The Press.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 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."

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

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

After a long delay, official intelligence has been received from the Burnside Expedition. The rumors which have for some days past been published in the rebel papers, in regard to disasters to some of our vessels, were, it seems, not without foundation. It could scarcely have been expected that during the terrible weather which has prevailed for the last ten days, accidents could have been entirely avoided. It will be seen by the official report, however, that the grave fears which were engendered by the despatch from Fortress Monroe are not justified by the actual condition of things. General Burnside has already overcome many of the terrible obstacles he has been compelled to encounter, and the objects of his expedition may yet be fully accomplished. The Richmond *Dispatch* of Monday, speaking on this subject, says:

We have rumors of an important nature as to the fate of the Burnside Expedition, which recently sailed Southward for the declared purpose of "crushing out the rebellion." It is stated that despatches have been received in high official quarters communicating the intelligence that a great portion of the fleet was destroyed in the recent storm. That it was a storm of unusual severity we have reason to know; and, as many of the vessels were no better than old hulks, it would not surprise us to have a confirmation of the rumor.

Per contra, however, Commander Lynch, of Norfolk, having just returned from a reconnoissance of the coast, declares that there was no appearance of these ships at Hatteras. He saw, it is true, a number of craft huddled up and close in shore, but gives it as a correct opinion that they were merely transports or coasting craft, taking shelter from the raging storms that have lately blown over that part of the coast with so much violence.

The rumor so current on the streets yesterday, and so eagerly devoured, to the effect that one-half of the Yankee fleet had gone to Davy Jones' locker, appears to have had its origin in the joking humor of a Government official, who succeeded, by his pranks, in "playing off" upon more than one wise head.

Newbern, North Carolina, is a ferment of excitement in expectation of an attack in that quarter. The town is under martial law, and every preparation is made for early intelligence of the enemy's movements, and for his repulse when he does come.

The Ship Island correspondent of the Boston *Journal*, speaking of the activity of the rebels at New Orleans, in trying to build a "mosquito navy," says:

Intelligence has reached here of the appearance on the Mississippi river of a new rebel "ram," "turtle," or nondescript war steamer, from New Orleans. About noon, on the 1st of January, a steamer came down to Pass a l'Outre, and lay alongside the river bank. During the afternoon men went on shore from her and burned the light-keeper's house at that point. Late in the day four or five other Confederate steamers came down to the mouth of the Pass, and then went over to Pilot Town. The bark *Kingfisher*, blockading Pass a l'Outre, was at anchor about four miles from the land, in five fathoms water, and apprehensions of an attack during the night induced Captain Selfridge, of the *Mississippi*, also blockading at that point, to run in and tow her outside. The enemy did not, however, venture within range. Nevertheless, the *Kingfisher* came up to Ship Island to report the facts to the flag officer and obtain assistance in repelling an attack. The description of the "ram," given by the officers of the *Kingfisher*, agrees with the account of that obtained from the French captain of the fishing smack *Slide Along*, captured by the *New London* a few weeks since. The steamer is represented as being two hundred feet long, cigar-shaped, sharp at both ends, roofed over in the shape of a turtle's back, with plate-iron, having side wheels, with two smoke-stacks abreast, and moving through the water with great rapidity. She was built at Algiers, opposite New Orleans. Few men were seen on board of her. The French fishermen gave information of the building of two rebel gunboats, also side-wheel and sharp at both ends, at Bayou St. John, on Lake Ponchartrain, one of which had been launched. Two others were building on Deer river, where steamers can be launched drawing one foot more water than can be carried into Lake Ponchartrain, the depth being nine and eight feet respectively. From the above it appears that the "Mosquito Navy" is fast assuming the proportions of a considerable [illegible]

The same correspondent states that the [illegible] of the cotton ports has paralyzed the energies of the planters, and that they are making great efforts to get their cotton to market through New Orleans. They have all the while been believing that England and France would break the blockade; but now, when that event seems as remote as ever, they are growing desperate, and they pay no regard to any restrictions the rebel Government sees fit to impose on them. Large quantities of cotton are daily arriving at New Orleans from the interior. The Confederate Government has, no doubt, either withdrawn the restrictions which, during the summer months, were imposed upon the transportation and shipment of it, or they tamely submit to whatever the planters choose to do.

Hon. Mr. Diven, member of Congress from the Twenty-seventh district, New York, has written another letter to a gentleman in Elmira, in which he states that he heard President Lincoln say that there was probably but one man in the country more anxious for a battle than himself, and that man was General McClellan. The President repudiated the charge that he, or Mr. Seward, or General McClellan, was tampering or delaying out of any consideration for rebels or rebel institutions, or that they indulged any thought of ending the war by any means other than conquest on the battle-field.

Colonel J. W. Allen, of the Ninth New Jersey Regiment, who lost his life in a gallant endeavor to supply the thirst of the suffering Federal troops on the disabled vessels of the Burnside Expedition, was born in Burlington, New Jersey, and was a civil engineer by profession. He was for several years colonel of a regiment of New Jersey militia.

By late Southern news we learn that General Beauregard has been relieved of his command on the Potomac and sent to Kentucky to assist in the defence of Columbus. He will be subordinate there to no one except General Albert Sydney Johnston. The reason for the change is not given. He will be succeeded at Manassas by General Gustavus W. Smith, ex-street commissioner of New York, who formerly held the position of captain of engineers in the regular army of the Union.

By the Richmond papers of Monday we have obtained additional rebel accounts of the late victory of the Federal troops in Kentucky. They state that Gen. Crittenden was not wounded, and that he was stationed with the remnant of his forces at Monticello, where they are determined to make a stand. One of the reports declares that only two rebel regiments were engaged in the late fight, and that the Federal forces numbered 14,000 men!

A portion of the rebel force on the Upper Potomac, under command of Colonel Ashby, yesterday made their appearance opposite Colonel Geary's encampment, near Bolivar, and commenced shelling it. The Parrott guns and Enfield rifles of Geary's men soon drove the rebels out of sight. General Jackson's rebel forces have been greatly excited by the rumors prevailing among them that the whole of General Banks' division will shortly cross the Potomac to commence an attack. They are now at Charlestown, but it is supposed they will soon move to Harper's Ferry.

THERE CAME a word from Washington, a day or two since, that an advance would at last be made from the line of the Potomac. The weather was cold and clear and sharp; the roads were hardening; our army was ready; the success in Kentucky had fired our men; they were eager for an opportunity to do and die; and the people were joyous at the glad tidings. But this word from Washington was simply a rumor, as uncertain as a hundred others which came before it. Its reception shows, however, where the heart of the people is, and for what they most ardently pray.

SENATOR TRUMBULL on Monday last thrilled an immense auditory in the Senate by declaring that he was full of hope and confidence—feeling that the day of our deliverance from the rebellion was approaching. The distinguished Senator was simply reading the signs of the times, and we gladly accept his cheering augury.

DR. RUSSELL prophesies that unless there is a great victory in this country, the American Government will have its fate sealed by the 1st of January. The Doctor predicted that the surrender of MASON and SLIDELL would ruin the Government—and therefore would not be surrendered. We congratulate the Special Correspondent upon his gift of prophecy.

European Invasion of Mexico.

It would be in accordance with historical antecedents for the allied invaders of Mexico to find themselves not exactly on a bed of roses. It was reserved for PALMERSTON and RUSSELL—*arcades ambo!*—to fall a second time into the trap laid for them by the astute Emperor of the French. He can wind them round his finger, and he *does*.

In 1861 he seduced them into a repetition of their great political blunder of 1853. At that time, the first Derby Administration having fallen, a Coalition Ministry was constructed, and Lord ABERDEEN was nominal head of this political "thing of shreds and patches." This old gentleman, who had all his life been more of a bookman than a statesman, allowed PALMERSTON and RUSSELL to do all the work, and a pretty mess they made of it. Late in 1853, the British Ministry, all the time fancying that they were exhibiting independent volition of their own, joined in a treaty with NAPOLEON to wage war with Russia. Early in 1854, Parliament assented to this alliance. War was commenced on a large scale, and prosecuted at vast cost. Early in the quarrel, Russia virtually caved in, by relinquishing its occupancy of the Turkish provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, which armed occupancy made the most important item in the "aggression" with which the Czar NICHOLAS was solemnly charged before the world. This ought to have ended the war. But it was NAPOLEON's policy to indulge France with a little military glory, and he continued the war, in the Crimea, until the spring of 1856. That two years' war cost England more than 500 million dollars—cost her the military prestige which she had preserved since the Peninsular campaigns and the Waterloo victory—and, when NAPOLEON took upon himself to determine when the olive branch was to be extended to Russia, he reduced England to the unpleasant situation of having it said, all over the world, that she had declined from a first-class to a second-rate European Power.

For some reason or other, as much a mystery as the antagonism to Russia was, nine years ago, NAPOLEON has joined with Spain and England in the invasion of Mexico. Each nation supplied her quota of ships and soldiers. Hurrying forward, so as to distance his allies, the Spanish commander seized the port of Vera Cruz. He has since been joined by his allies, and the flags of Spain, France, and England float above the walls of Vera Cruz and over the castle ramparts of the adjacent island of San Juan de Ulua. Already, the last accounts received *via* Havana tell us there had arisen trouble about the allocation of these flags, each nation desiring the place of honor for its own. First, the French flag was in the centre, but Spain took umbrage and claimed that place for itself, after which the British admiral rose early one morning and shifted the Union Jack into the middle, elevating it, also, some feet higher than the others. There is a constant squabble, too, it seems, about the order in which the necessary signatures of the respective commanders shall be affixed to public documents. Fancy a serious quarrel on the point whether, the alphabetical order being agreed on, England was to lead off as Angleterre, or follow France as Grande-Bretagne, while Spain, desiring to be considered, not as Hispania or Iberia, (the Latin designations,) but as España or the French Espagne, claims precedence before Grande-Bretagne or France. This dispute, petty as it is, has seriously threatened to break up the new anti-Mexican tripartite alliance!

Moreover, the French troops are on bad terms with the Spanish, whom they heartily despise, as mere holiday-soldiers, and two regiments had actually got to blows, and bayonets, and bloodshed. Out of 8,000 European soldiers in Vera Cruz, 500 were in hospital. The supply of provisions from the country had ceased—or, indeed, it never had commenced—and the Mexicans, banded together by the pressure of an ill which threatened to crush them in detail, were actually besieging the invaders in Vera Cruz. In fact, Mexico has unexpectedly rallied, and the Allies are confounded by being met with "war to the knife," instead of the assistance from the natives themselves which they had been led to anticipate. It would not surprise us to find the expedition abandoned, are long.

Time, that great exponent of mystery, will [illegible] affair. England seems to have gone [illegible] NAPOLEON meant by joining in this [illegible] in, expecting cash for the Mexican bonds held by her stock-exchange speculators. Spain had probably some idea of recovering her dominion in America—probably of founding an empire, as PEDRO of Braganza did in Brazil, for one of the sons of Queen ISABELLA. That Spain, as has been stated, desired to restore SANTA ANNA, appears wholly improbable. But one great probability there is—namely, that, ere many weeks have elapsed, the invaders of Mexico will be starved out or beaten out of Vera Cruz.

THE REPORT of Mr. COLLAMER, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, presented in the Senate on Thursday, reopens the whole question of a post office for Philadelphia. Remembering the history of this unfortunate subject, we cannot but look upon any attempt to fashion it into a law with concern. The post office has had a dreadful experience. The red tape of two Administrations surround it, and it is now suspended in the Senate by the red tape of a third. The Government, so invariably stingy and mean towards the cities of the North, has been especially so to Philadelphia. The New York post office is a wretched old building, ungainly, incommodious, and actually unsafe. Our post office building here is notoriously inconvenient, and the courts in which our national justice is administered are unfit in every possible respect. The hand which scattered millions in New Orleans and Charleston, and other parts of the South, on palatial custom houses and court buildings, was closed to any appeal from the North; and the Congress which passed appropriations applying these millions refused to entertain any request from the greatest cities under its jurisdiction.

The Congress under Mr. PIERCE, in the closing hours of his Administration, passed an act appropriating $100,000 for the purpose of refitting the Pennsylvania Bank as a post office. This act was passed in violation of the wishes of the people of this city, who had no desire to see their post office erected in such an unfrequented and inconvenient locality. Twenty thousand dollars were spent, and the Postmaster General of Mr. BUCHANAN issued an order terminating the work upon it. The speculators and jobbers, whose interest it was to sell the Pennsylvania Bank, on Second street, had accomplished their purpose. They had obtained a quarter of a million for a property not worth half the amount. It was one of the operations of the deplorable Pennsylvania Bank concern, whose infamies are freshly remembered by ruined thousands. The Government suffered, and the work was terminated. Mr. BUCHANAN sent a commission of Cabinet Ministers to examine the whole matter, and they reported in favor of purchasing what are known as the Bailey and Levy lots, next to the custom house, for the sum of $161,000, and selling the bank building for $127,000, or $123,000 less than what was paid for it. No purchaser could be found, the matter got buried away in the circumlocution office, Philadelphia continued to suffer from an inconvenient post office, and in the course of time a new Administration came into power.

The recommendation of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads is now before Congress. Congress has now in hands, $318,000 of the sum first appropriated; that is to say, if the Government can sell the bank building for $110,000, $17,000 less than was asked in 1858. Of this sum, it is proposed to give $161,000 for the Bailey and Levy lots, (a large price in these times,) expending the $157,000 remaining in the erection of a suitable building for a post office and court-house, provided, (and here we have the old style of dealing with Northern cities again,) "that no other or further sum shall be asked for or granted by Congress, to the city of Philadelphia for such purposes."

The bill of Mr. COLLAMER merely directs the Postmaster General to do what has hitherto been neglected. We are glad that, at last, Congress has determined to concede this necessary improvement. Philadelphia needs a post office so sadly, that no word of ours can impress its necessity upon those in authority. Let us have the Bailey and Levy lots purchased, and as good a building erected as the appropriations can possibly procure.

COL. WILLIAM H. MAURICE.—This gentleman will deliver a lecture on the Pulpit and the Stage, at Musical Fund Hall, to-morrow evening. We believe it will be his maiden effort in that line.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, January 28, 1862.

Railroads and telegraphs, the new auxiliaries of modern war, as of modern civilization, have proved to be potential instrumentalities. But for these the rebellion would have been crushed long ago. The act of secession, carried by the double influence of fanaticism and fear, almost instantaneously secured to the traitors the control of the territory of all the Southern States but four, and so enabled them to seize and use an unbroken line of telegraphs and railroads. It was the railroad from Richmond to Acquia creek that has made the fortification at the latter point so strong. It was the railroad that compensated for their lack of transportation, before and after the battle of Manassas. It was the railroad that threw the deciding column of Johnston upon the army of the Republic on that disastrous day. The railroads of Tennessee, parts of Kentucky and Missouri, all of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana, have been chief elements of rebel strength. The telegraphic wires, like the arteries of the human body, gave new vitality and efficiency to the rebel movements, and in a thousand cases enabled them to anticipate and checkmate the movements of the Union generals.

The Government has, of course, many more of these facilities, but as its duty is to attack the rebels, almost the only use of the railroads and telegraphs in the loyal States, is to convey information, troops, and munitions to the several points of attack. Not only military necessity, but a thousand other considerations, demand that if we cannot occupy the rebel communications, by wire and rail, we must at least destroy them. This will undoubtedly be done by General Sherman, on his line; by Buell, on his; and by Burnside on his. First among the duties devolving upon the civil and military heads of the Government, however, is the opening of a new direct line of communication between the Federal capital and the great cities of the East. It is monstrous that we should have been, and still are, dependent upon a single track between Washington and Baltimore, and that in the hands of gentlemen notoriously disaffected at the commencement of our troubles, and now coining immense sums of money by their cherished monopoly. Everybody in Washington must pay tribute to these worthy members of the first families of Maryland—the Government, in forwarding its supplies to nearly two hundred thousand brave soldiers, these two hundred thousand soldiers themselves, every citizen and sojourner in Washington—the loyalists of New Virginia and Maryland—all, rich and poor, officer and private. Prices have been enhanced beyond parallel by this system of taxation, and many are unable to subsist upon incomes and salaries heretofore abundant for their support. At least two great railroads, not to speak of the immense transportation by water to Baltimore and Annapolis, pour their trade and travel into this single gut, which, though constantly constipated, seems to be always clamoring for more. When it is recollected that no great capital on the civilized globe but is approached by from four to ten great lines of railroad, from which diverge communications with all the neighboring depots and centres of commerce, the fact that Washington is dependent upon one, and that a single track, is inconceivably mortifying. I have no feeling of hostility to the management of the branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. But the subject is too vast and too full of importance to be disregarded. The directors of that branch have been the pampered favorites of the Administration of Mr. Lincoln. That they opposed his election is in itself nothing. That they were disaffected even after his inauguration has already been forgiven, even to the extent of making them rich in the midst of the country's woes. But the public welfare imperatively demands that this glorious city should be wholly independent of any one corporation. It was an evil day when the Government let go its hold of this railroad—and when Secretary Cameron had to yield before the importunities of these directors, and to postpone his great idea of a direct line from Washington to New York, including a new road from this city to Baltimore. That act has cost the Government and the soldiers and the people millions, and filled the pockets of a few men. [illegible] that Mr. Stanton, whose bold and original policy is arousing the utmost enthusiasm, will at an early day take this great subject in hand. He can do it if he will. He has the nerve to do it, and if he does it he will be honored by a grateful country. There will be enough left for the directors of the branch—enough and to spare. They should, therefore, gracefully yield to what must sooner or later become inevitable.

OCCASIONAL.

Two Traitors—Two Niggers.

Capricious in its humor, and highly antagonistic to American institutions, the *London Times* now and then tells truth—by accident, we suppose. In the case of MASON and SLIDELL it comes out, very strongly, against any civility being shown them in England. At Bermuda they dined with the British Admiral on the station, who behaved politely, but invariably snubbed them whenever they began to prate, like Othello, of the dangers they had passed through.

On the contrary, the *Times*, which is supposed to speak the opinion of the British Government, laughs the martyrs of the *Trent* to scorn, saying that "they are about the most worthless booty it would be possible to extract from the jaws of the American lion." It may be asked, why are these amiable martyrs thus denounced? The *Times* answers, sharply enough, because these two men have long been known as blind and habitual haters and revilers of England! Another reason why the traitors should be made nothing of, in England, socially and politically, is to be found in the fact that the fugitive-slave law is generally affiliated on Mr. MASON.

Give no ovation to these fellows, says the *Times*. They are of no account. "*England would have done just as much to rescue two negroes.*" All we say is that, if the writer of that cruel assertion, avowing himself, dare venture into the limits of Secessia, we are afraid that he would be tarred and feathered, out of hand, amid universal Southern applause. MASON and SLIDELL, pseudo-ambassadors from the South, not of more account than two negroes! No wonder, if such things be, that Vesuvius emits flames and overwhelms cities!

The Martyr-Ambassadors.

No doubt the dignity of "the so-called Southern Confederation" has been dreadfully outraged, if not humbled, by the contemptuous manner in which the recognized organ of the British Ministry speaks of Messrs. MASON and SLIDELL. Not content with calling them "those fellows," *The Times* has actually put them down as of as much account, and no more, than a couple of negroes. The hint reminding the British people how the Fugitive Slave Law, of which they have a great horror, is to be affiliated on Mr. MASON, will shut the doors of all the anti-slavery saloons in his face. The British Admiral at Bermuda gave the interesting martyrs a grand dinner, but PALMERSTON's organ in London tells the world that "those fellows" are of no account—actually worth a couple of negroes, and no more. Surely, this is a strange way of honoring Mr. JEFF. DAVIS' special Ambassadors!

THE RECENT ORDER of Gen. HALLECK reflects the spirit of the times, and will be applauded by the country. Gen. McCLELLAN might imitate the example of his subordinate, and deal with the Secessionists in Maryland and the District of Columbia as justly and severely as HALLECK deals with those of Missouri. May this be general, immediate, and implacable.

IN THE HOUR OF NEED, mankind naturally turns to Heaven for deliverance, and worships some idol as the agent of its salvation. In our hour of national need, we have had many military idols, most of whom have been dethroned. The last and most acceptable to the popular mind is our new Secretary of War, E. M. STANTON. He goes to work with an evident determination not to be pushed from his pedestal until he at least has done his part towards annihilating the rebellion.

PHILADELPHIA BOOK TRADE SALE.—In our notice of the forthcoming sale by M. Thomas and Son, we omitted to mention that it would commence on Wednesday morning, March 26. The omission of the day of the month made it appear as if it would begin *to-day*.

LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.

THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE DISASTER EXAGGERATED.

ONLY ONE VESSEL WRECKED.

An Attack on the Pennsylvania Reserves Expected.

THE IMPORTATION OF TEAS UNDER THE NEW TARIFF.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM SECRETARY CHASE ON THE SUBJECT.

THE REBELS AGAIN REPULSED BY COL. GEARY'S COMMAND.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1862.

The Burnside Expedition—The Official Despatches of Gen. Burnside.

A special messenger, with despatches from Gen. BURNSIDE, reached Washington this morning. They are dated, "Headquarters, Department of North Carolina, Hatteras Inlet, Jan. 26, 1862."

The messenger left Hatteras on Sunday. General BURNSIDE states:

"We left our anchorage at Annapolis on Thursday, the 9th, and, after a protracted passage, owing to dense fogs, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Friday night at 12 o'clock. Leaving Fortress Monroe on Saturday at 10 o'clock in the morning, we proceeded at once to sea, but, owing to fogs on Sunday and Sunday night, our progress was very slow. On Monday, the 13th, the weather cleared, with a heavy wind and rough sea, which caused our vessels to labor very heavily, and some were obliged to cut loose from the vessels they were towing. Most of them, however, passed over the bar and anchored inside the harbor about 12 o'clock noon, on the 15th, just in time to escape the severe storm of Monday night and Tuesday.

"The propellor *City of New York* ran on the bar at the entrance of the harbor, and, owing to the severe weather and want of small boats, we could render her no assistance. She was laden with stores and was lost."

The General also says he had been led to suppose that he would find experienced pilots at Hatteras, but had great difficulty in accomplishing his wish for want of proper accommodation. He adds that he would commence that day to build a wharf for the landing of supplies. The men were cheerful and patient, and he would proceed with confidence. An accident occurred in an effort to relieve the steamer *New York*, by which a boat was swamped, and Col. ALLEN, of the Ninth New Jersey Regiment, his surgeon, and the mate of the boat were lost. After the arrival of the expedition at Hatteras, the enemy made their appearance in one or two vessels on a reconnoitring expedition. Our boats gave chase and drove them back.

The transports and other vessels grounded, will be got off by the aid of the tug boats. Only one was lost, (the *City of New York*,) and no lives with the exception of the three above named.

An Important Order.

The Provost Marshal of the city has just issued an order requiring, hereafter, that all persons passing, by stage or private conveyance, over the roads between the District of Columbia and Port Tobacco, or Leonardtown, Md., to procure passes either from the office of the Provost Marshal or from the headquarters of Gen. HOOKER's division. The different roads to these points are now in full military possession. No person without the proper pass will be allowed to travel over them.

The Pensacola and the Perry.

Mr. PRICE, who acted as pilot of the *Pensacola* and the *Perry*, when they successfully ran the blockade of the Potomac, returned from Old Point, where he left the *Perry*, to the navy yard this morning. He states that the *Pensacola* sailed from Old Point yesterday afternoon. The *Perry* will sail for Annapolis, to take the place of the brig *Bainbridge*, now there, which is ordered to repair at Key West for duty in the squadron now blockading the rebel ports.

The Third Pennsylvania Cavalry.

There are some indications of a mutiny in the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. Several of the officers have resigned, or been compelled to do so from force of circumstances, and new ones appointed in their places. The men protest against the changes which have been made, and earnestly desire that the old officers should be restored. It is reported that a petition to this effect has already been drawn up, which, when signed, will be sent into the War Department.

Flight of a Rebel.

At Alexandria, between three and four o'clock this morning, a squad of men, under command of Captain WHITE, went to the residence of a well-known Secessionist, J. N. HARPER, with an order from Secretary SEWARD for his arrest. HARPER, however, evidently had notice of his intended arrest, and made good his escape. It is reported that he was one of those engaged in the work of forwarding letters to the Secession army at Centreville. There are many more men like him in Alexandria.

Expected Attack on the Pennsylvania Reserves.

From information which has been received, there appears to be but little doubt but that the rebels have long meditated an attack on Gen. McCALL's division of Pennsylvania Reserves. The assembling of a large rebel force at Centreville, it is believed, has been for this purpose. The attack may take place at any hour, and if it should occur, the Reserves will remove their encampments to Centreville or Leesburg.

Passes for Port Tobacco.

An order has been issued from the office of the Provost Marshal here, requiring hereafter all persons passing by stage or private conveyance over the roads between the District and Port Tobacco or Leonardstown, Md., and the vicinity of those villages, to procure passes either from the office of the Provost Marshal in this city, if going thither, or from the headquarters of Gen. HOOKER's division, if coming this way—the said roads now being in military possession.

Gen. Banks and Gen. Butler.

Among other visitors to Washington is Maj. Gen. BANKS.

Maj. Gen. BUTLER is still here.

The Relief of Prisoners of War.

Bishop AMES, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Hon. HAMILTON FISH, have signified their acceptance of their appointment, by the Secretary of War, as commissioners to visit and relieve the prisoners of the United States in the hands of the rebels.

Miscellaneous.

The following copy of a letter from Secretary CHASE to Collector BARNEY has been procured on application to the department, in order to correct an erroneous statement recently published:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, January 17, 1862.

SIR: I have under consideration an appeal from your alleged decision that certain teas, imported from Canton, per the bark *Penguin*, by Messrs. A. A. Low & Bro., are dutiable under the act of December 24, 1861, the appellants claiming that the said teas are entitled to entry free of duty under the provisions of the fifth section of the act of August 5, 1861. The twenty-third section of the act of March 2d, 1861, exempts from duty teas, when imported direct from the country of their production in American vessels, or in foreign vessels entitled to the same privileges as American vessels. The fifth section of the act of August 5th, 1861, provides that all goods, wares, and merchandise actually on shipboard and bound to the United States at the date of the passage of this act shall be subject to the law before and at the time of the passage of this act. Thus, the tea on shipboard and bound to the United States on the 5th of August last was entitled to entry on importation free of duty under the act of August 5, 1861. The act of December 24th, 1861, provides that "from and after the date of the passage of this act, in lieu of the duties heretofore imposed by law on articles hereinafter mentioned, there shall be collected and paid the following duties and rates of duty; that is to say, first, on all teas, 20 cents per pound." And the question is now presented whether tea on shipboard, on the 5th of August last, and bound to the United States from the country of its production, in a vessel of the United States, is entitled to the privilege accorded by the fifth section of the act of August, 1861, and entitled to entry free. If the terms in lieu of the duties heretofore imposed had been omitted from the act of December 20th, all teas imported, without exception, would have been liable to the duties imposed by it. The insertion of those terms seems to indicate an intention on the part of Congress to leave free the tea and coffee made free by the fifth section of the act of August 5th, 1861, and thus avoid a discrimination between the shipments already received and admitted from near, and shipments from remote localities, and also on shipboard on the fifth of August last, but not yet arrived.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that the merchandise in question will be entitled to free entry, if it shall be shown to your satisfaction that the teas, in this case, were actually on shipboard, and bound to the United States, from the country of its growth or production, on or before the passage of the act of August 6, 1861.

I am, very respectfully,
S. P. CHASE, Secretary of the Treasury.
To Hiram Barney, Esq., Collector, &c., New York.

GEORGE B. PORTER, Esq., of Pennsylvania, a brother of the provost marshal, and clerk in Chief Assistant Quartermaster RUCKER's office, was found dead in his room, over the office, at seven o'clock this evening. When discovered he was on his knees, partially undressed, with his head reclining on the bed. A physician was called, who decided that he had died in a fit.

Lieut. BOOTH, of the Second Wisconsin, who was made prisoner at the battle of Bull Run, and Lieut. HOOPER, of the First California, captured at Ball's Bluff, arrived to-day from Richmond.

Fewer soldiers are now seen in Washington than at any previous time since the commencement of the rebellion, owing to the execution of a recently promulgated military order.

Hope's Government despatch to-day brought hither a large steam gun, for which the inventor claims great execution in repelling attacks upon fortifications.

From Gen. Hooker's Division.

The little steamer *Reindeer*, Capt. KIEHL, came up from Gen. HOOKER's division last night. The *Reindeer* brought up, as prisoners, two bright mulattoes, who are charged with ferrying rebels across the Potomac, from the Maryland to the Virginia side, between Marshall's and Holland Points. The evidence against them is very positive. They were committed to jail this morning.

The rebel battery at Cockpit Point is very active, and fired several harmless shots at the *Reindeer*. The other day the rebels threw a shell over on the Maryland side weighing one hundred and four pounds. It ploughed up the ground for some distance around, but did not explode.

All small boats passing from shore to shore are now carefully watched. The rebels generally take advantage of dark, stormy nights to cross the river.

The rebels fired into the balloon boat as it passed down, but did not succeed in doing any damage.

There did not appear to be any indications of Gen. HOOKER attempting to cross the river, when Capt. KIEHL left.

Washington News and Gossip.

This has been another gloomy, rainy day, and the streets and roads are in a worse condition than before.

There appears to be no doubt but that the Secretary of the Navy will soon resign. Some two or three prominent politicians are already named as the successor of Secretary WELLES. The next Secretary, from present indications, will come from New York.

Secretary STANTON is run down with applicants for clerkships in the War Department. He appears determined not to make any new appointments for the present.

The small-pox is said to be raging fearfully in Georgetown.

A report prevailed this morning that General HOOKER's division had crossed over into Virginia. The report is not confirmed at the War Department.

The resignations of volunteer officers in the army are again pouring into the department. The resignations come from those who know their incompetency, and fear the ordeal of the board of examiners.

The city is infested with gangs of thieves and pickpockets. The most barefaced robberies are of daily occurrence.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF JEFF THOMPSON.

THREE REBEL REGIMENTS INTERCEPTED.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—A special despatch to the *Tribune*, dated yesterday, says that rumors are rife that the expedition which left Bird's Point on Saturday had a fight with Jeff Thompson's gang of rebels, and that the guerilla chieftain is now a prisoner.

It is also reported that three Tennessee rebel regiments have been intercepted on their march to Sykeston.

ANOTHER ARTILLERY FIGHT ON THE UPPER POTOMAC.

THE REBELS WORSTED.

SANDY HOOK, Jan. 28.—This morning a squad of Ashby's Black Horse Cavalry made their appearance at Bolivar, accompanied by a section of artillery which opened fire on Company H, of Colonel Geary's Regiment, stationed a mile and a half above Sandy Hook. Our Parrott gun and Enfield rifles silenced their battery and drove the cavalry back behind a hill. According to the latest advices no rebels were in sight except the mounted picket stationed at a small wood near Bolivar. Jackson's main body of rebels are concentrating at Charlestown.

Great consternation is said to exist among the rebels in consequence of a report which is circulating among them that our whole division is about to cross over, and that Jackson has been posted at Charlestown to resist our progress. It is thought here that Jackson will move down nearer to Harper's Ferry to-night.

XXXVIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, 1862.

SENATE.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep.), of New York, presented the petition of a large number of merchants of New York, in favor of the restoration of the warehousing system.

Several petitions were presented in favor of the employment of homœopathic surgeons in the army.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep.), of Illinois, presented the petition of W. C. Jewett, of Colorado, favoring the conservative policy of the Government and the issue of United States bills as a legal tender.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem.), of Delaware, presented the petition of citizens of Illinois asking Congress not to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and to expel such members as sympathize with such an act. Also, asking that the title of general by law be taken from John C. Fremont, and that his frauds in the Western Department be fully exposed. Mr. Saulsbury said he had some hesitancy in presenting this petition, but he understood it was within the rules of petitions.

Mr. FOSTER (Rep.), of Connecticut, offered a resolution that the Secretary of the Treasury inform the Senate what, if any, further legislation is necessary to enable the executive department to take charge of the cotton and other lands of South Carolina, now in possession of the Government, and to place the same under cultivation. Also, if any further legislation is necessary to provide for the blacks of those localities, and furnish them proper employment. Adopted.

THE REVISION STATUTES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), of Massachusetts, introduced a bill to provide for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of the United States. It is as follows:

Be it enacted, &c., That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint three persons learned in the law to revise, simplify, arrange, and consolidate all such statutes of the Congress of the United States, in force at the close of the present session, as are general and permanent in their nature.

In performing this duty the commission shall bring together all acts and parts of acts which, from similarity of subject, ought to be so brought together, and shall arrange the same under titles, articles, and sections, or other suitable divisions and subdivisions.

And to every title or other proper division they shall prefix head-notes, briefly and clearly expressive of the matter contained in each division or smallest subdivision; annex side-notes, so drawn as to be a guide to the contents of the text; refer to the original acts from which each section is compiled, and to the decisions of the Federal tribunals explaining or expounding the same, and close the whole with an index for easy reference to every portion of the statutes as revised.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That when the said commissioners shall have completed the revision and consolidation of the said statutes, they shall cause a copy of the same to be submitted to Congress, that the acts so revised and consolidated by them may be re-enacted, if Congress shall so determine; and, when the said acts shall be so presented, the said commissioners shall also suggest to Congress such contradictions, omissions, and imperfections as may appear in the acts by them revised, with the mode in which they have reconciled, supplied, and amended the said acts in the revised statutes presented; and the said commissioners may also designate such acts or parts of acts, if any, as in their judgment ought to be repealed, with the reasons for advising such repeal.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners each shall be paid for their services at the rate of —— dollars a year, and that the sum of —— dollars a year, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of said revision and consolidation of the statutes, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, provided that the said statutes shall be reported to Congress on or before the — day of ——.

The bill was referred.

THE PAY OF THE ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.) introduced a bill to define the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army, and for other purposes.

SEC. 1 Provides that brevet commissions shall not carry with them increased pay or emoluments.

SEC. 2 Provides that forage shall not be commuted, but drawn in kind, and that the allowance for servants or horses shall hereafter be made either in kind or commutation, unless such servants and horses shall have been regularly mustered and inspected.

SEC. 3 Provides that major generals shall be entitled to draw forage for four horses; brigadier generals for three; colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, and lieutenants of cavalry and artillery, for two; and chaplains for one.

SEC. 4 Provides that officers of the army employing soldiers as servants shall deduct from their own monthly pay the full amount paid to said soldier by the Government, for every month such soldier is so employed; and any officer failing to make such deduction, on conviction before a general court martial, to be cashiered.

SEC. 5 Provides that the first section of the act of August 6, 1861, increasing the pay of privates in the army, shall not hereafter be construed to increase the pay of the commissioned officers of the army, and that the eighth section of the act of 22d July, 1861, shall be so construed as to give to the quartermaster sergeants the same compensation as to regimental commissary sergeants.

SEC. 6 Repeals so much of the act of 22d July, 1861, as authorizes each regiment of volunteers to have twenty-four musicians for a band, and provides for mustering said bands out of the service within thirty days after the passage of this act.

SEC. 7 Provides that each brigade in the volunteer service shall have sixteen musicians, as a band, to receive pay and allowances of sergeants of engineer corps, the principal musician to receive twenty-one dollars per month.

SEC. 8 Provides that the rate of mileage allowed to officers of the army when travelling on public duty, where transportation in kind is not furnished by the Government, shall not exceed six cents per mile, except between stations located east and west of the Rocky Mountains, when ten cents per mile shall be allowed.

SEC. 9. That during the continuance of the present rebellion there shall be deducted from the compensation of all persons employed in the military, naval, and civil service of the United States ten per cent. of their compensation.

SEC. 10 Authorizes the President to appoint chaplains in permanent hospitals, where he may deem it necessary; the same to be compensated as now allowed to post chaplains in the regular service.

SEC. 11 Provides that no person shall be appointed chaplain who is not a regular ordained minister of some religious denomination, and who is not recommended by some authorized ecclesiastical body, or not less than five accredited ministers of said religious denomination.

SEC. 12 Provides for eight medical inspectors, each to have the pay and emolument of a lieutenant colonel of cavalry, and whose duty it shall be to inspect the sanitary condition of transports, quarters, and camps of field and general hospitals, and report all circumstances relating to the sanitary condition and wants of troops and of hospitals, &c., to the Surgeon General. These inspectors are to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, upon the passage of the act.

SEC. 13 Provides that any officer put under arrest shall, by the officer under whose order the arrest was made, be served with a copy of the charges on which the arrest was made, within eight days thereafter; and he shall be brought to trial within ten days thereafter, if the necessities of the service permit. If not, then he shall be brought to trial within twenty days after the expiration of the said ten days.

SEC. 14 Provides for the retiring of army officers whose names shall have been borne on the army register forty-five years, or shall be of the age of sixty-two years.

SEC. 15 Authorizes the President to assign any officer thus retired to any duty; and such officer so assigned to receive the full pay of his grade while so employed.

THE MILITARY POSSESSION OF RAILROAD AND TELEGRAPH LINES.

On motion of Mr. WADE (Rep.), the bill to authorize the President to take possession of certain railroad and telegraph lines was taken up.

Mr. WADE said that the bill was intended only as a war measure, and to affect such roads as were not willing to be used by the Government.

After a discussion, Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep.) moved to amend, so as to confine the operations of the bill to States declared to be in a state of insurrection.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), of Massachusetts, moved to add, "or where actually the seat of war."

Mr. WADE did not want immunity for other States. If he had the power he would hang all traitors and bridge-burners twice over, if in the loyal States.

Mr. TRUMBULL was willing to punish traitors anywhere. He only wanted to confine the military punishment provided in the bill to the States where the judicial power was not exercised.

Mr. WILSON said the Government wanted the power to move large bodies of troops over roads at any time, and in such numbers as it pleased. We have a large army which must be moved, and it might require all the rolling stock, &c., of several roads at once.

Mr. WADE was for giving the Government all the power needed to carry on the war. If it could not carry on the war with energy, we might as well give up the war—this rose-water war. He wanted the war carried on vigorously, and wanted power to transport troops without any hindrance.

Mr. BROWNING (Rep.), of Illinois, was in favor of the main object of the bill, but he had some doubts about punishing operatives on the railroads by military law, as provided by the bill. He simply objected to compelling men to subject themselves to the rules and articles of war.

Mr. HALE (Rep.), of New Hampshire, thought there was as much necessity for severe measures against the traitors who flocked, in many places, as much in the loyal as in the disloyal States. He instanced the city in which they were legislating as an example.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, thought that, in regard to many things about which Congress legislated, the Government possesses ample power, to a much greater degree, under the war power. The Senator from Ohio said the Government already possesses this power. If so, then of what necessity is this bill? In his judgment, as a matter of law, such power was always incident to a time of war. Then, is it necessary to put it on the statute book? He thought it better to leave it for the discretion of the commander. He will do all that is necessary under the circumstances. As to giving the power to any commander to shoot any person who interferes against the Government, he thought it a dangerous law to put on the statute book, especially when there was no necessity for such legislation. We are fighting to restore the Constitution; let us be careful we do not violate it. We had better leave the war power have its full force, as it exists, to be used by the commander-in-chief.

Mr. WADE claimed that Congress had the war power, and if they left all to the President, we might as well declare the President dictator and tyrant. Congress, as the representative of the people, ought to have control of the war, and he would never give up such a power. The Senator from Maine seemed to think that Congress had nothing to do but furnish men and money, and then let the President do as he pleases.

Mr. FESSENDEN said the Senator was putting words in his mouth which he had never uttered. He never supposed that Congress had power over the President; but Congress can punish citizens only according to the Constitution.

Mr. DOOLITTLE (Rep.), of Wisconsin, said the question had come up again whether the power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus or enforce martial law exists in the President or in Congress? If the President has that power, what harm is there done if Congress confirms his use of it? If he has not the power, then Congress ought to give it to him.

Mr. COWAN (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, contended that the power of Congress to declare war does not give it the power of commander-in-chief, and compel the army to go forward or retreat at its pleasure. Congress, when it declares war, confers on the President all the power necessary to accomplish the object desired; but Congress has no right to decide how the President shall carry on the war.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep.) said Congress had the entire war power. It might disband the army to-morrow. Congress would have the right to order the army to be armed with wooden swords.

Mr. COWAN. Would the President be bound to obey it?

Mr. TRUMBULL. Certainly. Congress might pass a law requiring the President to hang or to shoot every prisoner taken. Such things would of course be unwise; but Congress has the power to direct them, and it was a monstrous idea that the war power was vested in the Executive, against which he wanted to enter his protest.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem.), of Delaware, thought it strange that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Cowan) should have fallen into such an error as his suicidal argument showed. If once we establish the doctrine that the civil power was subordinate to the military, it will be the destruction of the Government, for there will be an end to all civil liberty. Where the laws can be executed we have no right to interpose military power.

A vote was then taken on Mr. Sumner's amendment to the amendment, and it was disagreed to.

Mr. TRUMBULL modified his amendment so as to confine the operation of the punishment provided in the bill to any State or district in which the laws of the United States are opposed or the execution thereof obstructed by insurgents or rebels against the authority of the United States Government, too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings. The amendment as thus modified was agreed to—yeas 19, nays 17.

Mr. BROWNING (Rep.), of Illinois, offered an amendment as a substitute for the second section, which was disagreed to—yeas 14, nays 21.

The bill was then passed—yeas 23, nays 12 as follows:

NAYS—Messrs. Browning, Cowan, Davis, Fessenden, Foster, Grimes, Harris, McDougal, Powell, Trumbull, Saulsbury, and Willey.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Representative ELY (Rep.), of New York, took his seat to-day, for the first time since his release from Richmond.

Mr. WATTS (Rep.), Delegate from New Mexico, rose to a question of privilege, desiring to correct a statement in a newspaper; but the Speaker ruled that a newspaper statement is not a question of privilege.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and resumed the consideration of the executive, judicial, and legislative appropriation bill.

THE TREASURY-NOTE BILL.

This was subsequently laid aside, and the special order proceeded with—namely, the bill to authorize the issue of United States notes, and for the redemption or funding thereof, and for the funding of the floating debt, which was published last week.

Mr. SPAULDING (Rep.), of New York, rose to address the committee, when

Mr. MORRILL (Rep.), of Vermont, inquired whether the gentleman proposed to leave the bill open to discussion and amendment?

Mr. SPAULDING replied that the bill would take the usual course, and an opportunity would be afforded for debate as long as practicable, compatible with the pressing demands on the Treasury.

Mr. MORRILL gave notice of his intention to introduce a substitute for the bill, omitting such part as makes the notes a legal tender.

Mr. SPAULDING proceeded to explain the bill, saying that the Secretary of the Treasury has acted in strict conformity with the law, and borrowed money at the rates authorized by the act of Congress. He has borrowed a hundred millions at 7 3-10ths per cent., and issued six-per-cent. bonds for fifty millions, for which he has received not quite forty-five millions, and the Secretary has acted in good faith, and should be sustained. We were never in greater peril than now, and our best energies are required to meet the crisis. This was a war measure—one of necessity, and not of choice. The public debt on the 16th of January was $300,764,000. Up to next July there will be $650,000,000, and if the war continue until July, 1863, the estimated debt will be $1,200,000,000, including the floating debt. He argued that, under the Constitution, the power of taxation on real and personal property is unlimited, and it is this property which will form the basis of the notes now proposed to be issued. With ample taxation they will be the very best medium, where the whole property of the country will be held for their redemption. He argued in favor of the constitutional power to issue demand notes, and make them legal tender in payment for debts. Why should we go into the streets to borrow money? The amount which could thus be obtained would not support the Government for ninety days. He reasserted the power of the Government to issue its own notes, pledging the faith, honor, and property of the people for their redemption. In conclusion, he said that he had an abiding faith in the people to maintain the Government; but an early and successful advance of the army was of the utmost importance. It was needed to sustain the financial credit, to prevent foreign interference, and vindicate the invincibility of our forces, who are anxious to be led to victory.

Mr. STEVENS (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, in reply to an inquiry, said that ample time would be afforded for the discussion of the bill, and gave notice that he would offer an amendment to make the semi-annual interest payable in coin.

The committee then rose, and the further consideration of the bill was postponed till to-morrow.

Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING (Rep.), of New York, introduced a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. Referred to special committee on the subject.

THE POTTER INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Mr. POTTER (Rep.), of Wisconsin, made a report from the select committee on the subject of disloyal employees of the Government. The consideration of the report was postponed for two weeks.

The House again took up the judicial, legislative, and executive appropriation bill.

Sundry amendments were made, but no conclusion on the bill arrived at.

The House then adjourned.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, January 28, 1862.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at eleven o'clock by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER laid before the Senate the annual report of Isaac N. Seymour, treasurer of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company.

Also, a statement from the Auditor General of the number and classification of hotel, restaurant, and other licenses.

Also, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Sixpenny Savings Fund of Philadelphia.

Also, the annual report of the Pennsylvania Institute for the Instruction of the Blind.

Also, an abstract of the accounts of the Willow Grove Turnpike Company.

Also, the report of the Auditor General and State Treasurer on the claim of John Kelley.

Also, the annual report of the Erie Canal Company.

Leave of absence, for a few days, was granted to Mr. Kinsey.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. IMBRIE (Pensions), as committed, the bill granting a pension to the widow of Adam W. Pritchard, a volunteer, who died in the service of the State.

Mr. LAWRENCE (Education), with amendment, the bill to reorganize the Board of School Controllers in Philadelphia.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. STEIN, a bill constituting Lehigh county a separate judicial district.

Mr. BENSON, a bill providing for the pay of officers for recruiting service.

Mr. CONNELL, a bill to limit the compensation of certain officers in Philadelphia. [This bill provides that, hereafter, the fees of the District Attorney, for service rendered the city, shall not exceed $3,000; that the Sheriff's fees shall not exceed $3,000, and the Clerk of the Court, and Coroner, each $2,000.]

Mr. CLYMER, a bill to regulate proceedings in courts of justice, and for other purposes.

Also, a supplement to the act relative to bringing suits by creditors against executors, administrators, assignees, &c.

Mr. BOUGHTER, a supplement to the act incorporating the city of Harrisburg.

Mr. SERRILL, a supplement to the act incorporating the Kingsessing and Tinicum Meadow Company. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. SMITH, of Montgomery, a bill to repeal the law relative to sealer of weights and measures in Montgomery county.

Mr. DONAVANN, a bill to regulate highways in the city of Philadelphia.

BILLS CONSIDERED, &C.

The supplement to the act incorporating the Oil Creek Railroad Company came up in order, and passed finally.

On motion of Mr. ROBINSON, the bill to change the name of E. Satterfield, and adopt her as the child of Wm. Budd and Catharine his wife, was considered and passed.

On motion of Mr. CONNELL, the bill declaring Jennie Smith an adopted daughter of Frederick Hillworth, of Philadelphia, was considered and passed.

On motion of Mr. BENSON, the bill relative to taxes on unseated lands in the counties of Tioga and Warren was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. REILLY, the bill authorizing the election of but one supervisor in Rahn township, Schuylkill county, was considered and passed.

Mr. LOWRY called up the bill granting a pension to the widow of Adam W. Pritchard, who died in the service of the State.

Mr. PENNEY thought that the Senate should be careful about establishing a precedent on the subject of pensions, as the granting of one would lead to thousands of similar applications. He called attention to the law of last session providing for the pensioning of widows of volunteers dying in the service of the State in the event of their receiving no pension from the Government of the United States. He thought that the Senate should not act hastily upon this important subject, but wait the action of the General Government.

Mr. LOWRY contended that the State ought to provide in the first place for the widows and orphans of volunteers, and look to the General Government for reimbursement.

Pending the consideration of the bill, a committee of the House of Representatives was introduced and conducted the Speaker and members of the Senate to the hall of the House, for the purpose of opening the bids for the State printing and binding and allotting the same to the lowest bidder.

After an absence of an hour and a half the Senators returned, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

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

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Moore, of Harrisburg.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the statement of licenses issued during 1861 to keepers of hotels, eating houses, etc.; also, the annual report of the Six-penny Saving Fund. Laid on the table.

EXPENSES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. REX, of Montgomery, offered a resolution requiring the committee on the retrenchment of House expenses to convene at 3 P. M. The preamble set forth that the chairman of the committee had found it impossible to obtain any meeting except on two occasions.

Several gentlemen objected to this compulsory mode of enforcing attendance.

The resolution was postponed indefinitely by a vote of 52 ayes to 18 noes.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

Mr. SCOTT, of Huntingdon, offered a resolution requesting the Auditor General to inform the House whether the Pennsylvania Railroad had complied with the provision of the "Act for the commutation of tonnage duties," by filing a copy of the contract approved March 7, 1861, as well as a copy of their toll-sheet, and the statement required by the second section of said act; also, whether the company has made any payments in conformity with the act since December, 1861.

The resolution was adopted.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. SMITH, of Philadelphia, an act to prevent the fraudulent use of iron and other castings.

Mr. DUFFIELD, an act for the better protection of consumers of gas in Philadelphia.

Mr. LICHTENWALLNER, an act constituting Lehigh county a separate judicial district.

Mr. GAMBLE, an act granting certain rights to the market companies of Philadelphia. [Allowing them to use the pavements in front of the buildings for the exhibition and sale of produce.]

Mr. TATE, an act relative to damages on the Wyoming and North Branch Canal.

EXPULSION OF HON. JESSE D. BRIGHT.

The House refused, by a *viva voce* vote, to suspend the rules to consider the following resolution, offered by Mr. BATES, of Crawford:

Whereas, We have read with surprise and much alarm the following letter of Jesse D. Bright, Senator from the State of Indiana in the Senate of the United States, viz.:

"WASHINGTON, March 1, 1861.

"MY DEAR SIR: Allow me to introduce to your acquaintance my friend, Thomas B. Lincoln, of Texas. He visits *your capital* mainly to dispose of what he regards a *great improvement in firearms*. I recommend him to your favorable consideration, as a gentleman of the first respectability, and *reliable in every respect*.

"Very truly yours, JESSE D. BRIGHT.

"*To His Excellency* JEFFERSON DAVIS, *President of the Confederate States.*"

And whereas, we regard the spirit and intent of said letter as traitorous and treasonable against our Government: therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, that our Senators from this State be, and they are hereby, instructed to vote for the immediate expulsion of the said Jesse D. Bright from his seat in the United States Senate.

FRAUDS UPON THE VOLUNTEERS.

The House proceeded to the consideration of the resolution offered by Mr. REX, of Montgomery, as follows:

Resolved, That a select committee of five be appointed to investigate and examine into the contracts made by certain parties with the agents appointed by the Governor, for the furnishing of clothing, equipments and supplies to the Commissary Department, for the use of the three-months volunteers, called into service in compliance with a requisition from the President, and ascertain, if possible, if any frauds have been committed upon the State, and if so, to report to the House the nature and extent of such frauds, and the name or names of the parties implicated. The committee shall also examine into such other contracts and expenditures made by the heads of the different departments or their agents, as they in their judgment may deem proper, and shall have power to send for persons and papers.

The question was on the substitute offered to the original resolution by Mr. Greenbank. The substitute was as follows:

Whereas, The commissioners appointed by the Governor to investigate the army frauds have, in their report, divulged the fact that irregularities, extravagances, and frauds were committed, to the great injury of the Commonwealth, by persons engaged in furnishing clothing, equipments, and supplies to the militia of this State, under the act of April twelfth, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

And whereas, Judicial inquiry into the same has to a considerable extent been foiled, and no efficient action has been had in the premises: therefore,

Be it resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to investigate the facts in regard to said abuses, and to report the same to this House, together with the names of any persons, if such there be, from whom the State should be reimbursed the monies thus fraudulently obtained, and that the Governor and heads of the respective departments be respectively requested to furnish said committee with any information or documents in their possession or control relating to said matters; and that the committee have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. DENNIS was opposed to the substitute.

Mr. WILLIAMS, of Allegheny, entered upon a review of the question involved. Did the people demand this investigation? The message of the Executive had admitted that the popular clamor had been so great that the Governor had not even waited for a few months, when it might have been acted upon by the House, but had appointed his own committee. It is true that this had created a smile upon the countenances of those who thought that if a man was to be allowed to appoint his own judge and jury, it would be strange if he did not get a verdict in his favor. The gentlemen of that committee, it was only just to say, had been men of character, and the report, although couched in the very charitable style of the gentleman from Philadelphia, (Mr. Abbot,) revealed many things not very creditable to the party by whom the investigation was prompted.

Mr. WILLIAMS alluded to a resolution offered by himself in 1861, calling upon the Governor to furnish certain information, including the names of agents contracting for the State. The message which was received in response did not contain the name of a certain person, who, at that time, it was currently reported, was one of these agents, but it turned out afterwards that this very man had acted in Pittsburg. The frauds connected with a case in that city were matters of common report. The people assembled, collected funds to aid the prosecution, and the speaker was appointed as counsel. The case was ready for trial, when all proceedings were blocked by the issue of a writ *exparte*, and without notice, by a chief justice. This astonished all legal gentlemen in the Commonwealth. Further action was taken, but, in the meantime, the most important witness had gone beyond the seas.

Mr. DENNIS, in the course of the discussion, said that there were many attacks upon the Executive, but that every child knew that often where there was much smoke there was very, very little fire.

The substitute of Mr. Greenbank was agreed to by a vote of 67 yeas to 20 nays.

Mr. WILDEY offered an amendment, limiting the expenses of the committee to $500. Agreed to.

ALLOTMENT OF STATE PRINTING.

The Speaker and members of the Senate being introduced, the Convention proceeded to the business fixed by law—namely, the allotment of the State printing for three years, from July 1, 1862.

Senator HIESTAND, of Lancaster, moved that the Convention adjourn until February 25th, in order to allow an opportunity for the revision of the law authorizing the printing.

Senator LOWRY, of Erie, called for the reading of the act of 1856, under which the Convention assembled. It having been read by the clerk, he expressed the belief that it was illegal for the body to adjourn without opening the bids and consummating the allotment.

After a rambling discussion the motion to adjourn was withdrawn. The bids were then opened by the Speakers of the two Houses, and were as follows:

Jacob Babb,	62½ per cent. below terms of act of Assembly.		
George Bergner,	40	do.	do.
A. B. Hamilton,	16 1-16	do.	do.
Theo. Fenn,	61	do.	do.
J. H. Wells & Co.,	66	do.	do.

The sureties of the lowest bidders, J. H. Wells & Co., were announced as insufficient.

Jacob Babb did not appear.

Theophilus Fenn did not appear.

Representative HOPKINS, of Washington, moved to adjourn until 11th February, at 12 M.

Senator SMITH favored this, declaring that there was an evident combination among the printers of Harrisburg to drive matters to a certain point, to the detriment of the State. The sureties which were tendered by the lowest bidder were refused, and the same men again presented by the next bidder, while one of the parties could not be found.

Representative WILLIAMS moved to amend by adjourning *sine die*. This was lost.

Representative HOPKINS modified his motion so as to adjourn until February 25. This was agreed to. Then adjourned.

NEWS FROM REBEL SOURCES.

EXCITEMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 28.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of yesterday contains the following:

Newbern, N. C., is in a ferment of excitement, in the expectation of an attack in that quarter. The town is under martial law, and every preparation made for obtaining early intelligence of the enemy's movements, and for his repulse when he does come.

From Kentucky.

LATE FROM FISHING CREEK.

General Crittenden was not wounded in the late battle. We gather a few additional facts in relation to the Kentucky disaster from the Knoxville *Register*. Eight Confederate regiments engaged fourteen regiments of the enemy. False information of the enemy's forces was brought by one Johnson, known familiarly as Hogback Johnson. When our forces reached their entrenchments, Gen. Crittenden concluded to fall back to the south side of the river. The little steamer which had arrived, was taken, and the infantry transported across under the fire of the enemy's batteries, posted on the heights above.

We lost the greater portion of our cavalry horses, tents, and munitions. Gen. Carroll now has command of the division. Two of Gen. Zollicoffer's aids, Major Fogg and Major Shields, were badly wounded. Whether the enemy has crossed the Cumberland river, we are not advised. It was expected they would do so. Gen. Carroll is reported as making a valiant stand against them. Gen. Crittenden and all his staff are safe. Gen. Carroll and staff are also safe. The only loss on our side is reported at 300 killed. The loss of the enemy is supposed to be twice that number.

Gen. Crittenden ordered the advance, believing that the enemy were only *1500 strong*.

Under cover of the night our forces were transported speedily across the river, and when the messenger left were ordered to fall back to Camp McGinnis, twenty-five miles in the direction towards Knoxville. Several of our men came in yesterday and report a large number of others on the way to Knoxville. Our troops fell back to the breastworks under command of Gen. Crittenden, who was not wounded as has been reported.

The citizens of Knoxville have held meetings to furnish our distressed and routed soldiers with clothing, beds, and blankets.

NASHVILLE, January 24, via Mobile, January 25.—The most reliable information of the engagement at or near Somerset is that only two regiments, Colonel Battles' Tennessee and Colonel Stratham's Mississippi, were engaged in the fight near Mill Springs. The estimated number of killed, wounded, and taken prisoners varies from three to five hundred. General Crittenden, with nearly all his force, is now at Monticello. Stores and equipments are being sent to him. The force of Federals is variously estimated at Paris at from 5,000 to 20,000, some declaring that it reached 25,000.

Paris was in a perfect state of excitement yesterday. Many citizens anticipated an immediate descent of the enemy, which they deemed themselves utterly powerless to resist, and were preparing to leave with their negroes and other property for various points Southward. One gentleman alone endeavored to obtain transportation on the train for ninety negroes, fearing that they would fall into the hands of the Federals.

Gen. Buell, it is reported, has left Munfordsville, and gone, no one knows where. Fort Henry is still safe, the enemy for some reason having withdrawn from the immediate vicinity. The shots from the gunboats were not replied to from the fort, which will be held at all hazards. No doubt the design of the enemy in bombarding the fort, on Friday afternoon, was to discover the position and calibre of the guns. Whatever were their designs, they were frustrated. These demonstrations, together with those threatened at Bowling Green and Columbus, indicate hot work and plenty of it, at no distant period.

Alarm at Paris, Tennessee.

The Memphis *Argus* of January 20 says that "three gentlemen, who arrived at Paris before the departure of the train for this city, brought information that the Federals had advanced in force to Murray, Kentucky, and that they would march at once to Paris, Tennessee, between which place and Murray, a distance of twenty-five miles, there is no Confederate force sufficient to resist. It was generally anticipated, however, that no advance had been made up to yesterday afternoon."

The Wrecked Steamer City of New York.

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—The steamer *City of New York*, lost at Hatteras, was a propeller of 900 tons, and was built for the New York and Baltimore route, and owned here.

New Jersey Legislature.

RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF COL. ALLEN.

TRENTON, Jan. 28.—The news of the loss of Col. Allen and Surgeon Muller, of the New Jersey Ninth Regiment, created a profound sensation in the Legislature, and the melancholy event being announced in both houses, they adjourned, in respect to the memory of the deceased.

THE CITY

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WALNUT-STREET THEATRE—Ninth and Walnut sts.—"The Fairy Circle"—"Our Gal"—"Ireland as it Was."

CONTINENTAL THEATRE—Walnut street, above Eighth—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

ARCH-STREET THEATRE—Arch street, above Sixth.—"The Irish Attorney"—"The Irish Emigrant"—"Two can Play at that Game."

MUSICAL FUND HALL—Locust street, above Eighth.—Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert.

TEMPLE OF WONDERS—N. E. corner Tenth and Chestnut streets.—Signor Blitz's Entertainment.

THE MOYAMENSING PIRATES.—With the exception of Gilchrist, (confined in the debtor's apartment, and furnished with three good meals per day for which the Government has to pay the munificent sum of fifty cents,) the only State prisoners now immured in Moyamensing Prison are the rebel pirates. They are thirty-eight in number, thirty-four of them being the sole surviving mementoes of the ship *Petrel*, and the other four being stalwart souvenirs of the privateer *Jeff Davis*. One of the mementoes has been discharged upon bail, and another will never more have need of bail upon this earth. Evan Lane, pilot of the *Jeff Davis*, has been unconditionally released, it being proved, upon trial, that his heart had never been in the bad cause, and that he had repeatedly striven to thwart his traitor comrades, by altering the vessel's course. Lane was born in Massachusetts, where his father (a respectable old gentleman, who was present at the hearing) now resides. When released, he went to his home, in the old Bay State, with no taint or suspicion of disloyalty clinging to his name.

The prisoners are confined two in a cell, on the second floor of the south corridor, and are not manacled. They are in good health and spirits, (considering that their conviction can entail no other sentence but death upon them,) and upon a recent occasion, being visited and questioned by Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, they replied that their only grievance was the deprivation of liberty.

In the matter of food, they are entitled to the sincere congratulation of all well-wishing friends—receiving three first-rate meals per day, which are appraised and paid for by Uncle Sam at the rate of forty-three cents per pirate.

Their clothing is comfortable, indicating the extent to which the sympathy of our citizens sometimes carries itself. The best portion of it has been purchased by contributionship, in which the gentler sex have had an extensive hand. When the men were brought to this city they were bare-foot, ragged, and with chins unshorn. Any one of them, picked out at random, would have made a capital "warmint" for "Great Expectations," if only a rag were bound around his head, and only a convict's iron were fastened to his leg. But, coming among a civilized people, even a consignment to a civilized prison-life has made a wonderful change in their character and personal appearance; and, except at odd times, when their countenances betray them, you would never take them for anything worse than the felons of stern necessity.

Occasionally they are visited by friends, who are furnished with the necessary pass, by United States Marshal Millward. In this way they come into possession of books and packs of cards. The books are not taken to so kindly as the cards that are generally thumbed into greasiness (they have soup for dinner sometimes) before the end of a game. Sometimes one of the players gets off a joke, which is made to furnish amusement for the balance of the day, besides serving the reminiscent function of calling up other jokes long since departed—jokes that possess a melancholy interest, because at the time of their birth the perpetrators were in freedom, and the whole land at peace.

We were slightly in error in saying that they were all in good health. We recollect now, a querulous old man of sixty, with a grizzly, deep-lined face, who was pointed out to us as the captain of the *Petrel*. He was suffering to some extent from rheumatism, that, perhaps, was beneficial to him in the particular that it served to divert his thoughts from the blank walls about him and the heavy padlock on the door. The ailment had been contracted, he said, from his having been so long in the water when the vessel sunk, before he was picked up by a boat from the *Congress*. His eye was clear and full of vigor for so old a man, and he looked at us longingly as we turned away.

It was generally expected that Secretary Seward would visit the prison, with the Orleans princes, while in the city a day or two since, but no such visit was made. The trial of the *Petrel* crew will take place in April, and a conviction is pretty sure to follow. The *Jeff Davis* men are already under conviction. The question of their final fate seems never to give them uneasiness, and their dreams are sweet dreams of peace.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY CASE.—The case of Husband and others, charged with conspiring to cheat and defraud, was resumed yesterday morning in the Court of Quarter Sessions.

James M. Scoville sworn.—I am a lawyer; Rosanna Bowen was indicted in Camden for keeping a disorderly house; Mr. Wilson, the sheriff, called on me and desired me to take charge of her case; I refused; she desired me to defend her; Judge Van Dyke assigned me as her counsel; she was taken with a sort of fit; I advised her to enter a plea of guilty.

William Helmuth sworn.—Lived across the street from *Mrs. Bowen*; I was in the house once; people said she kept a bad house; I was at her house thirteen months ago; Mr. Robinson was with me; I saw a sick woman there, and a dead child.

Mrs. Bowen, the mother, recalled. Mr. Mann said that he desired to prove that there was a share of the farm belonging to her son Marks; which would add value to the farm; also to show by bills and receipts held by Mrs. Bowen, for houses built on the farm since 1853, to rebut the evidence of a witness, who said the barn was only worth seventy-five dollars.

Mr. O'Neill said that the Commonwealth had already touched on this case, as to the value of the property, and the defence had met it; it was now too late to introduce the witness on this point, as the defence would simply have to call in more to rebut it. All the evidence is now before the jury, and it is for them to decide whether we have not met the Commonwealth.

The judge overruled the application, and the witness retired.

James McNeelis sworn.—I keep a grocery store at Twelfth and Bedford streets; Mrs. Bowen has been dealing at my store; from general reputation, I think she is a very nice woman; I think she is a truthful woman; never heard her character spoken against; all I know about her, she always pays me my bills; I estimate her character from this.

J. H. Beckwith sworn.—Have known Mrs. Bowen since the middle of November; have seen her at the Bedford-street Mission, and at her house three times; she has attended the mission at every meeting; I am the Bedford-street missionary.

Question.—"Do you know her general character or reputation?"

Answer.—"No sir."

After an explanation between the lawyers as to how the questions should be propounded, the witness said he had never heard her character for truth questioned; I cannot give the name of any one who ever said she was a truthful woman.

James Maxwell sworn.—Am agent for the house in which Mrs. Bowen lives; she pays the rent punctually; regard the family as peaceable and honest; never heard anybody say anything against her character; never heard anybody say a word about her character for telling the truth.

Mr. Miller recalled.—I have known Mrs. Bowen since the 22d of June; had seen her several times before the night she was arrested and taken to Camden; I have never heard her character for telling the truth doubted; I would not hesitate to believe her on oath; the whole neighborhood knew her; I never heard her character for truth questioned, excepting by the parties who are against her; have heard a lawyer in Camden speak against her; did on one occasion hear people at Bridgeton speak about her; they said she was a poor kind of an honest creature; never heard anybody question her character for truth.

Wm. Powell sworn.—I was at Mrs. Bowen's house when the Mayor and his police came in; myself, another young man, the mother, and all the daughters were there; we were all talking about the farm; after awhile a knock came at the door; the Mayor and six or seven police officers came in and took us all away; there was nothing wrong done in that house; I went there to see Mary; I drive an ice cart; when the officers came, it was half past 10 o'clock; I had been there about one and a half or two hours when the officers came; our conversation was about the farm; the other young man who was with us is in the army; he is at Washington.

John S. Reed sworn.—Reside in Camden; was in Prison Board in 1861 and 1862; Mrs. Bowen was in prison, and knew what she was there for; she had importuned me about taking a judgment on some property; the Board of Freeholders examined into the affair; the money was advanced; from all I have heard, I think she is a bad woman; she pleaded guilty to keeping a disorderly house. The fine was $75, and was paid into the treasury, I suppose; I do not know how it came to be made up to the sum of $138.

The evidence on all sides here closed.

The counsel then commenced the argument. Messrs. Mann and Geo. C. Collins for the Commonwealth, and Messrs. Cuyler and Cassidy for the defence.

All the counsel were heard except the District Attorney, who will sum up the case this morning, when it will be given to the jury, and a verdict rendered.

TRUSTEES OF THE GAS WORKS.—To-morrow, Councils are required by law, to elect four new trustees of the gas works; two in each chamber. The following are all the candidates we have heard of:

In Select Council.—Michael J. Dougherty, Fourth ward, lawyer, at present a member of this Council; Wm. L. Hirst, Fifth ward, lawyer, now a trustee, formerly candidate for city solicitor; Chas. L. Wolff, Tenth ward, looking-glass dealer, lately member of the board, and a candidate for the Legislature; Andrew C. Craig, Eighth ward, liquor dealer, a former trustee; Frederick Fraley, Ninth ward, Secretary Schuylkill Navigation Co., another member of the board; Richard Vaux, Eighth ward, ex-mayor.

In Common Council.—J. P. McFadden, Third ward, recently prothonotary of the district court; Dr. W. W. Burnell, Fifteenth ward, ex-councilman; Dr. Wm. B. Small, same ward, ex-trustee; Benj. Gerhard, Fifth ward, attorney, another ex-trustee; Richard Ludlow, Ninth ward, a brother of Judge Ludlow, lately a candidate for Council; Jacob Dowler, Fourteenth ward, an ex-clerk in the gas department; Anthony Miskey, Twenty-second ward, a broker, and once a trustee too; and L. Martin, Twentieth ward, lamp-black manufacturer; Lewis Cooper, another broker, and another ex-member of the board of trustees; he resides in the Eighth ward.

It is hardly probable that more will be done on Thursday than to elect these trustees. Among the candidates for other positions of a more lucrative character, we find the late Custom House officers largely represented.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.—Rev. Charles M. Breaker, a Baptist minister, and chaplain of the Eastern Penitentiary, in this city, died suddenly Monday night. The circumstances were these: He was in the prayer-meeting of the Fifth Baptist Church, corner of Eighteenth and Spring Garden streets. During the meeting he took part calmly but impressively. Just as the meeting closed, he beckoned to the pastor, Rev. James B. Simmons, to come to him, and said: "I am sick! will you open the door and give me fresh air?" The door was opened, and he placed near it, being lifted by main strength. A physician was called, and after about an hour he was placed in a carriage, attended by his physician and others, but he died before he reached his home. He had regarded himself in unusually good health for two months past. His disease must have been apoplexy. The funeral services are to commence at precisely two o'clock to-morrow afternoon (Thursday) at Rev. Mr. Simmons' Church, corner of Eighteenth and Spring Garden. All are invited, particularly ministers of the Gospel, of all denominations. The deceased leaves a wife and three children, who reside at 2015 Poplar street.

FIRE.—An alarm of fire was occasioned about half past one o'clock this morning, by the burning of a lot of combustibles in a house in Prune street, above Fourth. The flames were extinguished before much damage was done.