mercy. In the Mexican gulf there is a large British fleet, which could render our newlygained strongholds on the Southern coast untenable, and accomplish the destruction of the brave men at Port Royal, Hatteras, and Santa Rosa Island She may break our blockade, and entirely nullify our expeditionary operations. With the Potomac virtually blockaded, and an immense army under Beauregard in our rear, Washington would probably fall. With the Chesapeake bay open to any navy that may choose to enter; with a disloyal population in Maryland! with enemies along the Virginia and Atlantic coasts, England could precipitate a fearful series of disasters, and, perhaps, with the aid of the Southern armies, turn the bloody tide of war upon the Northern States." their arrest and imprisonment as the only fortunate sign that had appeared to stration in the loyal States approving the course of Captain WILKES was re-echoed in

the rebel army, though for a different motive. The loyal Americans applauded the capture of Many patriotic and considerate citizens a SLIDELL and MASON, more because they had first received the intimation conveved in this been the earliest, most offensive, and most etter with surprise and indignation. They lenounced the mere idea of releasing these of any deep-seated hostility to the British two incarnate traitors as an act of national Government; and Jefferson Davis was so humiliation, and declared that, rather than far conscious of the unpopularity of these acquiesce in such a policy, they would willtwo men in his own section, as to be more ingly welcome all the additional horrors of a than ready to surrender them to the chastiseforeign invasion. A little reflection, howment they had earned, if in doing so he could ever, a temperate and candid review of the secure the potent influence of a great Power, exigencies of our national condition, and a that he has always most bitterly denounced. frank comparison between our own complica-But if there was joy in the rebel States over tions and the immense military and naval rethis arrest, there was equal exultation among sources of England, soon reversed this imour enemies in Europe. Envious of our prospulsive judgment, and among thousands left perity, they have longed for an opportunity the reluctant, though sincere, impression that to aid in our destruction. It is a fact a thouwhatever the Administration, in its wisdom, sand times asserted, that the progress of free might conclude do, should be sustained for the benefit of the good cause by all good institutions on these shores has been a source of constant solicitude among the despots of Union men. Now, however, that the act has the Old World, and the most recent proof of been consummated, and that the propositions this fact was furnished by the most liberal of of Great Britain (which, in truth, are not by these Powers the moment the rebellion any means so offensive as they were expected proke out. Hence the eagerness with o be) have been acceded to by the President which the London Times and the British and his Cabinet, it is well to turn from the sta esmen took part against the regular Goargument in my letter of the 18th inst. to the vernment here, and in favor of the Southern tatesmanlike reasons for this proceeding of rebellion, and hence, too, the sudden burst of the Administration contained in the great British feeling that greeted the intelligence of despatch of Mr. Seward, our Secretary of the capture of SLIDELL and MASON. Not State, to Lord Lyons, the British minister, merely the aristocracy of England, but the ander date of Washington, December 26. aristocracy of every other European Govern-You will observe that not only Earl Russell, ment welcomed this occurrence as the bener Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for ginning of the triumph of the rebellion, and Foreign Affairs, asks reparation for the act of the beginning of the downfall of the American Captain Wilkes and the restitution of the Union. But who shall describe the bitter traitors, but that this course is advised by M. grief, and the agonizing disappointment of the Thouvenel, the French Minister of Foreign Southern traitors, and of foreign despots, Affairs, in a letter abounding with expressions when they hear that Mr. Lincoln and his of warm friendship for the United States Cabinet have wisely refused to gratify them by That minister, in a single sentence, repeats an refusing the proffered responsibilities of a war dea which had previously produced the most with England? Only a few days ago, parawholesome effect upon the American mind. graphs were reprinted from rebel journals, when he says: "For ourselves, we should see glorying over this new complication, and in that fact, [a refusal on our part to make reasserting that Mr. Lincoln would not dare to paration and restitution,] a deplorable complirelease these men for fear of the "rabid cation, in every respect, of the difficulties with Abolition element of the North " and if he which the Cabinet of Washington has already did, that he would be driven from his Presito struggle, and a precedent of a nature seridency. The English organs, though not so

defiant and offensive as the rebel newspapers, tinue outside of the existing contest." assumed a tone whick proved that they, too, Mr. Seward places the American side of the were resolved, if possible, to precipitate a question on the luftiest principles. While mutual rage of these combined interests American Executive to maintain the most over the release of SLIDELL and MASON, amicable relations with Great Britain; while to realize some of the motives that anishowing that the act of Captain Wilkes was mated the President and his Cabinet. The entirely his own; and while proving that, even most difficult position, in such a crisis in the face of an almost unanimous feeling in as this, is to administer a Government support of that act, in the loyal States, folbased upon the popular will. It is well known lowed by resolutions of approbation, passed by that when Mr. Lincoln was informed of the arboth Houses of Congress, the President and his constitutional advisers (with a single exticipated the trouble which has grown out of ception) preserved a dignified and patient silence, he neither insults the national spirit, nor degrades the national character, nor rebukes Captain Wilkes. The language of his despatch their voyage. Even amidst the acclamations is in singular harmony with the gravity of his that applauded the act he declared that he resubject. Confining himself strictly to one line of argument, and disdaining to avail himcomparison with the great interests that might self of the tempting opportunity to remind be damaged by their imprisonment. He has England of her own high-handed proceedings in cases of historical remembrance, he alternately appeals to the American record to show He has baffled the enemies of free instituhow faithfully and steadily we have contended tions in both hemispheres. He has left our for the settlement of the right of visitation, army and our navy free to make clean work of and addresses himself to the magnanimity of the rebellion. He has rescued our finances the British Government to make the present from collapse, prevented a panic in our great discussion the occasion of such an adjustment of that question as will leave no cause for future complications. With characteristic skill, mestic manufactures. Honor to him for his before giving his sanction to the request of Earl Russell, he introduces as competent and conclusive authority for that sanction, the memorable despatch of President Madison to waged without money, as well as skill and James Monroe, nearly sixty years ago. energy, is not now for the first time made That the conclusion reached by Mr. Seward known. The beggarly hordes of Scythia know will be satisfactory to Great Britain cannot be this as well as we do in this enlightened age. doubted. It will certainly gratify France, They had no internal resources; neither however it may disappoint those in the Old houses nor cultivated lands; nothing, in fact, World who have been hungering for a quarrel but hardy and ferocious men. Yet they waged between England and the United States. The successful war. In the absence of a common duty of the American people and all their treasury and revenues, they made raids into public servants, national and State, executive the rich provinces of their more cultivated and legislative, is plain and inexorable. I

> upon this theory. Habitually jealous of all continental military preparations, and accustomed to protest whenever France increases her army or her navy, England will not dare to question any of the new military preparations of the Government of the United States

> > OCCASIONAL.

would not feed the flame of hatred to England

which now burns in every patriotic heart, but

it is the province of every independent and

loyal journalist to urge upon these public ser-

vants the necessity for such prompt, persist-

ent, and extended military and naval prepara-

tions as will make us strong enough to protect

our own institutions from domestic as well as

foreign enemies. England may not harbor

any designs upon this continent, but it can

give her no offence, and will exhibit a saga-

cious foresight on our part, should we proceed

The Defences of Philadelphia. The following important letter will be read with much interest by the citizens of Philadelphia. We understand that the guns for the defences referred to are now being rapidly made, and also that preparations are on foo for the purpose of fortifying the Breakwater, some sixty miles distant from Fort Delaware, so that, in any event, the city of Philadelphia may be considered safe:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1861.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR. Sin: On the subject of your letter of 24th Institut received, I have the honor to report: The lowest point at which the water approach t Philadelphia is defensible is the Pea Patch Island On this island, a powerful fort, (Fort Delaware, has been constructed, and is now ready to receive has been constructed, and is now ready to receive its entire armament of 135 large guns. There is nothing to hinder these guns being of the largest calibres that are in use. Fort Millin—near the city—is likewise prepared to receive its entire armament of 47 guns of large calibre, such repairs and renovations as were required for this purpose having been executed during the past season.

The most important step now remaining to be taken is to construct a fort opposite Fort Delaware on the Delaware shore. For the commencement of this fort application has just been made to Congress for an appropriation of \$200,000.

A temporary work should be thrown up opposite these, on the Jersey shore, at the commencement of hostilities with a maritime Power. This temporary work can be got ready for armament, in the event of its centiruction being required by the

rary work can be got ready for armament, in the event of its construction being required by the state of political affairs, as soon as guns can be fur Finally, floating obstructions, to be placed at the ssages, and holding vessels of wa under the fire of these forts and batteries.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the Board of Trade, of Philadelphia, in reply to the communication of 26th November to the President, received

with your letter.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Jos. S. Totten,
Brevet Brig. Gen. and Col. Engineers.

Public Amusements. Mr. Forrest will appear at the Academy to-night as Spartacus in Dr. Bird's play of "The Gladiator." At the Walnut-street Theatre Mr. Adams

will play Robert Landry in the "Dead Heart." The "Forty Thieves" is continued at the Continental, and "Love's Labor Lost" repeated at the Arch. Barnum, Blitz, and the other attractions to-day, charged with such complicity. He pleaded remain a week longer. SALE To-DAY SUPERIOR FURNITURE, at 10

o'clock, at No. 905 Pine street. SALE OF WINES, BRANDIES, &c., at 12 o'clock, at the Auction store. STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE to-morrow, Tuesday, at the Exchange.

See Thomas & Sons' catalogues and adrtisements of the three sales.

LENTER FROM PORT ROYAL, S. C. [Special Correspondence of The Press.]

HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C., December 25, 1861. Since I last wrote you an important reconnoi sance has occurred in the direction of Charleston. The sloop-of-war Pawnee, Captain Drayton, the gunbeat Scucea, Captain Ammen, and the Vixen, carrying one gun, Captain Boutelle, were despatched to feel the batteries, if any should exist, at North and South Edisto Inlets, and otherwise to explore the country along the coast. They arrived at North Edisto on the 17th inst., and discovered at its entrance, and on the southern side, a deserted fieldwork, which had evidently been mounted with eight or nine guns. It was more work discovered in this region since the capture of Port Royal, and had not been completed, even when abandoned. The negross reported that the troops had left the day after the fight at Hilton Head. On the right of Edisto inlet. branching towards the north, and not more than a mile or two from the coast, is a stream, on which stands the town of Rockville. Rockville is on the left of the creek, and, therefore, faces the sea; it appears to have been a place of perhaps a thousand habitants. After the reconnoitring party had definitely ascertained that the fort had been deserted, their fire not being returned, the Seneca was sent up the Edisto, and a part of the crew of the Pawnee went ashore at the mouth. Next morning Captain Drayton landed at Rockville. where negroes, who came flooking in by the hundred, assured him that four or five hundred troops had been stationed the day before, but that, immediately upon the firing from the ships, they decamped. The haste with which these forces must have left was attested by the condition of their camp. Tents to the number of forty or fifty remained standing; camp equipage of every description was left behind; forage and commissary's stores—even arms—were strewn around. Private letters and papers in abun-

dance were left lying loose, along with wearing apparel, and in some instances watches. The body of Federalists who landed was not more than fifty strong. The South Carolinians, who were so expeditious in their movements, probably were ten times as numerous. The Pawnee, of course, lay in the stream so as to cover the landing, but, as this was made in small boats, the rebels could easily have molested the invaders; but with the desperate energy which has characterized all their movements since the fall of Port Royal that burried away and stayed away from Rockville. Among the prizes that fell into Captain Drayton's hands was a schooner and a number of bonts. He also took away the tents and many of the stores of the rebel force, but refrained entirely from interfering with the private dwellings of the town. As he had no orders to occupy the place, and no military force, he returned to his ship; but the rebels made no sign of interfering or of returning. Negroes reported a day or two after that an increased force had been sont down from Charleston, not more than fifteen miles away in a direct line; but, if such a force was sent, it took good care to keep out of sight of the reconnoitring

The Seneca, meanwhile, penetrated some six or eight miles up the country on the Edisto. In every direction the rebels set fire to their cotton twenty conflagrations must have been witnessed from her decks during the little cruise. The negroes began coming aboard the very night of her entrance into the river, bringing intelligence of the whereabouts and the movements of various small bodies of rebels scattered along the banks, telling, in some instances, what cotton houses would next be burnt, pointing out residences where troops (never more than fifteen or twenty together) were stationed, informing of the force at Rockville, offering their services as guides, as spies, as oarsmen, as pilots, and in one or two instances asking

Captain Ammon received them, but assured them they might return if they chose, but they begged to be taken to Pert Royal; manifesting the greatest fear of their masters, and invariably declaring that ously to disquiet all the Powers which conthey would be shot if they went back. They had ceme direct from the plantations where they were at work when the vessels began firing, had fled without bringing any of their little property, some tated with stuck full of cotton; they told that they had escaped by various devices, pretending to go for boats for "Massa," to put his children in places of safety, and even to drive the other "niggers." They had left their own wives and children, but dare not return to bring them. Next day others came, but more deliberately, bringing presents of fowl and eggs to those whom they considered their deliverers. These presents were not received, the officers insisting on paying for what was taken. Other negroes went slowly by in their flat-boats, with piles of plunder, manifesting no apprehension that they should be hindered. Those who think the policy of the Government too lenient in South Carolina would be satisfied if they had seen the destruction that the presence of these two Pederal ships of-war caused to the property of rebels;

if they could witness the burning cotton-houses. the deserted homes, the really emancipated slaves, whom no proclamation issued on the Potomac could set free half so effectually as the discharge of a dozen Federal cannon in the Edisto-that killed not a man. This was within 12 miles of Charleston, and the whole slave population of the district was, to all intents and purposes, free. Nothing more could be desired by the most radical Northerner, unles the arming of these slaves; as it is, the Federalists have all the good effects of the emancipation, and none of the odium. The certainty is held over the rebels everywhers, and we are not responsible for it.

Captain Ammen chased a rebel schooner, fired into her, and drove her crew to small boats. As it for your safety and your success, would have been difficult, on account of the channel, to follow her further, a boat was sent in to take possession of the prize. She was aground, and could not be brought off, but as her uses to the enemy were obvious, she was burnt. A Secession flag and some stores were found aboard of her. On the first day spent in the river, the Seneca abstained from firing at the houses where negroes indicated that rebel outposts were established, lest peaceable inhabitants should be injured; but, on the second, a large party of soldiers, some 20 or 30, displayed themselves on the steps and balconies of a conspicuous mansion; a few shells soon forced them to take to horses or boats. At various other places, boats were sent ashore both by the Seneca and the Pawnee, which went up the stream, on the second day after the firing, for a short while. Several prisoners were thus taken, and some stores obtained. At one place, a Colonel Whitmarsh Scabrook, a person of much consequence in this region, was obliged to side off with such alacrity that he left his hat and coat behind him; they were very fine, and marked with his name. One of the crew, who had taken them as prize, marched up for his grog, decked out in the finery of the fallen rebel. Had the capture of this individual, thus so nearly effected, been completed, it would have been owing to the efforts of his own slaves, who gave information of his coming, and pointed him out to the "Yankees." But, then, the blacks are so much attached to their

masters! These attached blacks, fleeing from their kind masters, who were threatening to shoot them, came flocking aboard the ship in such numbers that it was impossible to convey them all to Port Royal, so Captain Drayton determined to establish a colony at the mouth of North Edisto inlet, which he did and ordered the gunboat Penguin, lying off there, to guard them. The negroes manifested their sorrow at parting with their masters and receiving Federal protection, by clapping their hands, dancing, and singing hymns, for hours, around the camp fires of their new colony.

The reconnoissance was subsequently extended to South Edisto and Stono Inlets, but no such salient events occurred as marked its first portion. Some of the information obtained was not of a nature proper for publication. At South Edisto, another deserted fort was found, from which the guns, apparently seven or eight in number, had been carried away. On the return of the party to Port Royal, Captain Ammen was sent back to North Edisto with the Seneca to retain possession of the important advantages there obtained. During the absence of this party another went up to Charleston, and sank at the entrance to its

harbor sixteen vessels belonging to the stone fleet. This work was performed very completely under the direction of Captain Charles H. Davis, the fleet captain. What with the great fire of the 11th inst, the sinking of these sixteen vessels, the loss of Rockville, the fright evidently spread all over the country by the appearance of the Pawnee and Seneca so near to Charleston, the people of that city must have had in one week as much trouble as often falls to the lot even of defeated rebels.

An Advance below Alexandria. CAMP McCLELLAN, Dec. 27 .- There is a large force reported below. Major Leidy out on picket last moment, are designed to serve the purpose of duty attacked and drove back the rebel pickets, taking several prisoners who had two days' rations with them. The rebels have raised a flag on Pohick Church, and a force has been sent down on a reconnoissance, with the determination of removing reconnoissance, with the determination of removing the Secession flag at all hazards.

Two regiments of our brigade, the Sixty-third and the One Hundred and Fifth, and two regiments of Richardson's, are among those who have advanced, and the Ninty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers (Col. Sweeney's) have been ordered to prepare for going forward, at a moment's notice. Forty rounds of ball cartridges have been given out, and no nasses are granted, but every man required and no passes are granted, but every man required to be on the ground. Col. Sweeny's treops are in capital order, and ready for action. The force is under the command of Gen. Jameson, a very able and efficient leader.

Death of Judge Legrand. BALTIMORE, Dec. 28.—John C. Legrand, ex-Chief Justice of Maryland, died this morning. Loss of the Revenue Cutter Howell Cobb. Boston, Dec. 28.—The revenue cutter Howell Cobb, from the lakes, via Quebec, was totally lost off Cape Ann last night. The crew were saved.

Governor Buckingham, of Connecticut, has appointed Horace J. Morse to assist him in making up the accounts of that State against the General

LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

GEN. McCLELLAN SLOWLY RECOVERING. GRAND REVIEW OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES. Governor Curtin Compliments them on

their Recent Victory. THE ARMY ANXIOUS FOR A FORWARD

MOVEMENT.

THE CONFEDERATES SAID TO BE ERECT. ING BATTERIES AT DRANESVILLE.

AFFAIRS IN GEN. HEINTZELMAN'S DIVISION. Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1861 Grand Review of the Penusylvania Re serve Corps. General McCall's division, near Langley, wa reviewed this afternoon in the presence of Governor CURTIN, Hon. SIMON CAMERON, Assistant Secre tary of War Thomas A. Scott, Adjutant General THOMAS, and a large number of civilians, among whom I noticed BAYARD TAYLOR, Esq., and lady, of Chester county, Pa. The arrival of Governor CURTIN and Secretary CAMERON was entirely un expected to the Reserve Corps, and although the notice of the intended review was not given until noon, at one o'clock the fifteen regiments of Reserves, towith the cavalry and artillery comprising the di-

vision, were properly arranged on the ground.

The review took place on Johnson's Hill. The
weather was delightful, and I have never seen the Reserves appear to better advantage. They performed the various evolutions with the precision and regularity of veterans, and elicited the en comiums of all who witnessed the review. Their recent victory at Dranesville has inspired them with new courage and unbounded confidence in their officers The Bucktail Rifles were under the command of Captain Taylor, Lieutenant Colonel Kann being confined to his room at Washington. After performing the usual military managurres

the carriage containing the distinguished visitors was drawn up in front of the Reserves, and Governor Curtin was introduced to them by General ORD. He spoke as follows: FELLOW-CITIZENS: In Washington on busines

connected with the military organization in Pennsylvania, I thought it could be no desceration of

this sacred day for me to come out and look at the faces of the brave men who are illustrating the power of this nation to suppress insurrection and break down the conspiracy which now threatens our Government. I think it no desecration of this day. There can be no desecration of this holy day by men who are engaged in the most righteous war to you on the 10th day of September, when I pre sented colors to the regiments of the Reserve Corps. that it was written in the law that on your return houses as the gunboat approached; as many as -to the State of Pennsylvania, the battles in which you distinguished yourselves should be inscribed upon the standards and filed among the archives of the State in memory of the deeds you performed. But I scarcely expected that it would so soon be come my pleasant duty to make a record so sacred to the people of Pennsylvania. On consultation with the general commanding this division I have ordered that on the standard of this brigade there shall be inscribed " Dranesville, the first battle in which the Reserve Corps of Pennsylvania stood under fire." and thank God in which they have

come out victorious and distinguished. My fellow-citizens, when you left Pennsylvania, your organization was just completed. When it was my pleasure to see you in September, you had not advanced far in discipline .- to day I find you with the martial appearance and steady tramp of regu lar soldiers, and you cannot imagine what a thrill of pleasure and of pride was felt in Pennsylvania, and bow the great heart of your native State palpithat a part of the Reserve Corps was engaged, and afterwards, at midnight, that their battle was

crowned with victory. In the name of all the people of Pennsylvania, thank you; I thank you for the honor you have reflected upon the glorious Old Keystone State; I thank you for your courage. Thousands of people at your homes rejoice over the result. Thousands more will follow you, if need be, in this war; and at all times when our Government is in peril Pennsylvania, from the Delaware to Lake Erie, every man in the State, every dollar of our material wealth, all of our blood and treasure stand upon the side of right and truth, and they will, as ever, be loyal to the Constitution and to an organized, legitimate Government.

In Pennsylvania we know but one sentimentthe President of the United States. The visible head of this great nationality, and the Constitutional agents of the Government, Pennsylvania will most heartily support in this trightful exigency all the officers in command, from the youthfu general who now stands at the head of the armies of this country, to the lowest officer in power, and to all who represent legitimate authority we owe implicit obedience in this emergency. That your deeds hereafter may be as illustriou

as those you performed on Friday week; that your efforts may again be crowned with victory, to be inscribed upon your banner, is my earnest wish; and now, in taking leave of you, let me assure you that, night and morning, in the church and at the family altar, fervent prayers ascend to Heaven

I commend you to the care of these generals, who lead you, and the Government that protects you in your rights. I go back to Pennsylvania refreshed by this interview, and prouder than ever I have been of the gallant spirits comprising the Reserve Corps. Pennsylvania expects every man to do his duty. With that single word falling upon your care, I bid you farewell.

Hearty cheers were given for Governor Curtin Secretary Cameron, General McCall, Genera ORD, and the Union, and the regiments were dis-Previous to the review, the party visited the di

vision hospitals, and spoke a kind word to each of the soldiers wounded in the recent engagement, General ORD spoke in the highest terms of their bravery, and suggested that medals should be awarded to certain of the soldiers for meritorious The colors will have the inscription referred to

placed upon them in a few days, and returned to the different regiments. An Important Disavowal

A pamphlet, styling itself " Notes explanatory Mr. Chase's Plan of National Finance," bearing the imprint of the Government Printing Office, and otherwise wearing a sort of imprimatur look of the Treasury about it, was put into circulation about a week ago. The critical reader will find nothing of the Secretary's mind or manner in this explanation of his policy-and we know that Mr. CHASE declines to avow or evouch, or in any way authorize, or promote the circulation of the pamphlet. The authorship is credited to Mr. S. M. STILLWELL. The Enemy Erecting Batteries at Dranes-ville.

It was ascertained yesterday that the rebels are erecting batteries so as to sweep the road this side of Dranesville. Our pickets have seen them busily engaged in throwing up breastworks. General McCall will not allow the work to proceed if he is allowed to consult the wishes of himself and his

Governor Curtin Serenaded. Governor Currin was serenaded at Willard's last evening, by the bands from two or three Pennsylvania regiments. He was then called out, and addressed the audience, referring to the part Pennsylvania has taken in the war, and proving her patriotism and faithfulness to the Union by the arge number of troops she has sent into the field and all in very fine condition. He listened with interest to the recital of the engagement at Dranes ville, and manifested the greatest enthusiasm in the success of the troops. He spoke with encouragement to the respective regiments, and assured them

Seward and the Mason-Slidell Affair. Secretary SEWARD'S correspondence in the Mason-Slidell affair meets with very general and very cordial approval here. It is generous, conciliatory, and statesmanlike. Thus the threatening danger of war has been happily nipped in the bud, and will soon be forgotten as a matter of as little importance as the traitors over whom the hreatened disruption was caused.

Pennsylvanians in the Hospitals. There are over three hundred of the Pennsylva nia troops in the hospitals in and around Washing.

The Lower Polomac. There is no news of importance from the Lower Potomac. Two schooners, loaded with wood, came up to-day. The schooner Charles Kent, with three or four other schooners, ran the blockade last week. They were loaded with timber and coal. The rebel batteries did not fire a shot at them. The schooner sunk this day week is said to be the Three Sisters. She was not sunk by what are known as the Confederate batteries, on the Potomac, but by field artillery drawn to the Virginia shore by the rebels, at a point far below their fixed batteries on the river. The guns were stationed nearly opposite Maryland Point, and the place where the schooner was sunk is known as Boyd's

Troops. Lieutenant Colonel Puleston, State agent for the Pennsylvania troops, is indefatigable in his labors for the interests of the army from Pennsylvania. In every way he can advance their interests he is most zealous in their behalf; and his appointment to the position affords another evidence of the good judgment of Governor Cuntin, and of his regard for the interests of the men from his State.

Colonel Puleston and the Pennsylvania

The Feelings of the Army in Reference to a Forward Movement. In riding along the lines, and conversing with

the officers and soldiers in the army, I find that, while there is the fullest confidence in General McClellan, and entire reliance upon his judgment, a general and a growing desire is manifested for a forward movement. Though preparing their winter quarters, the army, generally, does not expect to rest and rust till spring. Rapecially in the right and left wings of the army is this feeling strong; and nothing would give the men more enthusiasm than an intimation of a forward movement.

General Sumner. General SUMBER is rapidly recovering from the lojuries sustained by the fall from his horse. The accident, however, has unfitted him to assume ommand of a division of the army, as was proposed; and General RICHARDSON continues in the command of the division on the extreme left of the army, three miles beyond General HEINTZEL. MAN. His division is in the immediate vicinity of the enemy, and scouting parties of the rabel ca-valry are frequently seen by the pickets from this

Bill for the Relief of the Prisoners in Richmond. Mr. ELY, it is understood, will, immediately after the holidays, introduce a bill for the relief of the prisoners held by the rebels in Richmond, and other places. This is an important measure, and will no doubt be acted upon at once.

Pennsylvania Ladies in the Camps, Gen. HEINTZELMAN'S division was honored on Saturday by a social visit from a party of Philadelphia ladies and gentlemen, who remained over night under the especial care of their relatives in the division. They were received with great cordiality, and were made the recipients of every possible attention. They brought with them many letters and tokens of regard from friends at home. The Health of General McClellan.

General McCLELLAN, who has been confined t his house for some days past, with a slight attack of something like typhoid fever, is rapidly reovering. His physician thinks that he will be able to resume the saddle to-morrow. Release of Messrs. Mason and Sidell.

A report was current that the order for the release of Messrs. Mason and Slidell was transmitted by telegraph at I o'clock on Saturday. Another report is that Lord Lyons will send an English vessel to Fort Warren to take them on board on Monday.

Rumored Resignation of Secretary Welles. It is bruited around that Secretary WELLES has eclared that he will resign his portfolio. It is not believed.

A Quiet Sabbath. The day now closing has been unusually quiet; cavalier is posted at each crossing in the city, with his curved sword unsheathed and resting upon his arm, to prevent the rapid movement of horsemen. There are few military officers and no privates in the city. The day is mild and pleasant and the churches have been largely attended.

Ceneral Heintzelman's Division. General HEINTZELMAN's division of the army, from which I have just returned, is composed principally of Pennsylvania regiments, among which is Colonel Mcknight's One-hundred-and-fifth, to the colonel and quartermaster of which your reporter is indebted for especial favors. The division is busily employed in preparing their winter quarters, with the understanding, however, that they are liable to be ordered to advance or to engage the Charles Henry Foster.

Mr. Foster has come twice to Washington with papers certifying his election to Congress from North Carolina; but the Committee on Elections have rejected his claims as insufficient, if, indeed, they have not proved him to be an impostor. Singularly enough, he has obtained from the President the appointment of United State marshal for North Carolina; but his confirmation by the Senate is extremely doubtful. Miscellaneous

The brigade under the command of General Wadsworth went to the vicinity of Fairfax Courthouse, on Friday, and brought away a large querof the enemy there were a few mounted pickets. The injury to Col. BERDAN, from trying a breechloading rifle, is not so serious as reported. He is rapidly recovering.

Within the past week fewer officers and privates are seen about the drinking houses than heretofore, the orders being more strictly enforced in the matter of granting passes. An improvement has also been made in the military street police, and the recent introduction of mounted guards affords a remedy against unnecessarily fast driving.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI

ANOTHER REBEL DEFEAT. NINE HUNDRED REBELS DISPERSED

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY KILLED AND WOUNDED.

THIRTY-FIVE PRISONERS. PALMYRA, Dec. 29.—Yesterday, Gen. Prentiss, with four hundred and fifty men, encountered and dispersed a body of rebels, nine hundred strong, under Col. Dorsey, at Mount Zion, Boone county, killing and wounding one hundred and fifty of them, and capturing thirty-five prisoners, ninetyfive horses, and one hundred and five guns. Our loss was only three killed and eleven wounded. The rebels burned another train on the North Missouri Railroad, on Saturday, and say that they

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

intend to destroy all the cars on the road, to pre-

vent it from being used during the present

FEDERAL GUNBOATS AT NORTH EDISTO AND COLE ISLANDS.

EXPECTED BATTLES AT BOTH POINTS.

REPORTED SUICIDE OF A REBEL OFFICER.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 29, via Baltimore. Charles H. Foster, appointed by the President here this morning, and will proceed to Hatteras the first opportunity. A flag of truce brought four passengers from Norfolk this afternoon.

The following news is gleaned from the Richnond papers : The intelligence from Bowling Green states that appearances do not indicate an engagement, although unforeseen circumstances might precipitate fight within eight or ten days. CHARLESTON, Dec. 27 .- The Courier of this

morning states that the Yankee gunboats exchanged a few shots with the Cole Island battery, yesterday. Other despatches, received at Richmond from Charleston, state that a Federal fleet, of twelve gunboats, passed up to White Point, on the North Edisto river, and made a demonstration on General Evans' forces. Reinforcements had been sent to General Evans, and a battle was expected soon Other demonstrations had also been made on points between Beaufort and Charleston. The North Carolina batteries disabled a few

Federal gunboats on Tuesday last. Five Federal gunboats anchored off Cole Island ast night, and a battle was expected every hour. Augusta, Dec. 27 -It is reported here that the teamer Gladiator had entered a Confederate port with large quantities of arms, ammunition, &c. The Richmond Examiner says that a painful mor was in circulation there, that a gentleman of that city holding a commission in the army of the Potomac had committed suicide by shooting himself through the head.

LATER FROM BEAUFORT, S.C. ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER EMPIRE CITY. RECONNOISSANCE OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH REGIMENT. SIX REBELS CAPTURED.

A Rebel Boat Run Ashore. ENTRENCHMENTS ON TYBEE ISLAND.

land and Lieut. Smith, of the Eighth Maine; Captains Hines, Wentworth, and Wedgeworth, of the Ninth Maine, and Capt. Newell, of the Fourth New

Hampshire Regiments, are also passengers.

THE CITY.

FOR ADDITIONAL LOCALS SEE FIRST PAGE. AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MUSIC-Broad and Locust WHEATLEY'S CONTINUETAL THEATRE-Walnut street, above Eighth....... The Southern Rebellion by Sei Land"...... The Forty Thieves."

ARCH-STREET THEATRE-Arch street, above Sixth,-BARNUM'S TRMPLE OF LIVING WONDERS-1009 Chest-WALROT-STREET THEATRE Ninth and Walnut sts.—
Dead Heart"—"Popping the Question." TEMPLE OF WONDERS—N. E. corner Tenth and Chest-ut streets.—Signor Blitz's Entertainment.

Successful Boat Expedition on the Chesa-

A REBEL MAIL AGENCY BROKEN UP. The Chief of the Detective Police Department of this city received a despatch from Washington last evening, stating that a boat expedition down the Patuxent river, under command of Mr. Baker, chief of the Government police, had returned to Washington, having accomplished the purposes for which it was designed. A schooner, a brass cannon, five State prisoners, and a Confederate mail, were the trophies of the excursion. The mail contained letters from disaffected parties in the North to prominent rebels. Mr. Baker, the officer in question, has superintended the secret business of the Government since the breaking out of the war. He is a Californian, and was noted in our columns at the time of the arrest of Gilchrist, Haig, Parker, French, and others.

THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE YEAR 1861.—In many respects, the year 1861 has been marked, in Philadelphia, as a period of great business activity. The avenues, opening to remote parts of the State, have been increased, and a handsome bridge across the Schuylkill will empty the products of the great West, by means of the State Central Railroad, directly upon the banks of the Delaware. A splendid iron bridge has been commenced at the foot of Chestnut street, which, before another new year, will be, in great part, completed. The bridge at Penrose Ferry has been put into active service during the passing year, and the bridge at Falls of Schuylkill, that was destroyed by a freshet, has been replaced in better style than pefore. Four bridges over the Schnylkill will thus trace their location to the year 1861. They will be crossed by thousands of feet, and be, at some time,

landmarks in the history of the city. A new railroad extending to West Jersey, opening up a fertile and populous country; three railcoads, subsidiary to the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, that will increase the requirements upon our port; the extension, completion, or location of several street and suburban railroads; the laying out of a road that shall encircle the city, and further the facilities of travellers passing through our limits; -these are some of the railway enterprises, with which all are acquainted.

Our port has been attended to during the year, by the building of an immense grain elevator a the foot of Washington street; the building of a coal elevator of great capacity upon Windmill Island; the filling in of that island, and the deepening of its docks and channels, and the rebuilding

of many of the city's wharves. The architectural appearance of the city has been improved by the completion of the most spacious and costly cathedral in the country, the dome of which is the first object to welcome the stranger to Philadelphia; the completion of the Dock-street market, perhaps the handsomest edifice upon our river front: the building of seventeen fine churches, fourteen public halls, seven schools, three markers, and innumerable private residences, of unrivalled proportions and elegance.

Upon South Broad street, in the First ward some colossal mansions have been placed; in the south and southwest of the city, particularly upon Federal and adjoining streets, rows of dwellings have been established, and north of Girard avenue, for several miles, between the Schuylkill and Delaware, hundreds of houses, of every style and description, have been located.

The facilities of the city for increasing the supply of water have been augmented by sounding and improving the bed and shores of the Schuylkill; building a stone tower for the great stand-pipe at Fairmount, extending the wheel-houses, and in | and workingwomen have brought their individual our creasing the number of force-pumps, claining and enlarging some of the reservoirs, laying many miles of new water pipe, and in divers other ways making the supply of pure, fresh water within the reach of the extremest suburban resident.

The gas facilities have been extended by the building of a splendid gasometer and gas house in North Ninth street, improving the quality of the gas at the main works, and devising improvements to increase the quantity at less cost, and by the extension of gas pipes into every conceivable street

Many streets have been widened; the protective old disorder and inefficiency. A park and a harbor police have been created; the detective department reorganized; the police telegraph made more useful; the Fire Department disciplined; street begging discouraged; great crimes lessened and criminals deterred; the public schools regarded with more scrutiny, and incompetence or idleness displaced; a greater degree of purity entered into the administration of the laws; the abuses of the State-House row in some sort cleared up, and the Custom House and other national offices cleansed of traitors.

A war sweeping upon the country, with all its herrible consequents in train-of death, treason, mutiny, and desolation-has ruined no great business interest, and materially harmed only the mer-

cantile. Nearly thirty thousand men have voluntarily gone from this city into the army of the Union, thereby proportioning the labor that remains to the laborers that require it. Many productive departments were never before so efficient. Clothing fer the troops; cannon, muskets, knives, shell, and shot for the troops; knapsacks and haversacks for the troops; music for the troops; wagons, ambulances. caissons, battery wagons for the troops; horses and teamsters, grooms and harness makers, bridle-bits and spurs, broadswords and lances, flags and military trimmings, hay and forage, grain and bread-all these are needed for the troops, and all the sinew and nerve of Philadelphia are struggling to supply them. Mills are going up; machinery is being in ported and altered; and all the water power of the

suburbs put into use. The ship yards were never so active, the navyyard employing nearly three thousand workmen in forging instruments of death and laying decks that shall be red and slippery.

Benevolence has not yielded the palm to War in

all respects. The Episcopal Hospital, the Women's Hospital, the German Hospital, and the Burd Asylum, are institutions not built for a day, but for all These are some of the gratifying evidences of improvement, more remarkable at this time than upon occasions of peace. They show the great power of the North; never discouraged, neve fearful; building at home while it desolates afar;

THE NEW COUNCILS .- The new Select and

Common Councils meet on Monday next, at 10 o'clock

vanquishing its enemies, enriching itself!

A. M., for the purpose of organizing. In Select Council there is a Democratic majority. Some difficulty has been apprehended in the organization of Common Council in consequence of three members claiming seats on the forged returns from three companies of Col. McLean's Regiment; but since these returns have been proved to be forgeries by the affidavits of all the officers of the companies, taken during the last few days in the case of the contested election for adderman in the Ninetsenth ward, and the case abandoned by those holding certificates of election based on these forgeries, it is hardly probable that the members claiming seats in Common Council on like certificates will present themselves in that body, and thereby delay not only the organization, but the ways amount of important business that will fall that body, and thereby delay not only the organization, but the vast amount of important busins as that will fall to the lot of the new Councils during the coming mouth. It was agreed between counsel that the return of the commission to take testimony in Companies A, C, and F, of Colonel McLean's regiment, in regard to the voting. should be conclusive on the question of the legality of the 79 votes by which the People's candidates for alderman and achool directors of the Mustenuth want chaimed to be elected. Although the 79 votes had been stamped as for elected. Although the 79 votes had been stamped as for-geries by the affidavits published in the newspapers, the counsel for the parties claiming offices under this vote in-sisted that regular commissions to take lestimony should issue, and their return should be an out to the case. These commissions returned on Saturday, and were presented in the Common Pleas before Judges Thompson and Ludlow The testimony of all the company officers of the companies a question has been taken, and they all concur in saying that no election was held in their companies, and that they never signed, or authorized any preson to sign, their names to the returns filed with the Prothonotary, purporting to come from their companies. After these affidatils had been read, Mr. Briggs, for the respondents, stated that he was stisfied, from the twittingly, that a gross fraul had been perpetrated, and his clients did not intend and would not resist the conclusion to which the court must come; they would not hold office under such returns. The court then entered a decree declaring the Democratic candidates for adderman and school directors elected by the legal votes.

Democratic candidates for alderman and school directors elected by the legal votes.

This also puts an end to the difficulty in Councils. The candidates of the People's party for Councils, from the Nineteenth ward, were declared elected by the addition of the 79 votes alleged to have been cast in Companisa A. C. and F. of Col. McLean's regiment. When it was asserted that the returns from these regiments were forgerles, it was answered that there was no legal proof. The legal proof has now been submitted, and the Court has pussed upon the question, and decided that the returns of these three companies are forgeries; the captains of the companies

Skating.—Yesterday, quite a number of ads were engaged in skating on the ponds in the south-restern part of the city. The ice along the banks of the chuylkill has all disappeared.

Completion of Market Houses .- The Dela-

ware-avenue market house and the market house on the outheast corner of Seventeenth and Poplar streets are low completed. On Saturday the former was open for it spection, and the latter for business. SUDDEN DEATH.-Last evening, about 7

SUBBER DEATH.—Last evening, about a colock, Mrs. Am Glass, residing at the corner of Eighteenth and Webster streets, in the First ward, fell dead suddenly whilst engaged in writing a letter to her husband and son, who are volunteers in the Government service. Har death is attributed to apop exy.

Movements of Mr. Ely. The Washington correspondent of yesterday's New York Heraid says: Hon. Alfred Ely will have to flee the Federal capital

York Heraid says:

Hon, Alfred Ely will have to flee the Federal capital if he expects to get any rest. Talked to and curiously questioned all day by private visitors, to an extent that would kill an ordinary man, he had to might to show himself and talk, responsive to a serenate given by Gapt. Scott's Band, of the Twenty-seventh New York Regiment, recruited in Rochester. Hon. Schuyler Colfax introduced him. Such a demonstration of tunnations and hearty cheering has rarely been heard in this city is greated his appearance on the balcony. After the cheering had subsided, he spoke as follows:

Fellow Cittersys: I have not the power of speech to assure you of the deep that Kulness I feel for the hearty reception tendered me on my return again to the capital of my country. [Cheers,] But day before resterday I stood u.on the deck or a Confederate boat, and, in the distance, looked upon a versuel bearing one of our own flags. I could not help but clap my hands, and thank God for a sight once more of the gl rious stars and stripes. [Prolonged cheers] Encryated by muskets stolen by rebels to destroy the best foot eriment God ever made, and afflicted by a severe hourseness, as you can readily sat. I tha Shill, and this decadent, thank you for this handsome compliment, and express my joy and graduled at having been permitted once again to return to my home, family, and the discharge of my public duties. Good night to all.

Mr. Ely retired antid tremendatus chasts.

General Leelic Coombs, of Kentucky, being recognized on the balcony, was loudly called for, and in response male one of his characturistic speeches—pithy, eloquent, and redolent with patriotic sentiment and merciless dennearions of irathors. After showing bow the disunionists of his State had been beaten in every appeal to the ballot-box, he prophesied a more overwhelming defoat in the appeal to arms. Denouncing in scathing terms ex-Senator Breckinridge, Humphroy Marshall, and the twhold damned roble crew, "Land phecing them in the same category with the trait

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL. THE MONEY MARKET.

PHILADELPHIA, December 28, 1861. The news of the settlement of the Trent difficulty by lowever distasteful to the mass of the people, had an inspiriting effect at the Stock Board, and a fair amount o securities changed hands at improving prices. Pennsylvania Railroad stock advanced to 36%—a gain of 1; City sixes advanced M. State fives M. Reading Bailroad shares some time neglected. Spruce and Pine-street Passenger Railroad shares sold at 8 %, Second and Third-street at 48, North Pennsylvania Ballroad at 5.

Dank Stocks have been for some time neglected, and the recent publication of a pamphlet bearing the imprint "Washington, Government Printing Office, 1861," and purporting to be an exposition of the plan of Secretary Chase for the national finances, has caused many holders of bank stocks to feel alarmed for such property in the future. This pamphlet came out with many marks about it likely to give the impression that Mr. Chase had caused its publication, or at ull events, that it was issued at his instance, or with his sanction. Its positions are in some respects so preposterous, that it gave great pain to many of the friends of the Secre-It is generally condemned by the best financiors, and is altegether unworthy either of the pen or the reputation of Governor Chase. An idea of the pamphlet may be had from the simple fact that the author proposes that all the banks in the loyal States shall invest their whole capital in Government demand notes.

As we are approaching New Year's day, when many

people of fixed incomes will be receiving their payments of interest and other dues, a good opportunity is afforded us of urging upon the attention of our readers the important duty of aiding the Government, to the extent of their means, by subscribing for the seven and three tenths per cent, loan. The Secretary of the Treasury in his recent report, alluding to the "prompt patriotist with which citizens of moderate means, and workingmen ings to the service of their country," says that it "should be the constant care of the National Legislature and of the National Government, in all its departments, that the generous confidence reposed by the poor, as well as by the rich, in the public faith, be never disapp There can be no doubt that the sentiment of the Secretary has touched a responsive chord in the hearts of every loyal man in the Government and in Congress, and that it will be their peculiar care that no loss either of interest or principal shall be suffered by the holders of this loan. The Trensury Department has the notes of the second fifty millions, dated October 1, 1861, ready for delivery in sums as required from fifty dollars to any multiple of that sum. They may be lobtained at the agency in the hands of Jay Cooke & Co. and defensive soldiery made more efficient, and the at the United States Mint, at Drexel & Co.'s, and at most police uniforms and weapons substituted for their of the banks and banking houses. Let every one who has a surplus beyond his needs, remember, when he thinks of investing it, that the Government needs all the money it can raise for securing its existence. There was never a truer saying than that of the venerable bank vernment." Let every one who has property contribute has hitherto protected him in its enjoyment, and of which alone he can safely depend for its enjoyment in the time to come. The coupon bonds due 1st proximo, of the registered mortgage bonds of the Elmira and Williamsport Bailroad Company, will be paid on and after the 2d proxime, at the office of the Pennsylvania Insurance Company, No

> To second the efforts of the New York Chamber of Commerce, to secure a line of Government steamships between California, Japan, and China, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has addressed a memorial to Congress on the subject. The annual freights paid in San Francisco, to inward-bound ships, amount to \$4,250,000. seventy-five medium clipper-loads per annum.

ports of foreign dry goods, at New York, for the week ending December 26, and since January 1; For the week. 1859. 1860. Entered at the port \$2,490,408 \$1,609,897 Thrown on market 2,364,323 575,000 Since Jan. 1. Ent'd at the port. . 110.215,400 100,075,087 Thrown on mark't 108,742,145 96,089,088 The details of the importation of dry-goods for the pas week, and for the corresponding week of 1860, are as fol-

ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION. cellaneous..... WITHDRAWN FROM WARRHOUSE ENTERED FOR WAREHOUSING Manufactures of silk...... Add entered for consumption

\$494,688

tocks in first hands, the amount withdrawn from warethan the imports for the week, and five per cent. more than that of last year, when the imports were more than three times the amount imported this year. The Pottsville Miners' Journal says of the coal trade:
The quantity sent by railroad this week, is 26,486 tons, showing an increase of 1,900 tons over last year's ship-

The Schuylkill Navigation is closed, and shipments by

Total entered at port \$1,609,897

This statement again shows a steady dec

The trade sums up this week and for the season, compared with last year, as follows: 1860. 1861. WEEK, TOTAL, WEEK, TOTAL, DEG.

 Wyoming Sth.

 Do.
 North

 Broad Top.
 2,586

 186,993
 5.758

 Shamokin
 4,089

 206,810
 5,253

 Treverton
 83,123

 Sh. Mt. H. T
 94,331

 V.-baha Val. (()
 71,251
 44,465 d38,658 82,404 d11,927 72,243 992 22,163 8,393,419 31,135 7,832,665 7,832,665 22,163 500:704 3.972 The New York Herald of Sunday morning says of thestock market there on Saturday :

There is no change in money, which is tolorably abundant at seven per capt. Foreign exchange closed with less strength than was shown by the market last evening. Bankers were willing to sell at 110%, for sterling.

Slocks improved to-day on the announcement of the Tho bears were free

ENTRENCHMENTS ON TYBEE ISLAND.

New York, Dec. 29.—The steamer Empire
City has arrived. She left Beaufort on the 24th
and Port Royal by the southeast channel, which has
been buoyed out, and has not less than thirty feet
of water in it.

The Seventy-ninth New York regiment had made
a reconnoissance fifteen miles from Beaufort, capturing six rebels.

Our troops are still building entronchments on
Tybee Island, while Fort Pulsaki kept a continual
fire on them without damage.

A rebel boat came down the Warsaw channel, on
the 23d, from Savannah, reconnoitring to see if the
sway was clear for the English steamer Fingal to
get out with her carge of cotton. The boat was
shore. All her crew escaped to the woods except
two, who were put abonat the Wabash.

The City Treasurership on Wednesday next.

English Maine; Captile the submitmed and the contempated and
politic in the giving of them up. The manner of
the treasurership on the woods, when the former was run
shore. All her crew escaped to the woods except
two, who were put abonat the Wabash.

The City Treasurership on Wednesday next.

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1834 (1934); United States of,
1835 (1934); United S

City Trensursrship on Wednesday next.

Defence of The City.—The Committee of Councils on the Defence and Protection of the City expanded the sum of \$4,419 during the past week, in furthering the object for which they were appointed.

The business of the Sub-Freesatty was as industrictly as the council of the Sub-Freesatty was as industrictly as the sub-Freesatty