The Press.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1862.

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

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

The only information yet received from the Burnside expedition has reached us through rebel sources. It is reported that a large number of the vessels comprising it are inside of Pamlico Sound, and that attacks upon Newbern, N. C., and Roanoke Island, are expected. The object of the capture of Newbern is supposed to be to establish a basis of operations against the railroad communications of Virginia with the Southeastern States; and the object of a movement against Roanoke Island is said to be to threaten Norfolk and to flank the rebel army stationed there.

If General Burnside can succeed in gaining possession of these roads, and our armies in Kentucky are enabled to destroy the railroad communications of Virginia with the Southwest, *via* Tennessee, the rebel army on the Potomac will be in a terrible dilemma. It will either be compelled to disband, to retreat, or to attack, at a disadvantage, the Union forces under General McClellan.

The objects of the new expedition of General Grant in advancing from Cairo are said to have been fully accomplished. It prevented the rebels from sending reinforcements to Bowling Green, and gained valuable information in regard to the geography of the country in the vicinity of Columbus, and the condition of the roads and streams.

The news of the surrender of Mason and Slidell caused great joy in England. Consols immediately advanced from 1 to 1½ per cent. The intelligence forwarded by the last steamer, that the pirate *Sumpter* had arrived at Cadiz, has been confirmed. She landed at that port forty-two prisoners who were taken from the American vessels *Vigilant*, *Eben Dodge*, and *Arcadia*.

Fifteen hundred and twenty-five more bales of ginned cotton arrived at New York yesterday from Port Royal. It must be peculiarly gratifying to the rebels of South Carolina to see supplies of their boasted product furnished to the North and their power to send it to foreign countries destroyed.

The United States Senate yesterday confirmed the appointment of Brigadier Generals Schœpff and Ord—a deserved compliment to two of the most successful and meritorious officers of the service. The former repulsed the rebels in their late attack upon Somerset, Ky., and the latter commanded the gallant Pennsylvania Brigade which won the battle of Dranesville. At that battle Gen. Ord sighted the gun which did such fearful execution in the ranks of the rebels, and so disposed his command, that, although the enemy occupied a most advantageous position, a glorious Union victory was achieved upon a field where Gen. Stuart, with his picked troops, supposed he was certain to secure a second Big Bethel or Vienna Secession triumph.

The French residents of New Orleans, in deciding to leave that city, were influenced by the assurance of the French minister at Washington, Monsieur Mercier, that France would not break our blockade to obtain cotton.

The New York *Express*, in commenting upon the action of the existing authorities at Vera Cruz in relation to a rebel schooner which recently ran our blockade on the coast of Texas with a cargo of cotton, says: "There have been rumors all along that the objects of the coalition against Mexico was to open up trade with the rebel States, through the Mexican port of Matamoros. It was a good place through which cotton might be smuggled. Unless we keep a powerful naval force at the mouth of the Rio Grande, nothing can prevent the carrying on of a brisk trade between the rebels and their 'foreign relations,' which will enable Jeff Davis to replenish his exchequer at home, and enable him to present another argument in London and Paris, to show the 'inefficiency of the blockade.'"

A late letter from Havana says:

"We came very near having a second edition of the Mason and Slidell affair on the occasion of the last departure of the *Karnak* from this port. She had on board several Southerners, among others the captain of the *Ella Warley*, formerly the *Isabel*, then at Nassau, and the former captain of the *Webster*, who succeeded in getting out of Havana some months ago, under peculiar circumstances. It was decided to seize those persons, and arrangements were made accordingly to board the *Karnak* at sea; but the arrival of the *City of Baltimore*, with news of the intense excitement in England, spoiled the game, which was abandoned rather than add more fuel to the fire."

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Express*, in a letter dated January 22, says: "Your readers may set their minds at rest about any advance movement of the army of the Potomac. Officers and their regiments and divisions may receive orders to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice. General McClellan's twenty-four baggage wagons, including arrangements for eating and sleeping, with well-matched bright bays, may be in good running trim, but *an advance movement of the army of the Potomac at present, and for ninety days to come, is out of the question.* The winter of this region has just commenced, and the roads are frightful. A piece of hard ground upon which to manœuvre an army of 25,000 men can scarcely be found between this and Richmond. This state of affairs, it is feared, may prevail at the West, where the grand army has so auspiciously commenced active operations."

The Richmond *Examiner* attacks a faction in Virginia, which it accuses of a design to secure the election of Hon. R. M. T. Hunter as President of the Southern Confederacy.

A Louisville letter in the Toledo *Blade*, written under date of January 16, gives these particulars of Gen. Buell's movements:

"The bridge across Green river being finished, the increased energy and busy aspect of every department, together with movements that are fast developing themselves, indicate a forward movement very soon. You need not be surprised any day to hear that Gen. Buell has taken the field in person; when he does, if he and Gen. Halleck act in concert, the rebels will have a 'mortality list' along their whole line, from the Mississippi eastward. The next month promises warm work in this State.

"A few nights since there were indications of an attack by the rebels upon our advance at Green River. Everything was in readiness for them. General Buell went down on an extra train, and regiments were moved up to the front lively. It proved a false alarm, but it showed the readiness and eagerness of our forces for a fight.

An interesting letter from a correspondent on the flag-ship *Niagara*, which forms part of the Gulf Squadron, states that the late bombardment of Pensacola resulted in rendering the navy yard useless to the rebels; in destroying Warrington; and in dismantling Fort McRae. He also asserts, on the authority of the captain of a prize schooner, and of three contrabands, who escaped to the *Niagara*, that *negroes, free and slave, are being armed in the Cotton States to resist the Union forces.*

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times*, in describing the late battle at Somerset, says the rebel forces numbered 8,000 and the Union troops only about 3,000 men. This disparity of force is probably one of the main reasons for the attack which resulted so disastrously for the enemy.

The election in the Bucktail Regiment for a colonel, to take the place of Hon. Chas. J. Biddle, has resulted in the choice of Capt. McNeil.

The Trent Affair.

By the steamship *City of New York*, which left Queenstown on the 9th inst., we learn that news of the surrender of Mason and Slidell reached London on the preceding day, and so immediately re-established confidence, that Consols at once advanced from one to one and a quarter per cent. In England, therefore, "the long agony is over." The joint preparations for the worst, made by Lords Palmerston and Russell, on their own responsibility, without consulting the pleasure of Parliament, have been thrown away. It is estimated that as much expense as $5,000,000 was thus most needlessly incurred—by no means a desirable outlay, at a moment when the Financial Minister will have to announce to Parliament a deficit of nearly $20,000,000 on the year's revenue. In all probability, there will be a change of Ministry in England before the end of March—if not earlier. The adjustment of the *Trent* difficulty will clear the way for the displacement of Palmerston and Russell.

Robert Burns' Birthday.—The 103d anniversary will be celebrated by a supper at the St. Louis Hotel, Chestnut street, on Saturday evening, and the arrangement is that it shall close at 11. To suit the times, the price has been put at $1.25. Daniel McIntyre, Esq., will officiate as President, and Messrs. William J. Young and William Findlay will be the Vice Presidents. A very pleasant and rationally social evening is anticipated.

We regret our inability to print the elaborate speech of Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, delivered in the House last week. From many of Mr. Bingham's views we are inclined to dissent—simply because he does not present them in a sufficiently practical manner. Our present system of politics abounds in theories, and we accordingly have a vast amount of excellent logic and brilliant rhetoric, very pleasant to read for its ingenuity, if for nothing else. The trouble is, however, that they do not go beyond logic and rhetoric. In one of Mr. Thackeray's characteristic chapters, he makes an exhaustive argument to prove that no profession in the world requires more ability, education, and knowledge of the world than that of an auctioneer, while Whateley's argument against the existence of Napoleon is complete in all of its logical parts. We are often reminded of the pleasantry of the satirist, and the skill of the logician, when reading some of our Congressional essays upon this war; and without wishing to apply the parallel to Mr. Bingham, there are some parts of his speech equally as plausible, and yet equally as impracticable. When the Representative says "pass your laws liberating the 4,000,000 slaves held by the rebels, and thereby break every unjust yoke in that rebel region, and let the oppressed go free," he forgets that for all practical purposes we might as well pass a law annulling the right of property in England, or arrange an internal tariff for France. We have to obtain possession of that rebel region before we can legislate for it. The President issued a proclamation commanding certain unlawful combinations of armed men in the Southern States to lay down their arms and return to their homes, and yet the unlawful combinations still exist. Congress passed a law apportioning a quota of direct taxes among the same States, and yet their first dollar remains to be paid. Mr. Bingham shadows forth a result, and in very eloquent terms, but does not show us the first step towards accomplishing it. He says "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof," and yet he says nothing about Beauregard, and Johnston, and Price, who all seem to be in the way, and, for all practical purposes, his suggestions end in beautiful sentences and rounded periods.

It was with no desire of writing this criticism that we took up the speech of the Representative from Ohio. It is so full of good things that we regret he should have passed to the consideration of a question so perplexed and premature. The main body of the speech is devoted to an argument upon the law of necessity in connection with government, and the propriety of taxation for the prosecution of the war. If any doubt existed as to the powers and duties of Congress in relation to taxation, it must be removed by the perusal of Mr. Bingham's argument. The constitutional precedents are quoted and the commentaries of the leading jurists are cited in illustration of the spirit of our constitutional enactments, while the whole position he bases upon this high ground: "Whatever legislation, then, is necessary for the common defence, and to suppress insurrection and to secure the faithful execution of the laws, and is not inconsistent with the humane spirit and declared object of the Constitution, it is the right and duty of Congress to enact that the Government may live, and that the supremacy of the Constitution may be maintained in accordance with the law of the land." He advances the sound doctrine that the rebellion be made to pay for itself. We should like this doctrine embodied in some simple law of Congress. We want a confiscation law that will reach the $800,000,000 of corn, cotton, rice, sugar, and tobacco, in the hands of the rebels, that will authorize us to convert to the public use all the real and personal property of the enemy; a law that will open up the fertile lands of the rebels to the occupation and cultivation of loyal men. And for all these suggestions we thank Mr. Bingham, and trust they will be heeded.

This work must be accomplished as our armies advance. The hardships and cruelty surrounding a universal confiscation law must be avoided by curbing the power of military commanders with just and prudent legislation. These rebels have brought upon us war and disaster, and an enormous debt, and we must convert their means of life and prosperity into a recompense for our expended treasure. The countries along the Potomac, in many parts of Virginia, in Kentucky, Missouri, and South Carolina—territory, which in peaceful times was unprofitable and neglected, and has since undergone the devastation of war—should be resettled and recultivated, and inducements for its settlement and cultivation should be made by Congress. Turn the army of the Potomac into farmers and residents after the war is over; give them the broad valley beneath the Blue Ridge, and the banks of the Rappahannock and the country towards Harper's Ferry; enable them to bring their families there, and Eastern Virginia, in ten years, would be as free, as great, and as prosperous as Pennsylvania and Ohio. Washington would be a metropolis in fact, as it is in name, and the Potomac something more than a pleasant stream for excursion parties, or a way for the oyster trade of the Chesapeake. The army of conquest must be an army of occupation; the swords must be ploughshares, and the spears pruning-hooks. Place the conquered country in the hands of these Northerners, protect the suffering Union men, compel the traitors to pay the penalty of their treason and return to their allegiance, and the other questions arising out of the rebellion will be speedily settled. Leave slavery to its destiny, and emancipation to time.

Emancipation now means separation in the future. Accept the argument of those who insist upon unconditional emancipation being made a part of our military policy, and the logical consequences of their argument will be a plea for separation; for a dissolution of the Union; a recognition of the Southern Confederacy. By emancipation we mean a general edict proclaiming the slaves of the whole Southern people to be free. We must either do this or nothing. Mr. Bingham phrases it "a legislative act, forfeiting all property and liberating all slaves of these rebels, their aiders and abettors;" but how are we to distinguish between the loyal men and the disloyal men in the seceded States? No one will deny that in all of the Southern States there is a large Union minority; in many parts a Union majority. An edict of emancipation would injure them as well as their disloyal neighbors. It would fall upon the Border States, where our armies are; upon Eastern Tennessee, where our friends are longing for Buell; upon Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and Missouri—it would not affect the interior Southern countries. Under existing circumstances, the passage of such a law would injure our friends and do comparatively no harm to our enemies. Mr. Bingham's own suggestion shows how theoretical his remedy is. In ten days, the "joyful news of emancipation," he says, "will reach every slave in the republic, by means of that human telegraph whose living network overlies every slave plantation, and is woven of the lacerated heart-strings of the victims of this infernal atrocity." It would be difficult to construct a prettier sentence than this, but Mr. Bingham does not surely intend that his laws shall obtain publicity and force by means of such an uncertain and fanciful agency as a "human telegraph."

Indeed, the whole theory of emancipation, as it presents itself now, is uncertain and fanciful. It is not so much the idea we oppose as the impossibility of giving that idea substance—the impossibility of doing anything but injury to our friends in the Border States. Slavery is the cause of the rebellion? Granted. If we would crush the rebellion we must abolish slavery? Very good. But how is it to be done? Take the plan suggested by General Fremont in his modified proclamation, make it legal by a vote of Congress, and we shall be satisfied. General Fremont emancipated the slaves of rebels when he obtained possession of them, and we would be willing to emancipate the slaves of every rebel in the land if they were within our jurisdiction. Take any other fair and impartial plan "not inconsistent with the humane spirit" (we are requoting Mr. Bingham,) "and declared object of the Constitution," and we shall support it. We want to see this Union restored; if the abolition of slavery is necessary to its restoration, we are for the abolition of slavery. We are laboring in the same cause with Mr. Bingham. He professes to see our triumph in the passage of an emancipation act; we can only see in such an act injury to our friends in the Border States, the alienation from our standard of a vast number of Union men, and, as we have said before, the ultimate separation of this Union into two Confederacies. We know that the Representative from Ohio is anxious to avoid any such results; but he will permit us to say that, in our opinion, the practical effect of his doctrines would be to hasten them.

We cannot pass from Mr. Bingham without thanking him for the pleasure we have received in reading his speech. He is a candid and courageous man—and in dealing with the financial duty of Congress, he exhibits a wonderful clearness and sagacity. For the thoughts we have written we are also indebted to the speech of the Representative. We think he will see, however, that in the prosecution of the war, we must leave many of the impracticable theories and opinions crowding upon us; that an issue like this of emancipation can only distract the Northern people, and bring division into our counsels. Let us push on the war—let us conquer victory. Slavery and Treason will meet their destiny in their own good time.

Taxation and Revenue.

Were even such a small stamp-duty as one cent levied upon each copy of a newspaper, it would greatly augment the price, and thereby diminish the sale. For example, The Press is a two-cent paper, supplied at $6 a year. There are 312 publication days in the twelvemonth. Here, then, would be an addition of $3.12 to the price of the paper—raising the $6 to $9.12. The public would fret and complain under such a pocket-picking impost as this. Not so, however, thinks one of the New York papers, which goes to the length of saying "The press will make no outcry, because the impost will not affect their circulation in the least, every man who reads in America being perfectly willing to pay one cent more for a daily gratification that has proven more necessary to him than many petty, and not always harmless indulgences, on which the poorest man lavishes dozens." To increase the price of a newspaper from two cents to three would very materially affect its circulation. Again, if a tax were levied upon advertisements, the public would have to pay it, for it would be added on to the price of advertising.

The absurdity of our imposing taxes on Knowledge upon the press, after England was compelled to relinquish them, need not be pointed out.

An uniform stamp-duty on all receipts and bank-checks would be productive. In England, a stamp-receipt must be given for all sums over forty shillings ($8,) and this stamp costs two cents. It is the same for checks, drafts, or orders on demand. Agreements, letters or power of attorney, bills of exchange or promissory notes, protests, bonds and mortgages, bills of lading, apprentices' indentures, legacies, male servants, dogs, horses for private use, carriages (except omnibuses and cabs,) and quack medicines, are all taxed in England, and might be made productive here, now that public purposes require a large public revenue. Would it not be well to try these, or some of them, before imposing Taxes on Knowledge?

Mexico.

The combined European force—Spanish, French, and English—is in occupation of Vera Cruz, but are singularly situated. They receive scarcely any food or forage from the interior, and are particularly in want of vegetables. The Mexicans, for once perceiving the advantages of union, have allowed their political quarrels to subside, and are heartily acting together for their country. They actually are besieging Vera Cruz, landward, and their attack on it is anticipated by the allied invaders. This condition of affairs is considered as unsatisfactory as unexpected.

Portrait of Colonel Cameron.

We were yesterday shown at the studio of Mr. A. B. Rockey, a spirited and life-like portrait in oil, of the late Colonel Cameron, who fell while gallantly leading his Highland Regiment (the New York Seventy-ninth), at the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The Colonel is mounted on a bright bay steed, sinewy, fleet, and spirited; the latter having been drawn by Mr. Rockey from life. It appears that Colonel Cameron, on the eve of making his fatal dash, dismounted, leaving his horse in charge of a groom, by whom the animal was subsequently brought to Washington, and afterwards taken to Lewisburg, this State, where he is now, in possession of Mr. Wm. Cameron, to whose order, we may state, the picture here referred to has been executed. The painting is supposed to represent Colonel Cameron at the head of his regiment, waving his sword and giving the word "*forward*" to his men, prior to dismounting and leading them into the thickest of the fight. The tall and graceful figure of the dead hero is presented in the picture with admirable effect. The likeness, by those who were intimate with the original, is said to be striking. The picture will no doubt be viewed with pleasure, not only by the family and personal friends of Colonel Cameron, but by the public in general. We understand that it will be at Messrs. Earle & Son's, Chestnut street, in a few days, where our citizens will have an opportunity of examining it for themselves.

Mr. Cleveland's Readings.

This evening, at the Assembly Building, Tenth and Chestnut streets, Mr. Samuel M. Cleveland will continue his readings of, and analytical lectures upon, Shakspeare's plays, "Romeo and Juliet" being the theme for the evening. As we have already remarked, these readings are designed to *develop* rather than to gratify a public taste already popularly formed. Mr. Cleveland brings to the performance of his difficult task a high order of talent, a degree of culture attained by comparatively few, and has evidently entered his chosen field *con amore*. The entertainments hitherto given by him, although not very largely, have been fairly attended, and those who have heard him once, have, in the main, been sufficiently pleased to go again. It is not to be disguised, of course, that a refined intellectual taste is requisite for their full appreciation. However persons may differ in opinion as to the *lectures* of Mr. C., his merits as a fine dramatic reader cannot be questioned. If he will take our advice, therefore, by reading more and commenting less, his efforts will be much more likely to meet the success they deserve. His theme for this evening will afford an admirable field for a popular hit, and we have no doubt he will have a large audience.

Public Amusements.

Arch-street Theatre.—"Handy Andy," which is good for a fortnight's further representation, has been withdrawn for the present, and to-night Mr. Drew appears, with the full stock company, in the famous Irish drama of "St. Patrick's Eve." He will likewise represent *Larry O'Hooligan* in "More Blunders than One." "St. Patrick's Eve" will be remembered as one of the best pieces of the late gifted Tyrone Power, who wrote the drama, and enacted *Major O'Dogherty*, a part which Mr. Drew is said to play with equal felicity and faithfulness.

Walnut-street Theatre.—Mr. and Mrs. Williams appear to-night in three pieces, the first of which in point of time is the "Lakes of Killarney." Mrs. Williams is deservedly popular in this drama. She combines fine personal attraction and great suppleness of carriage in a spirited Irish dance. Mrs. Williams has one of the finest wardrobes in this country, and dresses with much taste—an unusual thing, now-a-days, in stage matters. Mr. Williams—indefatigable as ever—plays three parts.

The Continental Theatre is about to do well with a version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," one of the most successful novels and plays that we have had in America. The cast appears to be creditable, and we are promised novel scenery and stage effects.

The Old Folks give their concert to-night in Musical Fund Hall.

Downing's Statistical Pocket Companion.—A pocket-book thus named has just been published in this city, containing home and foreign statistics, latest American and British tariffs, census returns, chronology, &c.—quite a *multum in parvo*, carefully put together. We suggest, for future editions, a few blank pages at the end for memoranda.

Horace Binney.—The pamphlet on the right to suspend the Habeas Corpus under circumstances of rebellion, originally printed for private circulation, is now on sale, by permission of Mr. Binney, its patriotic author, by C. Sherman & Son, southwest corner Seventh and Cherry.

☞ An article on the subject of "Iron Plates for War Vessels" will be found on the outside of to-day's paper, to which we invite attention.

The extreme high price of salt makes the present a favorable time for engaging in the manufacture of this article, and the improvement of the numerous saline springs which are known to exist in Western Kansas and Nebraska. We learn that a gentleman residing in Jefferson county recently made a trip to Salt creek, in Nebraska Territory, about 150 miles from here, where in eight days, he manufactured eight barrels of pure salt, worth from seventy-five to one hundred dollars. If a single individual, without any of the usual appliances for the manufacture, could do this, how much better might a company do, properly organized and equipped for the business? Salt is now selling here at six cents per pound, and will probably not be much, if any, lower during the continuance of the war. At that high price, an interest in a good salt spring becomes at once a handsome investment, if not a fortune. Besides those on Salt creek, there are five springs along the Saline Fork of Kansas river, not more than one hundred and fifty miles from this place.—*Nebraska City News, Jan. 11.*

Thomas A. Harris, one of the members elected by the bogus Legislature of Missouri to the rebel Congress, which is to meet on the 18th of February at Richmond, has been taken prisoner.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

Washington, January 23, 1862.

The question of slavery, like Banquo's ghost, will not down. It hangs like a black shadow over every path which leads into our future. Even the most conservative men are beginning to admit that it must be discussed, and, in one way or another, disposed of. Into this war it has entered, and the issues arising out of this war are either identified with it in theory, or modified by it in practice. As slavery was the undoubted cause of the rebellion, and Northern feeling against it as a dominant, social, and political system the pretext for secession, so in the management of the war, North and South, in shaping the policy to govern our military operations, in legislation and discussion, we find slavery an agitating, imperative, and unavoidable subject. In the hour of their distress, the Southern people are beginning to use slavery against the republic. It is known beyond all doubt, that the Southern men are now arming their slaves. We have intelligence from every part of the South confirming this statement. The negroes are either persuaded, frightened, or whipped into regiments. At a recent review in New Orleans, there were two thousand negro slaves in line, and all through Virginia the slaves are being mustered into the service and drilled into soldiers. The rebels are afraid of their bondsmen, but, so desperate is their condition, that their very fear is an instrument of rebellion. "They were not united in a body," says the intelligent correspondent from Florida, who tells of the armed slaves in New Orleans, "but were distributed in companies among the different regiments, to prevent mutiny and revolt."

We cannot ignore facts that force themselves upon our attention, and it would be madness, for the sake of respecting the sensibilities of the traitors, to deny that necessity may compel us to adopt the very course against which old theories and prejudices have been arrayed. How easy for the Southern despots to say to their chattels: "Assist us to defeat the Yankees, and we will make you free. Give us your services, and we will give you our lands. The commanders of the Federal forces refuse to receive you in their camps, and return you to your masters to be scourged for your desertion." Startling as this policy may seem, it is undoubtedly seriously entertained in the seceded States. Mr. Conway, a native of Virginia himself, in his recent lecture at the Smithsonian, very forcibly put this point when he said that the Southern people could manumit and arm a million of slaves, and yet not interfere with slavery. In the future they would but strengthen that institution, for the women and their posterity would be bondsmen still. I mention these circumstances for the double purpose of laying them before our statesmen and of disabusing the Northern mind. A mass of ignorant prejudice has been allowed to accumulate in the free States on this subject. It has been stimulated by politicians and by newspapers until, at last, the bare idea of denouncing slavery became a capital offence. But we are being educated by events. That portion of the North which has regarded slavery with favor, and tolerated it as essential to Southern prosperity and to universal commerce, is undoubtedly undergoing the process of a rapid change. Do not understand me as advocating emancipation. That remedy is so surrounded with complications, that no satisfactory defence of it has yet been furnished. But in a state of war we must avail ourselves of every means against the common enemy, and especially against such an enemy as Secession. The purpose of this war, says Secretary Stanton in his splendid order of yesterday, "*is to attack, pursue and destroy a rebellious enemy, and to deliver the country from the danger menaced by traitors.*" These are brave words, and coming from a Democrat, they should sink into every Democratic heart. This order should be felt and acted upon by every military leader. In many cases it may be his duty to protect the loyal slaveholder in his person and his property. In others it may be impolitic to make war upon the slaves even of the traitors. But, wherever these slaves can be used for military purposes, to protect the whites from surprise and massacre, to construct fortifications, to bring in or take out information, he would be most inexcusable who refused to employ such agencies. I do not know a loyal Southerner in Congress who does not say, if the choice is presented between the overthrow of the Republic and the destruction of slavery, slavery should go to the wall. In my opinion, one of these two alternatives will soon be pressed upon us, and it behooves the teachers of public opinion to prepare the people for that hour.

Occasional.

General Thomas—The Victory in Kentucky.

General Thomas, who contributed so much to the great victory in Kentucky, when the rebels under the late Zollicoffer suffered so much, is an officer highly esteemed, and with military antecedents of the first character. He served, in the early part of the war, under General Robert Patterson, who greatly esteemed him, as an officer and a gentleman, and took the opportunity, on one remarkable occasion, to do him full justice. In General Patterson's report of one of the most brilliant achievements of the early part of the war, he acknowledged the assistance received, in that conflict, from General (then Colonel) Thomas. Strangely enough, this report has never yet been published. We have pleasure in now placing it before our readers:

Headquarters, Dep't. of Penna.,
Martinsburg, Va., July 6, 1861.

Sir: I telegraphed my intention to cross the Potomac on the 1st instant. I now have the honor to report my movements since that date. I left Hagerstown on the afternoon of the 30th ultimo, the earliest date my command could take the field in a proper condition for active service, intending the following morning to enter Virginia with two columns (at Dam No. 4, and at Williamsport,) to be united the same day at Hainesville, the location of the rebels. Owing to the danger and difficulty attending the fording at Dam No. 4, I placed all the force at Williamsport. My order of march for the 2d instant is given in the accompanying circular. The advance crossed the Potomac at 4 A. M., all taking the main road to Martinsburg, with the exception of Negley's brigade, which, about one mile from the ford, diverged to the right to meet the enemy, should he come from Hedgesville, to guard our right, and to rejoin at Hainesville. About five miles from the ford, the skirmishers in front and on the flank, suddenly became engaged with the enemy posted in a clump of trees; at the same time their main force appeared in front, sheltered by fences, timber, and houses. Abercrombie immediately deployed his regiments (the First Wisconsin and Eleventh Pennsylvania) on each side of the road, placed Hudson's section, supported by the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry in the road, and advanced to the attack against a warm fire before him. The enemy, being supported by artillery, resisted for twenty-five minutes with much determination. Lieutenant Hudson, after getting into position, soon silenced their guns. In the meantime, Thomas' brigade rapidly advanced and deployed to the left flank of the enemy. The enemy, seeing this movement, and being pressed by Abercrombie, retired, hotly pursued for four miles by artillery and infantry. The cavalry could not be employed on account of numerous fences and walls crossing the country. In the enemy's camp were found camp equipage, provisions, grains, &c. This brush was highly creditable to our arms, winning, as we did, the day against a foe superior in number to those engaged on our side. They were well posted, sheltered by timber, and sustained by artillery and cavalry. Our men advanced over open ground against a warm fire of artillery and infantry. I present the reports of the Colonels Abercrombie and Thomas, and Lieuts. Perkins and Hudson, and take much pleasure in bearing testimony, as an eye-witness, to the admirable manner in which their commands were handled, and their commendations earned. I also bear testimony to the efficient service in posting portions of the troops, and conducting them to the front, and into action, rendered by the members of my staff present and on the field of battle; Col. Porter, Capt. John Newton, and Lieut Babcock, and Majors Price and Biddle, who were employed conveying orders; also, Surgeon Tripler, in attention to the wounded.

The loss of the enemy was over sixty in killed. The number wounded cannot be ascertained, as a large number were carried off the field.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. Patterson,
Major General Commanding.

Colonel E. D. Townsend, A. A. G. U. S. A., Washington City:

Mr. Sidney Wright, of Durham, Mass., is blessed with a healthy lineage. He has a grandfather and grandmother, a father and mother living, and his only son has not only two grandfathers and two grandmothers, but also two great-grandfathers, and two great-grandmothers, living. At the date of his birth he had a great-grandfather and a great-grandmother, since deceased, so that the boy has had since his advent, three great-grandmothers, and two grandfathers and three great-grandmothers, and two grandfathers and two grandmothers—all of whom are now living, except one great-grandfather and great-grandmother, who died last year.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF WAR.

THE ELECTION IN THE BUCKTAIL RIFLES.

Capt. McNeill Chosen Colonel.

GENERALS ORD AND SCHOEPFF CONFIRMED AS BRIGADIER GENERALS.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

Washington, January 23, 1862.

The Black Hole of Calcutta.

Dr. J. H. Seltzer, surgeon of the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania Regiment, gives a most deplorable account of the doings in the slave pen at Alexandria, which is now used as a guard house for our soldiers. The walls of the "pen" are high, and there is no roof to shelter the unfortunate soldiers who are placed in it, from the weather. The mud and filth is ancle deep, and there are often between two and three hundred soldiers confined in the place at the same time.

During the bad weather they must necessarily contract colds, which lead to worse diseases, particularly during the bad weather which has prevailed for some days past. In addition to this, the prisoners are often without food for twenty-four hours or more at a time. The most of the soldiers who are confined in this hole are arrested for drunkenness, which makes them quarrelsome. They engage in fights between themselves, which often end in serious results. A few days ago one of the men had his thigh broken, and another his back broken, in one of the disgraceful fights which almost daily occur in this slave pen.

Some of the drunken men who are put into this place, when they come to their senses, almost beg to be shot if they cannot be released. There are plenty of houses evacuated and belonging to Secessionists, which could be used as guard-houses, and the men at least protected from the inclemency of the weather. It was a miserable hole, not fit for the slaves to be staled in before the rebellion broke out, and is certainly now not a fit place for the meanest soldier in the army to be confined in. General McClellan should send one of his staff to Alexandria to inquire into the matter.

A Visit to the Alexandria Hospitals—Objections to Female Nurses.

The chief point of interest at Alexandria are the military hospitals. Of these there are three in active operation, the Mansion House, Fairfax-street, and Washington-street Hospitals. There are now about seven hundred patients in the above-mentioned buildings, besides which two more have been recently opened at Wolfe and Pitt streets, and are almost ready for the reception of patients. These latter buildings have been put under the charge of Dr. Sheldon, the former surgeon in all the hospitals; recently, however, relieved by Dr. J. B. Porter, an old surgeon of the army. In the management of these hospitals there is much to praise and much to condemn. The professional department proper—that within the exclusive control of the physicians attending upon the sick soldiers—is most admirably administered. These surgeons are accomplished and able men, and it would be invidious to make a distinction. Most of them are from Philadelphia.

The patients are carefully and promptly attended, all the time of the medical officers being solely devoted to their welfare. Considering the large number received, and the gravity of the diseases in most cases, the mortality has been remarkably light. In the Mansion House there are beds for five hundred and sixteen. The ward-rooms are clean and comfortable; they are well warmed and ventilated, and the diet for the sick is wholesome, generally well cooked, and such as is best suited to the sick and convalescent. There are some exceptions, in cases where reprisals are made by the attendants upon the rations of the sick soldier. These complaints, some of the soldiers say, they have traced to about a dozen women nurses who have been quartered upon the hospital. These female nurses, sent to attend upon strange men, in every stage of almost every variety of disease, are seemingly out of place in a military hospital. The soldiers do not seem to desire their presence—they irritate and annoy them, and from what we could gather, the medical officers prefer, in every case, that the nurses and attendants should be men.

The matron of the establishment, the soldiers appear to think, is too strong an advocate of woman's rights, and has encroached, by degrees, upon the authority of the officers, until she is the general commander almost, in fact, the surgeon, they complain, strange as it may seem, is of the women. Their employment in such an institution is manifestly a mistake. The soldiers very ill-naturedly say that the lady nurses have their table supplied better than any hotel in Washington, and that it is often made up of delicacies ordered and sent to the kitchen for the sick soldiers. From what we could learn, the lady nurses have no duties to perform which could not be done more satisfactorily to the sick soldiers by the hands of men. As permanent nurses, females are out of their sphere in military hospitals.

The Fairfax-street Hospital contains one hundred and ten beds, and is under the professional care of Dr. Robertson, of Cumberland, Maryland. The doctor manages it alone; he prescribes for all the cases; is the superintendent of every specific department; performs the duty of steward, apothecary, and clerk; and the completeness of everything therewith connected is a strong argument in favor of the position that women officers are useless in a military hospital. The little hospital is a model in its way, and to Dr. Robertson too much credit cannot be given, for his ability, efficiency, and industry.

The Washington-street Hospital is under the care of two brothers Drs. Thompson, of Pennsylvania, and is a well-conducted institution. It will compare favorably with most others of the kind. Here it is that many of the surgical cases are treated.

The whole number of buildings are classified as the General Hospital, and there are fourteen surgeons employed to attend them. Dr. J. B. Porter is surgeon in charge, and is quartered at the Mansion House. His staff consists of the following gentlemen from Philadelphia: Dr. Robert K. Smith, Dr. Thomas B. Gibbons, Dr. J. Bernard Brinton, and Dr. Mitchell H. Picot. Dr. Rankin, also a Pennsylvanian, is attached to the Mansion House, and Dr. Thomas R. Dunglison, of Philadelphia, with Dr. Edo W. Beeneman, of Lancaster county, Pa., are at the Wolfe-street Hospital, with Dr. H. Laurence Sheldon, U. S. Army.

The Confirmation of General Ord and General Schoepff.

The Senate, in executive session to-day, confirmed the nomination of General Ord, as Brigadier General, for his meritorious services in the field. As some seventy Brigadier Generals are yet awaiting confirmation, this prompt action is considered a great honor. General Schoepff, now in service in Kentucky, was confirmed at the same time, upon the same ground. It is hoped that these signal distinctions will stimulate other officers to similar activity and energy.

Lieutenant James A. Snyder, Company K, Third Infantry Regulars, has been appointed captain, to act as aid-de-camp to Brigadier General Sykes, who is to take command of all the regular infantry now in the service.

The Election in the Bucktails.

The election in the Bucktail Regiment for a colonel, in place of Colonel Charles J. Biddle, resigned, took place on Wednesday. By a provision of the law creating the Reserve Corps, the election of all field officers is conducted by the privates, and this law held good in the case of the Bucktail Regiment. When Colonel Biddle resigned, his friends, and the influence they possessed, were opposed to Lieutenant Colonel Kane, who naturally sought advancement to the position of colonel. He was at first opposed by Colonel Charles Campbell, of the artillery regiment, now disbanded, but Colonel Campbell withdrew and Captain Hugh W. McNeill, from Warren county, commanding Company D, was placed in nomination against him. There was a great deal of excitement among the men during the election, and it resembled very much a political assembly in a ward or district. A very full vote was cast, the majority against Colonel Kane being 223.

The companies voted as follows: Company A, Captain Holland, from Tioga, for McNeill; Company B Captain Wister, from Perry county, for McNeill; Company C, Captain Gifford, from Cameron county, for Kane; Company D, Captain McNeill, for McNeill; Company E, Captain Niles, from Tioga county, officers for Kane, men for McNeill; Company F, Captain Magee, from Schuylkill county, for McNeill; Company G, Captain McDonald, from Elk and Tioga, Elk men for Kane, Tioga men for McNeill; Company H, Capt. Taylor, from Chester county, divided between Kane and McNeill; Company I, Capt. Blanchard, from McKean county, for Kane; Company K, Capt. Irwin, from Clearfield county, for McNeill.

Colonel McNeill is from Warren county, and has been a very efficient officer of the line. He is about thirty-five years of age, and is said to be a good disciplinarian. Lieut. Col. Kane will retain his present position. Those who voted for Col. Kane are among those belonging to the old Bucktail organization. Col. McNeill will assume command when his commission arrives.

Peter Funks in Camp.

After the payment of a few of the companies of the Tenth New York Legion, Colonel Van Wyck, discovering that some camp-sharks were selling composition and galvanized watches, had them arrested, and compelled the sellers to take back their watches and refund about five hundred dollars to the men.

A New Tax Bill.

A new tax bill is in the hands of a sub-committee of the Committee of Ways and Means. Several weeks will probably elapse before the bill will be reported.

Assistant Secretaries of War.

It is said that John Tucker, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Peter T. Watson, Esq., of Washington, have been appointed Assistant Secretaries of War under the new act passed by Congress. Mr. Tucker is a Philadelphian, and well known to your readers. Mr. Watson is an eminent patent lawyer of this city, a man of influence and large fortune. Col. Scott will retain his position at present.

The Schuylkill Steamers.

The little Schuylkill steamers, *Reindeer* and *Volunteer*, are now making daily trips between this city and Mattawoman's Creek, near the headquarters of Gen. Hooker's division. The ice in the Potomac has almost entirely disappeared, and as the roads from here to Port Tobacco are almost impassable, the reopening of the steamboat communication has been a great accommodation to the Government in forwarding supplies.

The War Department Regulations.

The recently-issued regulations of the War Department result in surprising facilities for the transaction of public business, which is taken up and disposed of in the order in which it is presented. All the branches of this Department are benefited by the systematic arrangements.

Washington News and Gossip.

The mud and the small-pox are the prevailing topics of conversation to-day. The transient travel this week has fallen off one hundred per cent.

The new rules and regulations which have been issued by Secretary Stanton hold at bay for the present contractors and office-seekers.

The postmaster here has issued a notice that treasury notes will not be received in payment for stamps, unless they are purchased in sums of two dollars and fifty cents.

The members of Tent No. 2 have presented a beautiful sword and sash to Captain Stickney, of Company F, Third New Jersey Regiment.

Major Henry L. Benner has just returned from General Hooker's division, on the lower Potomac, where he has been paying off the First and Eleventh Massachusetts regiments, and Dunting's battery. The rebels are almost continually firing on our works. Their shot and shell fortunately do no damage. The rebel shells, owing to the bad quality of powder of which they are manufactured, seldom, if ever, explode.

THE VICTORY AT SOMERSET.

PARTICULARS OF THE ACTION.

THREE THOUSAND UNION TROOPS VANQUISH EIGHT THOUSAND REBELS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 23.—The Somerset correspondence of the *Times* says that at 7 o'clock on Sunday morning the enemy drove in the pickets of the Tenth Indiana, stationed at the forks of the road, eight miles from Somerset. The Tenth were drawn up into line, and moved into the woods, where they were met by the enemy, six thousand strong, who instantly opened upon them.

General Thomas immediately ordered up the Ninth Ohio, Second Minnesota, and Fourth Kentucky, to the support of the Tenth Indiana, the latter holding the rebels in check nearly half an hour before being reinforced. The First and Second Tennesseans were ordered up on the right wing for the purpose of outflanking the enemy, Standard's and Whitmore's batteries in the meantime shelling the enemy in the woods.

After being engaged nearly two hours, the Ninth Ohio, Second Minnesota, and Fourth Kentucky Regiments made a desperate bayonet-charge upon the enemy, and drove them from the woods, completely routing and pursuing them to their entrenchments. At the heat of the engagement, Captain Kinney ordered one section of his battery within sixty yards of the enemy's lines, and opened a deadly fire upon them, which added greatly to the successes of the day.

Our advance arrived within sight of the rebel entrenchments one hour before dark, and opened upon them with shot and shell. Night closing in put a stop to further demonstrations. At daylight next morning a steamboat was observed transporting troops across the Cumberland. Whitmore's battery of Parrott guns were brought to bear on the boat, which in a few minutes afterwards was in flames. The Tenth Ohio and Fourteenth Ohio were ordered forward to advance on the enemy's breastworks, moving up in line of battle, and scaling the entrenchments, they found the camp entirely deserted, and everything standing as when occupied by the enemy. The houses, tents, horses, mules, wagons, baggage, cannon, ammunition, and firearms, were found in perfect preservation. The rebel forces in the attack were led by Generals Crittenden and Zollicoffer, and were 8,000 strong. The Federal forces in the fight did not exceed 3,000.

FROM KENTUCKY.

GEN. HINDMAN ARRESTED.

POVERTY OF THE REBEL LEADERS.

GEN. BUCKNER'S CHILDREN BAREFOOTED.

Hardee Unable to Pay his Washerwoman.

Louisville, Jan. 23.—The *Journal* learns that General Hardee has arrested General Hindman, for burning houses at Cave City, and other places on the Nashville road. The same paper also learns, and credits the statement, that General Buckner has resigned his commission.

The rebels at Bowling Green are suffering for want of money.

It is reported that General Buckner's children are running about the town bare-footed, and General Hardee, the second officer in command, could not pay a colored woman employed by him, and gave her a pass through the Confederate lines, as the only means he had of liquidating her demand.

There are no further particulars from General Thomas' command.

All is quiet below.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

Sedalia, Mo., Jan. 23.—Two companies of cavalry, under Major L. Halderman, of the First Kansas Regiment, left Lexington on a reconnoitring expedition on the night of the 16th, which resulted in the arrest of Captain Whiting, Joe Shelby, and several other notorious rebel desperadoes, and the capture of a large lot of horses, mules, wagons, commissary stores, &c., taken from Col. Mulligan's command, and a considerable quantity of boots and shoes, and other articles taken from the steamer *Sunshine* by the rebels some time since, all of which were turned over to the Federal troops at Lexington.

Colonel Deitzler, of the Kansas First Regiment, in command at Lexington, announces, by a general order, that as rebel assassins lurk in the ambush and fire upon soldiers, he has therefore ordered to be arrested a large number of wealthy and influential Secessionists who give aid and comfort to Price's army, whom he will hold responsible for the good behavior of their hirelings, and the assassination of one man of his command in this manner will be followed by the shooting or hanging of five of these wealthy rebels.

FROM CAIRO.

Cairo, Jan. 23.—Captain Willard, of the Chicago Light Artillery, arrived to-day from Calloway, six miles from Fort Henry. He reports that that place is garrisoned by 6,000 or 7,000 rebels, with several heavy guns.

The whole of General Smith's command started across the country for Paducah this morning.

From General Banks' Column.

Frederick, January 22.—No intelligence has been received from General Lander's division within the last forty-eight hours, and everything here and in the upper brigades are in *statu quo*. The excitement and preparation commenced on the news of Jackson's advance on Romney, have died out, and our troops are mainly employed in looking to their personal comfort.

Last night a very *recherché* party was given by Dr. Schley, one of the most prominent Union men, to the officers of the division, brigades, and regiments.

Last Saturday forty condemned horses were sold at auction, by order of Inspector Perkins. The best brought $70, and the worst 25 cents; the average was $23.

Captain Collis, of the Body Guard, has resigned his seat as judge advocate of the general court-martial, and Robert B. Brown, of the Second Massachusetts, has been appointed in his stead. Owing to the establishment of brigade courts-martial, and a consequent reduction of the number of prisoners here, the court will probably adjourn ere many days. A very large number of cases have been examined into, and the findings awarded.

Mason and Slidell Sailed from Bermuda for St. Thomas.

New York, Jan. 23.—The British gunboat *Racer*, arrived this morning from Bermuda, reports that the steamer *Rinaldo* arrived there on the 11th, and had sailed for St. Thomas, with the traitors Mason and Slidell on board.

The Bohemian Outward Bound.

Cape Race, Jan. 23.—The steamer *Bohemian* passed here at half past 2 o'clock, outward bound. The news station will be kept up here all winter, and all the steamers will be boarded when practicable.

The Hibernian at Portland.

Portland, Jan. 23.—The steamer *Hibernian* has arrived from St. John.

Fire at Saco, Maine.

Saco, Jan. 23.—The Thomson block of buildings was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss $7,000.

Execution at Newton, N. J.

Newark, Jan. 23.—John Cowan was executed to-day, at Newton, for the murder of Allen Skillinger.

Mr. G. V. Brooke, the tragedian, has quarreled with the manager of the Theatre Royal, Belfast, because the latter wished the former to play on the date of the Prince Consort's funeral. The dispute is to be settled in a court of law.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Washington, Jan. 23, 1862.

SENATE.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, presented a joint resolution, passed by the Legislature of Michigan, in favor of an exchange of prisoners, with special reference to the gallant Colonel Wilcox, who was wounded at Bull Run. Referred.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, presented the remonstrance of the underwriters, ship-owners, and others, of Boston, against any measures which will impair the efficiency of the coast survey.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, called up the resolution in regard to Ward H. Lamon, Marshal of the District of Columbia, declaring that, in the order he transmitted to the Senate, he was guilty of a breach of privilege and contempt of the Senate, and that the Secretary of the Senate report the resolution to the President. Passed.

Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, from the Post Office Committee, reported a bill for the completion of the Post Office at Philadelphia.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the bill for the completion of the defences of Washington was taken up, the question being on the amendment providing the penalty of death for forcing the safeguard, which was agreed to. The bill was amended so that no work shall be hereafter commenced, and then passed.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, the bill relating to Congress, from the Committee on Compensation, &c., was taken up and considered for some time, when the morning hour expired.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the bill for the increase of the clerical force of the War and Navy Departments, as returned from the House with an amendment, was taken up, the amendment agreed to, and the bill passed finally.

The case of Senator Bright was then taken up.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, resumed his remarks. He said that treason was the greatest of crimes. It involves the whole nation in its consequences; yet, the men who are now engaged in treason boldly confront honest men. There has been too much leniency shown—these men ought to be abhorred as the vilest of culprits. Was not Benedict Arnold a traitor? Suppose that the Senator from Indiana had been a member of the Continental Congress, and suppose that after Arnold had been detected in his treason, the Senator had written such a letter to Arnold as he has now written to Jeff Davis! In that day of purity and patriotism, would he not have been expelled from the Senate? Is Jeff Davis less a traitor than Arnold was? Was not Aaron Burr ineffably less a traitor than Jeff Davis? Yet, the Senate expelled Smith, of South Carolina, for too intimate relations with Aaron Burr. The Senator from Indiana avows that he has not changed his opinions and will not. If the Senator holds opinions opposed to coercive measures to subdue the rebels, and will not vote for any measures to support the Government, he ought to have resigned his position here. But as he has not done that, it must be the duty of the Senate to expel such a member. He (Mr. Davis) regretted that the Senator from Massachusetts had introduced the subject of slavery. He thought, at such a time as this, we should allow all such disturbing subjects to sleep till after atrocious rebellion was put down. Slavery was not the immediate cause of the rebellion, but only a remote cause. He did not see where the Senator from Massachusetts got the power to interfere in slavery. He paid a high tribute to the purity and worth of John Q. Adams, and quoted from the speech of his where he said that, "so long as the slave States have the power to sustain the institution of slavery, I will not interfere; but if they come to the free States for help, and ask them to help to put down an insurrection, then I say that it comes into the full plenary power of Congress over it. It is the war power." He referred also to the assertion of Gen. Jackson, that, in cases where the military power takes possession, the war power must become the law. But the Senator from Massachusetts would have it in the power of any subordinate general to declare emancipation; but that statesman seems to forget that we have a written Constitution. This Constitution reserves certain rights from the States, and gives them inalienably to the people of the United States, but invests the war-making power in Congress. The Constitution provides for the crime of treason, and that the attainder shall not be perpetual. Can military generals alter the provisions of the Constitution in regard to treason? He contended that in Congress alone was the power to declare martial law, and to suspend the writ of habeas corpus. Martial law is the mere will of a military commander. Is such a law to sweep away all the provisions of the Constitution? Such a law would be worse than the bloody laws of Draco. Is this sublime edifice of the Constitution to tumble into ruins when the army makes its appearance, and is commanded to have power to proclaim universal freedom to the slave? Such an idea is monstrous. He was for putting down the rebellion, and, so far as possible, to hang the leaders. He said, in the name of justice, hang them, and forfeit all the property you can; and, if it is improper to invest it in the United States Government, give it to true and faithful men. He thought the rebellion had many causes for its rise. If slavery was never mentioned in the halls of Congress, there would never have been any rebellion. One of the causes of the rebellion was the admission of Texas; another was the attempt to force the Lecompton Constitution on the people of Kansas. He was utterly opposed to emancipation schemes, and deprecated severely the placing of arms in the hands of slaves, as was proposed by the Senator from Iowa [Mr. Harlan], as tending to lead to the fearful horrors of an insurrection.

Those fanatic, political, and social demons, the Greeleys, Cheevers, and Phillipses, who are trying to break up in fragments the Constitution, for the purpose of achieving emancipation, have been here desecrating the Smithsonian Institute. They and that horrible monster, Greeley, have been sneaking like wolves after slavery. If he had the power, he would take these fanatics, and the worst Secessionists, and hang them in pairs. He feared that the Senator from Massachusetts sympathized too much with these men. He closed with a eulogy of Gen. Lyon and Gen. Sigel, and said that he wanted all brave men to join in the war for the Union, and to leave out these discordant elements.

Mr. HARLAN, of Iowa, did not see the pertinency of the whole of the last part of the speech of the Senator from Kentucky. He wanted it known that every day a speech on slavery is lugged in just in this way by some member of the slave States.

Mr. DAVIS said that his speech was intended to meet the numerous petitions introduced here.

Mr. HARLAN said that in the discussion on another bill he had said that he was willing to muster into the service of the United States any able-bodied men, whether black or Indian. We might as well arm the slave against the master as arm the child against the father, which was done every day where one or the other chances to be a rebel. In regard to the Senator's eulogium on the condition of his slaves, if they love him so much he need have no fear of an insurrection. He supposed the Senator's horses and other animals were also well treated, but does he treat the slaves like men—like men who have immortal spirits to live equally with our spirit? There is not now in existence a system of slavery so bad as that which now exists in the United States. He knew that kind and Christian gentlemen did treat their slaves well, but that was a tribute to humanity and not due to the system.

The Senate went into executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. ELIOT, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill authorizing the President to appoint eight light-house inspectors for any of the light-houses on the coast, during and for one year after the continuance of the present rebellion. Passed.

Mr. THOMAS, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to facilitate judicial proceedings, and to better regulate the law of prizes.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to settle with the States for the supplies furnished their troops called out to aid in the suppression of the rebellion.

The consideration of the bill was postponed.

Mr. MALLORY, of Kentucky, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill for a military railroad in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The House, in Committee of the Whole, went into consideration of the Military Academy bill.

Mr. ALLEY, of Massachusetts, said that no questions were ever agitated in the halls of Congress of greater importance, in all their aspects, and in all their consequences, than the financial measures which the necessities of the hour call upon us now to inaugurate, with all the industrial energies of a great people palsied by the nightmare that is upon us; and Congress, upon whom the people have placed the responsibility of providing ways and means for relief, have done nothing but waste their time in talking about unimportant matters. Great schemes are to be devised and measures enacted, upon which our very existence depends, which should engage the earnest thought and active energies of every member of this House until the task is accomplished. The first thing to be done is to raise the means to carry on the Government, by making available its credit, at the least possible expense, in the best manner possible, with the least detriment to the material interests of the whole people. In order to accomplish this object properly, you must make your securities good by adequate taxation. We must provide for the wants of the Government, at any cost and every hazard. Every individual and corporate interest must bow in patriotic submission to the necessities of the Government.

The currency question has employed the brain and enlisted the pen of the greatest statesmen and eminent writers of every age. A mixed system of currency and barter was first introduced by William the Conqueror, 800 years ago, and from that day to this we have an authentic record of its history. In the reigns of the Henrys and the Edwards the coinages were frequently altered to suit the exigencies and wants of the crown. A reckless and improvident monarch was sure to produce a dearth of money, and a dearth of money was always followed by a dearth of food. Down to the reign of Henry the Eighth it was the practice, when money was scarce, to reduce the standard of the coin, until Henry reduced it very materially, and his son, Edward the Sixth, reduced it until it became infamous, making 180,000 pounds out of 20,000 of good coin. With the reign of Elizabeth came a determination to improve the coinage, and in the reign of William and Mary the Bank of England was established, and the currency, ever after, became a mixed one of paper and coin. There was more stability then than there had been with an exclusive metallic currency. Increasing the volume of the currency, in all countries and every age, produces the same effect—its undue expansion stimulating unhealthy business, and its contraction causing ruin and distress to follow in its wake. The great financial desideratum is to prevent the one and avoid the other as much as possible. He spoke of the example of England, because upon this question she had a more authentic record and a wiser policy than other nations. After the suspension of the Bank of England, in 1797, which continued over twenty-four years, the currency of England was almost exclusively a paper currency. In view of the experience of England, with her overwhelming indebtedness and vast expenditures, together with our own experiences, there is nothing to alarm in our own suspension of specie payments, and nothing in our financial condition to occasion despondency. In all our financial arrangements the Government should wisely co-operate with those who conduct the financial and business interests of the public. But we must not forget that the Government is supreme. The inquiry should be, not what is best under the circumstances, but what can be done in the crisis that is upon us. In order to determine that question we must be governed more or less by considerations connected with existing systems. There are three great financial measures now under consideration, the adoption of which, coupled with a determination to reform the expenditures, will, in my judgment, resuscitate the drooping interests of trade, improve the currency of the country, establish confidence, and place the public credit upon as firm a foundation as that of any Government on earth.

First—Authorizing the issue of one hundred millions of demand treasury notes, to be made a legal tender, convertible at any time, in sums of not less than one hundred dollars, in United States six per cent. bonds, payable in twenty years, or convertible into sterling bonds of not less than five hundred pounds, payable in London.

Second—Simultaneous with this, the levying of one hundred and fifty millions of tax.

Third—To provide a uniform currency, by causing all the bank circulation of the country to protect holders against loss, by securing their redemption by a pledge of United States stocks. We would not be in favor of either of these three measures, standing alone; but in combination, each with the other, they will confer the triple benefit of relief to our immediate necessities—establishing confidence on a firm foundation, and giving to the people a safe currency which shall be uniform in every section of the country, and ample for all the requirements of trade. If this war should continue eighteen months, according to the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury, we shall owe nine hundred millions of dollars. This looks like a large sum; but with our boundless resources and matchless energies in developing the material interests of the country, we can pay the interest easily, and, if necessary, a portion of the principal, annually. If need be, we can make our public lands, if properly managed and disposed of judiciously, pay one-third of this debt before it matures, if it is funded for twenty years, and have enough left to pay two-thirds of the balance the succeeding twenty years. Nine hundred millions of dollars is only about twice as much as England's usual amount of expenses in time of peace; but little more than she has expended in a single year at several periods in her history. Our surplus earnings in two or three years will wipe it out, all out, if we wish. Can any man of reflection doubt, when he realizes that we have little cause to question the ability of the Government to maintain its credit unimpaired through any pecuniary trial it may be called upon to encounter? He was in favor of issuing no notes of less denomination than ten dollars, because he was opposed to the Government competing in the circulation with the banks any more than is absolutely necessary to provide for its necessities. He thought that the interest of all would be promoted by leaving the banks to supply the small local currency predicated upon United States bonds. The measure of taxation was so obviously wise that he would only remark, in the language of the great statesman, "that nations as well as individuals, ought always, in contracting debts, provide some plan of redemption: without it public confidence could not be retained." Among the advantages to be gained by the adoption of this national currency system was, as the Secretary has said: It will unite with the Government all the monetary interests of the country, and make it for the pecuniary interest of all to sustain and strengthen the Government and its credit. Adopt these measures, and diminish the burdens of the people by every prudent retrenchment and reform, by ferreting out and punishing all frauds, and then, if the policy of the Government in other respects should be as vigorous and wise as its financial arrangements are politic and just, we shall have the war speedily closed, and a state of prosperity such as the American people have never witnessed in the whole annals of her history.

Mr. HARRISON, of Ohio, said the object of the war was to execute the laws of the land, establish permanent peace and security within our national jurisdiction, and maintain republican liberty on this continent. As to the means of subduing the rebellion, he held that whatever is not prohibited by the National Constitution or public laws is clearly a military necessity, and legally right. These embrace the power to seize and condemn property and confiscate debts. The confiscation ought to be of such a nature as to induce citizens of the rebel States to return to their allegiance, rather than to render them desperate. He believed the prevalent sentiment of loyal States, and the views and feelings of a large majority of the army, suggest the policy of avoiding any unnecessary interference with slavery in the rebellious States. The argument of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Stevens,) yesterday, did not convince him of the necessity of the general emancipation of the slaves. This war was waged against our Government by political leaders—by men against lawful authority. Therefore, the object should be to destroy the rebel army with superior Union forces, and then promptly punish the leaders for treason according to the Constitution and the law of the land. Such action as may be necessary should grow out of the political necessity. Our salvation depends on adhering strictly to the Constitution in all its length and breadth. The American people are thoroughly and irrevocably determined that neither the Constitution nor the Union shall be destroyed by any combination or conspiracy, under any pretext whatever. If we all maintain an efficient war solely for the Constitution and the integrity of the Union, on the principles of Washington and his compatriots, without being distracted by disputes and impracticable theories, the rebellion will be suppressed, and then the people will be secure in the best, as well as the wisest and the most enduring Government in the world, more enduring from the fact that it has been put to the test for maintaining its efficiency.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, called the attention of the House to a communication in the New York *Tribune*, editorially endorsed as worthy of confidence, touching the Special Investigating Committee on Contracts. So far as it regarded Gen. McKinstry, he denounced the communication as false in all material respects, so far as it referred to the committee. As regarded the military authorities here, they could take care of themselves. He read from the published journal of the committee the letter of the committee to Mr. Clements, the clerk of the quartermaster, calling on him for the explanation, which he tendered and showed that the said Clements was before the committee, and testified to the amount of more than thirty pages, as published in the report, and that the committee gave him the widest latitude to put in everything in his testimony that could explain General McKinstry's acts, all of which is published in the testimony. Also, that another clerk in the Quartermaster's Department was called before the committee, whose testimony covered twenty-two pages. He stated that the examination of these witnesses disclosed many of the fraudulent acts of Gen. McKinstry, which he believed surpassed anything in the history of the country. He caused to be read another editorial of the *Tribune*, denouncing the frauds of speculators and jobbers, which, he said, was a good text—the best commentary on which would be the evidence taken by the committee against Gen. McKinstry, which he thought the *Tribune* might profitably publish, if it desired to see its suggestion carried out.

Mr. VANHORN, of New York, maintained that the time has arrived for the emancipation of the slaves, who form the strength of the contest against us. The rebels, having trampled upon the Constitution are, by their treasonable acts, no more entitled to protection than outlaws. The loyal people of the free States, who furnish the men and money, have the right to demand that every means in our possession to destroy the enemy should be faithfully and vigorously employed. If the gentlemen here do less, they are unworthy of the official positions they occupy. He quoted from the Southern papers to show that they made the open confession that slaves are one of the main resources of the rebel strength and belligerent power. Hence the importance and necessity of striking a decisive blow in that direction. He argued that the Constitution authorized the passage of a law for that purpose. The forfeiture of this description of property of the rebels should be forever. The war cannot be waged for the protection of slavery, but for the good of the Government and the security of a permanent peace. He did not believe with his colleague (Mr. Steele) that the declaration of such a policy would paralyze the power of the army. He would assume any responsibility to put down the rebellion. Whatever humanity and the salvation of the country demand, he was ready to yield. The Union will stand, and everything that comes between it and its salvation must perish.

The committee then rose, and the House adjourned.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Harrisburg, January 23, 1862.

SENATE.

The SPEAKER presented the annual report of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society.

Mr. LOWRY presented the memorial of John R. Brooke, colonel of the Fifty-third Pennsylvania Regiment, and thirty-six of his officers, asking for legislative relief.

Mr. BENSON, from the Finance Committee, reported the supplement to the act establishing an asylum for the insane poor.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. ROBINSON, joint resolutions relative to the payment of officers of volunteers in the service of the United States.

Mr. HIESTAND, a supplement to the act incorporating the Reading and Columbia Railroad.

Mr. MOTT, a supplement to the act of 1836, relative to the lien of mechanics and others.

Mr. CONNELL, a bill to reorganize the Board of School Controllers of the First School district; also, a bill relative to advertising claims in Philadelphia.

Mr. KETCHAM, a supplement to the act of 1856, relative to the incorporation of insurance companies.

BANK OF COMMERCE OF ERIE.

Mr. LOWRY offered a resolution, requesting the State Treasurer to inform the Senate what amount of money belonging to the State was in deposit in the Bank of Commerce, at Erie, at the time it closed its doors on billholders and depositors, and what steps have been taken to secure the same.

Mr. IRISH inquired whether this was a peculiar case, and whether it differed from that of other banks suspending payment.

Mr. LOWRY said that the case was nothing peculiar with banks in his section of the State. The Erie City Bank failed with liabilities amounting to $150,000. It was then run under the new name of the Bank of Commerce. He had in his pocket bills of this bank amounting to one hundred dollars, belonging to a widow lady. The officers of this bank occupied very respectable positions; one was an officer of the United States Government, and another resided on Walnut street, Philadelphia. These officers one fine morning closed the doors of the bank, and never paid the Commonwealth one dollar. That bank was born a fraud, lived a fraud, and twice died a fraud. It never had any capital. Its officers were guilty of fraud and perjury in their returns.

After further discussion, the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. ROBINSON, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution relative to the payment of officers of volunteers in the service of the United States. [This resolution requests our Representatives in Congress to secure to officers pay from the date of their enrolment, the War Department having refused to pay them for their services before their regiments were mustered into service.]

The resolution was discussed, and passed, after being so amended as to extend the inquiry into the practice with reference to the pay of private soldiers.

The Senate then adjourned until Monday afternoon, at three o'clock.

HOUSE.

The House was called to order at 10 A. M., by the SPEAKER.

The report of the State Saving Fund was presented and laid upon the table, as well as a communication from the Western Saving Fund.

Mr. KAINE presented the report of a committee appointed to harmonize the differences between the Senate and House in reference to the pay of retiring officers of the Assembly of 1861. The report recommended their payment at a reduced rate, and was agreed to.

PETITIONS.

A number of petitions were presented, referring to local objects in the interior of the State.

Mr. GREENBANK presented a petition of merchants and others, praying that an act may be passed enabling a creditor to release one partner or joint debtor without prejudice to the claim against the other partner or joint debtors.

Mr. DUFFIELD, a petition from the monthly meeting of Friends, asking the right to extinguish certain ground rents.

Mr. ABBOT, a petition from the Farmers and Mechanics' Land and Building Association, for the extension of their charter.

Mr. RYON, of Schuylkill, presented a petition, praying for an investigation into the manner in which the act commuting the tonnage duties was passed; also, the manner in which the $3,500,000 loan was disbursed.

A communication was read from the citizens of Westmoreland county, setting forth that the wife of a taxpayer of Greensburg (now a private in a Virginia regiment) had received aid from the county funds, and denying the statement of her husband to the contrary—which statement was presented to the House last week. It will be recollected that the husband petitioned either that his family might be relieved, or that his property might be exempt from taxation, he having enlisted in a regiment outside of the State.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, presented a petition of the Managers of the School of Design, asking an appropriation of $2,000.

All of the above were referred to the appropriate committees.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. CESSNA moved to amend the rules of the House so as to receive resolutions only on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. ARMSTRONG offered a resolution calling on the heads of the State departments for estimates for the ensuing year. Agreed to.

Mr. McCLELLAN, of Chester, offered a resolution providing for the amendment of the common-school law so as to make the school week consist of five days. Agreed to.

DIRECT TAX.

Mr. BROWN, of Mercer, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to report a bill, if deemed advisable, providing for the assumption and payment, by the State, of that portion of a direct tax of twenty millions of dollars annually laid upon the United States by an act of Congress approved August 5, 1861, which was apportioned to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to provide for the assessment and collection of said amount as other State tax is now by law assessed and collected.

Agreed to.

BROKERS AND PRIVATE BANKERS.

Mr. CRANE, of Wayne, offered a resolution calling upon the Auditor General to furnish the names of all brokers and private bankers who have paid taxes according to the act of last session.

This was amended by Mr. WILLIAMS so as to require the names of all those who have not paid, and was then agreed to.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The following bills were reported from the various committees as having been acted upon:

An act relative to the District Court of Philadelphia, with an affirmative recommendation.

An act for the appointment of fence-viewers in Philadelphia, with an affirmative recommendation.

An act to incorporate the Athenæum Association of Germantown, as amended. The act was taken up and passed.

A supplement to the act incorporating the Gettysburg Railroad Company, as amended, authorizing the issue of preferred stock. Passed.

A supplement to the Duncannon and Broad Top Railroad, with an affirmative recommendation.

An act to incorporate the American Engravers' Company, with an affirmative recommendation.

BILLS IN PLACE.

Mr. SHANNON, of Allegheny, read in place an act to establish a State Military Academy.

Mr. BIGHAM, an act to extend the time within which certain railroad companies may claim the benefit of the fourth section of the bill for the "Commutation of Tonnage Duties." [The time is extended for two years for the purchase of their bonds by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and five years as far as the completion of the roads is concerned.]

Mr. KAINE read an act relative to the rate of interest, (repealing the law of 28th May, 1858.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG, an act suspending the taxation on real estate owned by corporations. [It provides that so much of the capital stock of any corporation as is invested in real estate shall not be subject to taxation, provided the real estate itself is taxed.]

Mr. GREENBANK, an act relative to copartners and joint debtors.

Mr. DUFFIELD, an act providing for filling vacancies which may occur in Select Councils. Also, a supplement to an act incorporating the Board of Port Wardens.

Mr. McMANUS, an act providing for an oath of allegiance to public officials.

Mr. DENNIS, an act relative to evidence in actions. Also, an act to provide for taking judgment by default. Also, an act relative to foreign attachments. Also, an act authorizing coal companies to purchase real estate at sheriffs' sales.

PAY OF VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. SHANNON offered a resolution instructing our Senators and requesting our Representatives to pass an act for the payment of volunteers from the time of their enlistment, and officers from the time when they are placed on recruiting service.

Mr. KAINE moved to amend by inserting the words "and to make sufficient provision for the payment of expenses incurred in recruiting companies and regiments for the volunteer army of the United States. The resolution as amended was agreed to.

Mr. VINCENT, of Erie, moved to take up the report of the special committee appointed to consider the river and harbor defences.

The resolution attached to the report urged Congress to take immediate measures for the defence of the Delaware river and the harbor of Erie, and the establishment of a naval depot at the latter place. The resolution was adopted.

THE TONNAGE TAX.

The House resumed the consideration of the resolution appointing a committee to investigate the manner in which the act for the commutation of tonnage duties had been passed.

Mr. SHANNON, of Allegheny, advocated the passage of the resolution.

The House then adjourned.