We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts. Voluntary correspondence solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

War in Earnest. It is not a pleasant thing to contemplate the destruction of a town like Fredericksburg, but we look upon it as an evidence of real, earnest, and unrelenting war. This old Virginia town, on the banks of the Rappahannock, is one of the most celebrated towns in the Old Dominion, and has outlived much of the decay that attends towns and villages in the New World. Here the mother of Washington reposes, and around this tomb cluster many of the dearest memories of the Revolution. Taste, and wealth, and respectability flourished here, and in times of peace it was one of the proudest and most stately towns on the continent. That such a place should now be at the mercy of fire, and gunpowder, and explosive shells -its inhabitants exiles, its homes deserted, its monuments and mansions becoming so many evidences of destruction and death-is a sad evidence of the desperation and wildness of the rebels. They have invited this fate. They drew the fire of the Federal batteries upon the city by making its houses a great battery against the Union army. Under its cover, and taking advantage of its character and the kindness and humanity of General BURNSIDE, they have been preparing to invade Washington, and resist the Federal authority. Sharpshooters and men in ambush have been constantly destroying our pickets and endeavoring to kill our soldiers. In the effort to build a bridge across the river the rebels opened a fierce fire with infantry, the dwellings of the town serving as a bulwark. There was no alternative, and so, according to the meagre account we have this morning, the combined batteries of the Union army are pouring an incessant fire into the rebel stronghold. Our advices to the moment of going to press show that the contest at this point has

been fierce and decisive. We have occupied Fredericksburg without great loss, and after exhibitions of gallantry that make us proud of the prowess of the American soldier. The rebels were literally swept out of their position by the rain of shell and shot. Under the cover of our guns a detachment fixed bayonet, and capturing a number of prisoners, the bridges were built and our army went over in force. We now hold Fredericksburg and the other side of the river. The enemy has fallen back to prevent a flank movement of General FRANK-LIN's corps, and, as the reporter says, a battle is imminent to-day. This assumption is no doubt based upon the supposition that the rebels have retreated beyond the town and are now awaiting a further advance of General Burn-SIDE to give him battle. It is possible that this may be the situation of affairs, but it is more probable that the rebels have fallen back to the Mattapony, or perhaps to their defences at Richmond. The movement of General Siger to Culpeper, as announced by our Washington correspondent, indicates an advance upon Gordonsville, and the protection of Burnside's right flank. This will prevent any assault upon our rear or our flanks by Jackson, or any other energetic rebel commander, and enable us to move with our whole army direct upon Richmond. If General BURNSIDE can force the enemy to give him battle, as our correspondent intimates, it will result in a great advantage to the Union cause, for it will enable him to end the rebellion by one great blow.

We, of course, cannot speculate upon probabilities as uncertain and hazardous as those of war, nor do we pretend to see anything in this action at Fredericksburg other than a victorious advance of General Burn-SIDE upon the enemy. Yet, with proper cooperation on the part of SIGEL on the right. and the forces at Yorktown, Suffolk, and Fortress Monroe, we do not see how the rebels can defend Richmond. Our gunboats in the James are ready to move upon Fort Darling, and General FOSTER may have it in his power to advance upon Petersburg. LEE cannot hold Richmond in the face of these armies. He must either give us battle now, or fall back to some such point as Lynchburg. He may divide his forces, and hold the fastnesses in the mountains; he may go further south; but any of these contingencies brings with it the annihilation of the rebel cause. That cause is now embraced in the armed battalions of General LEE. When they are crushed or dispersed, it falls; and, if we correctly read the news this morning, that fall is now at hand. We shall look with intense interest for the news of the next few days. We know the difficulties that attend a winter campaign, the utter inhumanity of endeavoring to carry out an extended campaign in the winter season; the chances of snow and frost and liquid roads; but the century which has seen a Napoleon march over the icy Alps may see the success of a Burnside in the plains of Virginia. If our army is but directed by a proper energy, if the generals in command advance as they have been advancing, there is no reason to forbid the anticipation that we may be in Richmond before Christmas. That is now the great goal to which we move. When Richmond falls, the rebellion falls, and many days may not pass before Mr. SEWARD can be enabled to answer Mr. DROUYN DE L'HUYS, and all who, like him, meditate an intervention in our affairs, with one of the most cheering and eloquent despatches of the age.

We have seen it recorded, as a moral maxim. that when men commit one sin they are apt to commit a dozen more to explain or defend it. We see this exemplified in the case of the Common Council. There were citizens who thought that the recent action of that body was a mistake—something done in the heat of the moment, under a misanprehension of facts, and without any intention to be unjust. They likewise thought that when the time came to reconsider the action it would be reconsidered. But those who thought so were mistaken in their men. The men who expelled Mr. DUFFIELD by the previous question-who held a caucus upon him and drove him from his seat without permitting a word of explanation or defenceare not the men to do an act of magnanimity or justice. With such a man as Mr. Quin upon the floor, only too anxious to do the most distasteful work of his masters—with President. The principle of compensation servile tool in the chair like Mr. WILSON KERR-what could be expected? Nothing more than what we have seen. The majority votes in a solid body against every motion that looks to inquiry or justice. The President tells Mr. Duffield, in a very vulgar and offensive way, "That he is no more a member of City Councils than any Mr. Jones or any Mr. Smith"-he decides every question like the chairman of a ward convention in a bar-room would do, and prevents anything like an expression of opinion on the part of any dissenting member. The whole contest resulted in some legislative filibustering, and the session closed in an unprofitable manner-Mr. DUFFIELD being still kept out of his scat. We do not know what action the honorable men in Councils will take, but so far as that body is concerned, the outrage is consummated. We plainly and boldly denounce it as a most infamous proceeding, for which there can be no excuse, and we are afraid. no remedy. It makes the precedent in favor of the usurpation of partisan majority. It places the sacred rights of the franchise at the mercy of any secret and unscrupulous caucus. It deprives the citizens of large districts of the right of representation. It makes the majority a tyrant—the minority a | causing these States to become free States, victim. Mr. DUFFIELD may have been a in a way agreeable to them. Is he not murderer, or a thief, or a traitor—he may right? Suppose those States free, and how

TON-but he was still a member of Common Council, the representative of a large body of people, and he was entitled to certain rights. These rights have been wrongly taken away from him, and we very much mistake the letter and spirit of our laws if there is no remedy against the repetition of such an outrage.

Parson Brownlow.

Our distinguished and ever-welcome correspondent, Parson Brownlow, closes for the present, in this morning's Press, what has been a most valuable series of letters. We part from the Parson with many regrets, and at the same time shall be glad to welcome him again to our columns. That he should have selected THE PRESS of all other papers as the organ of sentiment. through which he might reach the hearts of the people is indeed a high compliment, and we have been pleased to observe the consistent loyalty which has characterized his correspondence from the beginning. In some things we have differed from the Parson. We think that at times his criticisms upon the management of national affairs have been severe, and perhaps unreasonable: but we can pardon this, and more than this, to a loyalty as intrepid and impetuous, which has suffered so much and endured so many hardships in the

cause of the Union. The welcome which Parson BrownLow has received in all parts of the country is a high tribute to his devotion and bravery, and when this war is over, and we come to read the glowing deeds of the hour, few will receive higher praise. He was loyal when he had every personal and selfish motive to be disloyal-he was loval when the rebels sought to bribe his pen he was loyal amid the ruins of his newspaper enterprise-he was loval amid persecution and social contumely—he was loyal in prison—he was loyal in banishment, and his faith is constant, and thorough, and enduring. Such a man is worthy of all the

Brigadier General Welsh. The numerous friends of Thomas Welsh, the brave colonel of the gallant 45th Pennsylvania, to which belongs the honor of having turned the fortunes of the day in our fayor at South Mountain, and which behaved with such marked heroism at Antietam, have been delighted to hear of his recent commission as a brigadier general of volunteers. Brigadier General Welsh is from Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and served with distinction through the Mexican war. crossed, and after carrying the position with | Since the outbreak of the rebellion, in the

honors that are paid to him, and he deserves

to live forever in the hearts of his country-

spring of 1861, he has been in constant service, passing through the ranks of captain, major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel. His appointment as brigadier general was solicited by Governor Curtin and General BURNSIDE, and the promptness with which the merits of this valuable officer were recognized is highly creditable to the powers that be, as it is also a deserved compliment to Pennsylvania. General WELSH will have a command in the old Ninth army corps.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL,"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1862. Much is said here relative to "compensated emancipation," as proposed by President Lincoln. The application to aid Missouri will bring the subject before Congress, and furnish an occasion for its elaborate discussion. The anti-Administration party oppose the President's proclamation; will they also oppose practical measures for the substitution of free for slave labor, when States voluntarily come forward and express a desire for such substitution? Will they oppose themselves as a barrier to an extension of the area of freedom, and aid efforts to compel States to retain slavery against their expressed wish? We shall

soon see. Votes will tell. As I understand the matter, "compen sated emancipation," as originally put forth by Mr. Lincoln, about a year ago, was not merely an "old crotchet" of his. as so often sneeringly insinuated; nor did his plan, in my judgment, look, with any considerable degree of earnestness, but to four States. Mr. Lincoln, to avoid civil war, took care

to announce, at his inauguration, his recognition of the constitutional rights of the several States. He did more: promised protection to all rights secured by the Constitution; he also favored the amendment of the Constitution passed by Congress, (and ratified by several States subsequently,) guarantying the existence of slavery so long as even one State chose to continue it. When certain slaveholders, in despite of the most solemn assurance and of the inaugural oath of the President of the United

States, and regardless of the constitutional guarantee thus anxiously proffered by Congress for the perfect protection of the slave States, took up arms to destroy the Government, and to establish a new one, whereof they should have exclusive control, and were able to obtain the support of several many influential slaveholders in each of the other slave States, Mr. Lincoln became alarmed at the extent of the power with which the slaveholders had clothed their leaders. He was satisfied that if the slave power wherewith to enable ambitious leaders to create a civil war whenever they pleased, with or without cause, the country could never be certain of the preservation of its domestic peace, even if he should most satisfactorily succeed in putting down the rebellion with which he was then dealing. Hence he sought for a plan which would do two things: aid in putting down the present rebellion, and, next, destroy the power of either a few or many slaveholders to plunge

the whole country into the horrors of civil war whenever it might please them to do so. The plan he finally adopted was to appeal to the patriotism of the four great States of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mary land, to exchange their slave population for a free one. If they would accede to this plan the slave States would be so weakened as to render insurrection useless and hopeless. Tennessee, filled with a free population, and commanding the frontiers of them all, from North Carolina to Louisiana. would enable the Government, with the aid of its fleets, to easily and peremptorily keep the peace in the slave States, in despite of

lent. Insurrection would then, necessarily, In pursuance of this plan, Mr. Lincoln convened the Congressional delegations from the four States, and laid it before them. They listened to it respectfully, but declined to co-operate, fearing that their people would not look at it from the same high point of view from which it was surveyed by the was a recommendation of it, but they fear

the utmost disturbing efforts of the turbu-

to embrace it. In political circles the plan was received distrustfully by loyal slaveholders on the one hand, and by the universal emancipationists on the other. The first feared lest they should not obtain full and just compensation, and the latter lest the war should close without their having secured universal abolishment of slavery. Extremes met.

The four States possessed, in 1860, 703,322

 Kentucky.
 .225,483

 Tennessee.
 .275,719

 Maryland.
 .87,189

Total in the four States......703,322 At this time, Missouri is estimated to have about 50,000 slaves, Tennessee and Kentucky 200,000 each, and Maryland about 70,000; total, 520,000 slaves. These valued at \$300 each, of all ages, represent in money say \$156,000,000. Of those possessed by loyal masters there are not probably, at this time, more than 400,000.

The President believes that \$156,000,000, out of the \$600,000,000 we are annually expending in the war, can in no way be more efficaciously expended to bring this war to an early and satisfactory conclusion than in have broken every commandment in the de- long could this rebellion last?

calogue—he may have embodied all that | But to return. The Congressional delewas false and vicious—he may have held as gations doubted whether the four States many offices as the late Duke of Welling- would accede to the plan of the President. deposed in that communication, either derived from . 252 votes.

The value of their opinion has not yet been tested at the polls in but one State-Missouri; and in that the President has been sustained, and the Congressmen defeated by a very decided vote! Hence, sustained by the people, the President earnestly favors a Congressional appropriation, to pay for the Missouri slaves; believing that, if Missouri s promptly and liberally dealt with by Congress, Tennessee and Maryland would promptly follow the example of Missouri; and that Kentucky would not long prefer a slave to a free population, after hearing that she could part with her serviles without pecuniary loss; especially as her doing so would tend to an earlier conclusion of this war by thoroughly discouraging the rebels. On their own resources only could the

rebels then rely. Such is believed to be the true point of view from which to judge the President's plan of "compensated emancipation." His object seems to have been, from the beginning, to make the slaveholders' power in the Government a controllable and subordinate power, instead of leaving it, as he found it. the controlling and master one; to reduce it to a level with the other great national interests, instead of allowing it to tower, like Saul, head and shoulders above them, and, like him, ultimately reign over his fellows. If the foregoing exposition is just, then

the plan of the President is that of a statesman, and not that of a mere sentimental humanitarian, as has hitherto been most persistently represented. The object he has had in view-the removal of the free-States line quite down to the north line of the cotton States would, if consummated, insure the restoration of peace. The four slave States he seeks to convert into free States have a white population of 3,325,613; the white population of the eight cotton States which got up the rebellion, and for whose benefit it is maintained, viz.: the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi, is 2,943,257. The four States sought to be permanently detached from the slavery alliance have a more numerous population than that of all the cotton States put together by 382,356-and it is a population far more active, hardy, and warlike than that of the cotton States. Does not this single fact throw light on the plan of the President and vindicate the soundness and statesmanship of his policy? Make those four States free States, and as we already hold Louisiana and Florida, and in a few weeks will occupy Arkansas, Texas, and Mississippi, and what is left to maintain the rebellion? When not a slave is left in the four States, the 150,000 troops now there can move forward and occupy the remaining rebel States. Is not that a reason for making them free States?

Of the effect of the plan of Mr. Lincoln upon the slaves, and upon the prosperity. and thrift of the four States, I have purposely omitted to say one word. I have contented myself with viewing the subject in its military aspect, and find myself irresistibly borne to the conclusion, that "compensated emancipation," as applied to the four States, (and, perhaps, to Texas,) is called for by every consideration that can induce us to desire an early and permanent peace. After having laid the foundation for the early attainment of peace, I, for one, in the interim, am willing to leave the question of sota, and also the evidence in his possession upon the preservation or destruction of slavery in the remaining States to the casualties of war. The cotton States, and Virginia, dragged us into this war after the nation offered them a constitutional guarantee for the safety of their slave property, and if in that war they lose it, I have no tears to shed over a loss caused by their own bad conduct. They cannot justly complain if compelled to accept such unpleasant consequences as logically follow their own conduct. A prompt and manly submission to the Constitution and laws of their country would, undoubted-

selves and their country. Occasional. WASHINGTON.

ly, avert most if not all the evil conse-

quences which impend over them. I pray

God to aid them to do this justice to them-

Special Despatches to "The Press." WASHINGTON, December 11, 1862,

Important Despatches from Fredericksburg. Private despatches from Fredericksburg, received here to-night, say that a large portion of General FRANKLIN'S grand division of the Army of the Poout pickets to those of General Hooker's grand division at Fredericksburg. The pickets are advancing enemy's position. The city is on fire, but it is thought that most of the buildings will escape destruction. The enemy has been skirmishing all day with our advancing troops, but gradually falling back. The fighting ceased at sundown, but will be renewed in the morning. The hospitals here are being prepared for the reception of the wounded, who are expected to arrive to-morrow. The rumors here that General FRANKLIN'S army has been cut to pieces are all false. Our losses have been telegraphs that we are in full possession of Frede slave States, as States, and the support of ricksburg to-night. Our troops are crossing rapidly, and will continue to move over during the night the enemy by eight o'clock to-morrow.

> The McDowell Court of Inquiry. The court met at eleven o'clock, and the examination of General McClellan was resumed. The question propounded yesterday by the court and which was laid over at the request of General McClellan, was again read to the witness as

You have stated that troops were retained for the defence of Washington. Did those plans provide for a force to be retained from the troops then under your command; and if so, how large was the force to be detained, and what troops were to compose it A. The troops to be retained for the defence of Washington were almost entirely from those under my immediate command. I cannot give from memory alone an accurate statement of their position and strength. On the 1st of April, I think it was, I wrote a letter to the Secretary of War, giving full information in regard to these points. I have not a copy of that letter with me, but will submit it to the cour as soon as I can secure it. The force left disposable independently of the corps of Gen. McDowell.

for the defence of Washington was about 70,000 men. Q. Does the letter to which you refer disclose what portion of these troops, 70,000 in number, were present and fit for duty? and, if it does not, state you A. The letter does not. My recollection is tha

the number stated in the letter were present with their regiments. I cannot answer the question without reference to the return, which I will do. O. Explain what you refer to as the depende term used in the letter) of Washington. A. I referred to either of the approaches to Washington, both in the direction of the Orange and Alexandria railroad and by the Shenandoah valley The instructions given in regard to the posting o these troops, contemplated posting the mass of them in the vicinity of the Manassas Gap road and on the line of the Manassas Gap road way near Front Royal, so that the whole force would be available on either approach to the city. On the 1st of April, the date of the letter referred to. I wrote a letter of instructions to General Banks, for his guidance in posting the troops in front of Washington, which

letter would be a more full answer to the question

han the general one I have given, which will also submit to the court if they desire it. O. General McDowell having made known to the court that, in his opinion, it was safe and proper for him to proceed to co-operate with you against Rich mond, and having yielded his purpose so to do only in obedience to higher orders, you will state your judgment as to the soundness of that opinion, and of the military propriety of that purpose on the part of Gen. McDowell to that end. You will inform the court what, in your judgment, was the object of Jackson's movement against Banks, on or about the 29th of May, and what were the probabilities of success if left unaided by the forces of the enemy at Richmond, and if Richmond was at the time additionally threatened by Gen. McDowell's proposed co-operation with you, what force had the enemy to and in what time, and in what manner?

spare at that time to aid Jackson, or otherwise to threaten Washington; what were the probabilities of the force so disposed of reaching Washington, A. I think that Gen. McDowell was correct in his opinion that it was safe and proper for him to unite with the Army of the Potomac. I think that immediately after the occupation of Hanover Court House by a portion of the Army of the Potomac, there was no rebel force of any consequence between Hanover Court House and Gen. McDowell. I think that the main object of Jackson's movement against Gen. Banks was to prevent reinforcements being sent to the Army of the Potomac, and expressed that opinion in a telegram to the President within day of the time I received information of the movement of Jackson. I think, that if Gen. McDowell had moved direct upon Hanover Court House, instead of in the direction of Front Royal Jackson would have rapidly retraced his steps to join the main rebel army at Richmond. With a strong army of our own in the vicinity of Richmond, ar threatening it, I do not think the rebels would have detached a sufficient force to seriously endanger the

safety of Washington. Q. Had Gen. McDowell a knowledge of your letter to the President, and that it communicated information as to the strength and position of the troops left to cover Washington? A. I do not think that he had. I sent him no copy. Q. Had Gen. McDowell a knowledge of the facta

respect to the number of troops left to cover Wash A. I think he had a general knowledge of the facts resulting from the different conversations we had. ut probably not a full knowledge as to the number

Q. State as nearly as you can what knowledge he had on that point. A. I cannot pretend to recollect. Being busy in the details of an expedition so large as the one referred to, and holding so many conversations, it is impossi ble for me to remember what was communicated to Gen. McDowell. No one, however, knows so wel as myself the details. Q. Did you in your consultations of which Gen McDowell was a party, talk over the number of roops which would be left when you should move with the bulk of the army to the Peninsula?

A. Yes. Q. What was the largest number of troops suggested by any corps commander to be left to cover Washington, with its dependencies? and in this connection state, if you can, the number proposed by A. My recollection of the suggestions as to the force to be left varied from 40,000 to 50,000. I think

Gen. McDowell proposed the latter number. Of one hing I am confident, that with the facts fresh in my mind, I thought that I left more than was suggested by any corps commander. Question by Gen. McDowell. After Jackson arched to attack Gen. Banks, did not large forces eave Richmond to reinforce him, before he joined the enemy's lines, and had you not reliable information that such was the case, and did you not so re-

port to the Government? Q. Do you recollect if this was not our understanding up to the time you changed the order of embarkation and directed Sumner's corps to precede that of Gen. McDowell?

A. I think it was.

By the Court .- Q. Were the other corps commanders besides Gen. McDowell advised or informed in any way by you as to the position and number of the forces to be left for the defence of Washing A. They were not informed in writing, only in general conversation. My recollection is that] talked over the matter with them individually and Q. Will the witness please state if the force to be left in the Shenandoah valley was included in the

number for the defence of Washington? A. Yes. The number in the Shenandoah valley cannot now recollect, but the letter of instructions o General Banks will give information on the whole Q. Do you mean to be understood that one corps designed to be employed in your movement by the

oute of the Peninsula, was to be left to cover Washington till the first corps was sent off to the Peninsula, it should be opposed by the enemy's force falling buck from Gordonsville, and if so, was Gen McDowell left behind for that purpose? A. The means of water communication had renlered it necessary to embark the army in successive portions, and the idea was to leave a corps or more, which would be the last to embark in position, to cover Washington, so long as there was danger of its peing attacked by the enemy. Before I left Washngton I was satisfied that it was not then in danger, and I directed Sumner's corps to be embarked be fore Gen. McDowell's, for the reason that I wished o employ Gen. McDowell's corps as a unit. I did not leave Gen. McDowell's corps behind for the purpose of covering Washington, but expected it to follow me the moment the transportation for it was

Neither the court nor Gen. McDowell having any further questions to propound to the witness, Gen. McClellan was requested to lay the paper to which he referred before the court, at as early a moment as possible, and also for a day or two to hold himself in readiness to appear before them again, ii further testimony should be desired. Major General Keyes was next examined, but no thing important was elicited, and the court adjourn-

The Message of the President on the Minnesota Outbreak. The President to-day sent into the Senate the following message:

ed till to-morrow.

To the Senate of the United States: In compliance with your resolution of December 5, 1862, requesting the President to furnish the Senate with all information in his possession touching the late Indian barbarities in the State of Minne which some of the principal actors and head men to state that, on receipt of the said resolution, transmitted the same to the Secretary of the Inte rior, accompanied by a note, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed, marked A,) and in response to which I received, through that Department, a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, a copy of which is herewith enclosed (marked B). I further state that, on the 8th day of Novemb last, I received a long telegraphic despatch from Major General Pope, at St. Paul, Minn., simply announcing the names of the persons sentenced to be hanged. I immediately telegraphed to have transcripts of the records in all the cases forwarded to me, which transcripts, however, did not reach me

until two or three days before the present meeting of Congress. In the meantime, I received, through telegraphic despatches and otherwise, appeals in behalf of the condemned, appeals for their execution. and expressions of opinions as to the proper policy in regard to them and to the Indians generally in that vicinity-none, of which, I understand, fall within the scope of your inquiries. - After the arrival of the transcript of records but before I had sufficient opportunity to examine them, I received a joint letter from one of the Senators and several of the Representatives from Minnesota. which contains some statements of fact not found in the records of the trials, and for which reason

herewith transmit a copy (marked C). I also, for the same reason, enclose a printed memorial of the citizens of St. Paul, addressed to me and forwarded with the letter aforesaid. Anxious to not act with so much clemency as to encourage another outbreak on the one hand, nor with so much severity as to be real cruelty on the other I caused a careful examination of the records of the trials to be made, in view of first ordering the execution of such as had been proved guilty of violating females. Contrary to my expectations, only two of the cases were found. I then directed a further examination and a classification of all who were proved to have participated in the massacres as distinguished from participation in battles. This class numbered forty, and included two convicted of female violation. One of the number is strongly recommended to the commission which tried then for commutation to ten years' imprisonment. I have ordered the other thirty-nine to be executed on Fri-

day, the 19th instant. The order was despatched from here on Monday the 8th instant, by a messenger to General Sibley. a copy of which order is herewith transmitted. (marked D). An abstract of the evidence as to the forty is herewith enclosed, (marked E). To avoid the immense amount of copying, I lay before the Senate the original transcripts of the records of trials as received by me. This is as full and complete a response to the resolution as it is in

my power to make. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Senator Fessenden on Saulsbury's Resolution. Decidedly the most conclusive of all the speeches yet delivered in the Senate on SAULSBURY's resoto-day by Senator FESSENDEN. It was unprepared and only brought up by a turn in the debate. It was clear, lucid, and one of the most profound arguments yet made in support of the Administration. It completely nonplussed the Opposition, and BAYARD'S utmost efforts after its conclusion could not after

the deep impression it made upon all who heard it. Senator Fessenden, on its conclusion, was congratulated by those around him, and a murmur of applause ran through the galleries. The West Virginia Bill. The bill which has passed both Houses of Congress, for the admission of the State of West Virginia into the Union, is not likely to be immediately and definitely acted upon by the President, owing to all the circumstances attending the erection of the new State being of such importance, in connection with the constitutional question, as to require pro It was intimated in debate in the House, recently

found consideration. that the creation of this new State was the inauguration of the policy of the Administration in regard to such formations from States partly in rebellion but this, from recently obtained information, i known to be untrue, nor was it advised by the Executive Department.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE

CAIRO, Dec. 11 .- An army officer from Oxford who left there on Monday, reports the main body of Gen. Grant's infantry had encamped a short dis tance south of Oxford, and the cavalry, under Co Decker, near Coffeesville, fifteen miles from Gre It was not probable that the infantry would move before to-day, for the reason that they were awaiting the arrival of supply trains from Holly Springs The Texas Rangers possess the country west and south of the White river. Intelligence from Helena states that Gen. Hovey's expedition destroyed a portion of the Mississippi and Tennessee road. During the march he en-gaged the enemy at three different points, driving them back everywhere. He had several wounded

CALIFORNIA.

but none killed.

SAN. FRANCISCO, Dec. 10.-Arrived, ship John Tucker, from New York. Sailed, ship Swallow from Callao. The money market is easy. Atlantic currency and exchance 18@21 discount. Legal-tender notes have ocen passed on the market in such quantities that dealers have ceased buying at 17@18 discount. Trade is stagnant. The speculative disposition noticeable two weeks ago is no longer visible, but A general apathy exists compared with the corresponding period in former years.

A small schooner has arrived from Kangahawa, apan, with dates to October 29th. The news is un important.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. II.—The steamer Golden
Age sailed to-day, with 625 passengers and \$737,000
for New York, and \$80,300 for England.
Also sailed, the steamer Moses Taylor, for Panama, with 516 passengers. Among the passengers is
a company of 100 Rangers, recruited here for a Massachusetts regiment. achusetts regiment. 89 cases of tobacco and 479 bales of wool went for ward to New York.
Sales to-day of 700 firkins Butter at 15@25c.
Shanghai dates of Jctober 8th, state that largely increased demands for teas, and heavy receipts.
New blacks are easier; greens are firm. Silk in limited demand on account of high prices.
The ships up for New York are loading slowly, and rates have lowered to 10s for teas and silks.

Kanagawa, Japan, Oct 22 — Teas have mate-

KAMAGAWA, Japan, Oct. 27.—Teas have materially advanced. Election of Congressmen in New Orleans. NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The steamer Labion, with New Orleans advices of the 14th, has arrived. The newspapers contain no accounts of military The election in the First Congressional district of

Louisians resulted in the choice of Mr. Flanders, by

a vote of 2,186 against 136 for Mr. Bouligny; and in

he Second district Mr. Hahn received 1.441; Mr.

Durell, 904; Mr. Greathouse, 328, and Mr. Baker,

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

ON THE ADVANCE.

CONSTRUCTING THE BRIDGES. The Rebels Open Fire on our Engineers.

FREDERICKSBURG SHELLED.

The City in Our Possession. THE VALOK OF THE UNION ARMY.

Our Troops Cross the Rappaliannock HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

Everything last night was in a bustle and activity,

to-day was the time fixed on for crossing the

During the night the pontoons were conveyed to he river, and the artillery of 143 pieces were placed n position opposite the city. At 5 o'clock this morning the rebels fired two signal guns, while during the latter part of the night rockets were frequently seen within their lines: At 5 o'clock the construction of three bridges in cont of the city was commenced. When about half

ompleted the enemy opened a murderous of fire infantry from the houses on the river bank. Up to this time not a shot had been fired from our side. The engineers were driven from the pontoon bridges and several killed and wounded. At 6 o'clock Gen. Burnside ordered all the gur opened on the city. The cannonade, which has continued without

erruption up to the present time, is terrible.

The city is on fire, and its destruction appears t e certain. The enemy, about 7 o'clock, opened with their heavy guns from their works, but so far have done no serious injury. General Franklin constructed his bridges about hree miles below the city, meeting with but sligh pposition. His troops are now crossing. The supposts are now shelling the enemy, about fteen miles down the river, where they have been oncentrating their forces during the past two days.-The concentrated fire of our batteries on the city has had the effect of driving back the enemy's in

fantry, and the work on the bridges has again been The troops are all under arms, near the river, preparing to march over as soon as the bridges are com

Later from Headquarters. THURSDAY NOON .- On the attempt being made o finish the bridges, in front of the city, the rebel nfantry again opened their fire. Our artillery in position, fire was again opened on the city; the result being that it was fired in several The enemy have used very little artillery up to this time, as it would endanger their own men, who are holding the river front. General Burnside has just issued an order to conentrate every available gun upon the city, under gover of the fire of which it is believed that the

The killed and wounded, so far, do not amount to nore than fifty men. LATER.

bridges can be finished.

HEADQUARTERS, December 11-Evening. But little firing took place between one and three clock, during which time all the available batteries were placed in position, which then numbered one hundred and seventy-six guns. At a given signal all the batteries opened on Fredericksburg. The fire was terrible, but the rebel sharpshooters could not be driven from their hiding-places. The shot and shell went crashing through the houses, in many cases setting them on fire, causing a dense smoke to gather, which, with the explosion of so large a quantity of powder, almost hid the city from view. It soon became evident that the bridges could not

be built except by a bold dash. Volunteers were called for to cross the river in small boats. This order was no sooner given than hundreds of brave men stepped forward, but all could not go. About one hundred were selected. These were soon on their way, while the artillery threw a perfect storm of iron hail on the opposite bank. They reached the opposite shore, but not without loss. With fixed bayonets they rushed upon the rebels, killing several and taking one hundred and one prisoners,

At half past four o'clock two bridges were finished opposite the city, when the troops immediately began to cross over. The enemy were soon driven from the city back to their line of works. The two bridges in front of General Franklin's position were successfully laid early in the morning,

but his troops did not cross until the two upper ones were ready. A sufficient force is now on the opposite side of the river to resist any attack that is likely to be made. The rebels fired but few guns in the morning, and ione in the afternoon, although their works were in east range. During the forenoon the rebels burnt the railroad bridge just outside the city. Between thirty and forty houses jostly in the business part of the city. During the day between 8,000 and 9,000 rounds of ammunition were fired by our artillery. Everything is quiet to-night. The indications ar hat a pattle will be fought to-morrow.

BEFORE THE BATTLE!

The Preparations for the Advance of the Army. [Special Correspondence of The Press.] HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF

THE POTOMAC, Dec. 11, A. M. No opportunity is yet given me to chronicle the events of to-day, which are expected to be stirring. For some days Franklin's grand division has been manœuvring on our left, threatening to cross at Point Conway, seventeen miles below, to draw a portion of Lee's army in that direction, which he has succeeded in doing.—Though appearing to push his troops there, the bulk of them remained but two or three miles from here, and with Lee's forces of the whole army may take place to-day, in the immediate vicinity of Fredericksburg. A sun of April shone through a soft haze vesterday upon the lingering snow; the air was ominously still, and umberless incidents betokened action. Hunt, chief of artillery, and aids, assisted by Cap tain De Russey, commanding the reserve regular artillery, were incessantly occupied in consultation and the distribution of orders.) Those batteries not yet placed moved quietly to their bivouacs upon the hillsides along the river, ready to take positions on the summit when required; earthworks vet unfinished were completed; aids from grand division generals visited incessantly the tent of Gen. Parks, adjutant general, and all heads of departments transacted final business with the numerous officers calling upon them. Doubleday's division of alm young veterans, the rear of Reynolds' army corps, passed by here with faces unconscious of peril, and Burnside, in short jacket, moved tranquilly in and out of his tent with his hands in his pockets, as a man who had made all his dispositions, whose mind was easy, and who was confident of results. Many orders, indicative of action, had been postponed up to yesterday evening, in order to preserve secrecy, and at this hour it is impossible to ascertain whether they have vet been given, or what positions the different corps of the army will take. There was a constant movement of troops throughout last night, and coming hours will reveal their locality. The whole army has received cooked rations for three days, and sixty rounds of cartridges, and, in addition to recent brigade and division inspections, company officers closely examined again yesterday the arms and accoutrements of each individual soldier. There is a general satisfaction upon every countenance at the prospect of

a move, and spirits grow redundant. HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS. It is a great satisfaction to know that ample arvounded men in the forthcoming fight. Two hospital tents, each accommodating twenty men, are allowed to every regiment, and, in addition to these, the division hospitals have a sufficient number of tents to furnish two more for each regiment, Considering that many men are wounded in the arms, or slightly in the head, and are not disabled from walking, these accommodations will be ample. Good fires and covering will be provided for all hospital inmates. and no suffering through the cold will be endured. PONTOON BRIDGES.

Last evening, at dusk, the curious slate-colore pontoon boats, looking at a distance like whales, aid waiting upon their wagons in the valleys near the river, with horses harnessed, ready for speedy employment. It was thought that they would be laid across a three this morning, and that part of the army would mmediately follow, and engage, such troops as might hasten from their encampments to meet them. In order that information may not be sent at the usual mail hour to-morrow, letters are forwarded from here during the night. I can give you no later information therefore than 1 A. M. A large portion of the army is under orders to move at daylight. The moon is bright, and as soon as the pontoons commence being laid, we may expect to hear artillery. Many a brave fellow is now taking his last living

THE PIRATE ALABAMA.

The Anglo-Rebel Steamer "290" Again at Work—Two More Vessels Captured and Burned—Chase of the Alabama by the San Jacinto-The Former Runs into Martinique—Coals up and Makes her Escape— Captain Semmes Boasts of Laving been within Seventy Miles of Sandy Hook, &c. New York. Dec. 11.-The schooner Alice, from Point Petre, Guadaloupe, arrived this morning. She has aboard the chief officers and crew of the ship Levi Stanbrick, of New Bedford, Capt. Mellon, from New Bedford. When five days out, bound to the Pacific, on the 2d November, in lat. 35.30, long. 66, she was captured by the rebel pirate Alabama. Capt. Semmes took all the clothing and nautical instruments, and set her on fire. On the 8th of November, in lat. 28 30, long. 58, she also captured the ship T. B. Wales, of Boston, Captoin Lincoln, from Calcutta for Boston, 147 days out with a cargo of saltpetre and gunny cloth. Took from her the captain and crew, and set her on fire. The Alabama then proceeded to Martinique, arriving there at 8 A. M. on the 17th ult, landing the captains and crews of both ships. The San Jacinto was three miles out at sea, and her captain only heard of the escape of the Alabama

when the Alice came out. The cargo of the T. B. Wales was valued at \$200,-The Alabama went into Martinique to receive coals from an English brig, which went off with the Alabama. It was reported at St. Thomas that the Alabama had been piloted into the harbor of St. John's a few miles above, and was there taking in coal and guns. This intelligence was sent to the San Jacinto.

Captain Semmes boasted of his having at one time been within seventy miles of Sandy Hook. The pirate Alabama, until close upon the cantured vessels, carried the American flag. The crews of the two vessels, except Captain Sinclair, of the

T. B. Wales, were kept in irons till they reached Martinique Cantain Semmes said that the ship T. B. Wales was the twenty-third vessel he had burned. The second mate and eight of her crew joined the Alabama's crew, which now numbers one hundred and Upon the arrival of the San Jacinto at Martinique, she furnished the brig Hammond, then in post, with rockets, to be sent up when the Alabama was leaving port. The San Jacinto, also, had two armed boats plying about the harbor at night, but they did not observe her exit. The Alabama was urnished with a pilot by the French authorities, and it is supposed she was piloted out by a channel

brig Hammond was immediately seized by the French authorities, and was still in custody when he Alice left. The United States ship San Jacinto arrived the same afternoon, and finding the Alabama in port, mmediately got under weigh and proceeded outside of the harbor, where she laid in wait for the pirate. On the 18th, at 10 P. M., the Alabama got under weigh and escaped. The San Jacinto was lying outside of the harbor on the 22d. The captains of the burned vessels would take passage to Halifax. The crews have arrived in the Boston, Dec. 11:-The cargo of the ship P. B. Wales, destroyed by the pirate Alabama, is valued at \$150,000, of which \$100,000 is insured in Boston. nd the remainder in New York,

Yesterday the owners of the vessel offered, to the committee of the Board of Trade of Boston, gratuistously to carry a cargo of provisions to suffering XXXVIIth CONGRESS-Third Session

WASHINGTON, December 11, 1862. SENATE. communication from the Navy Depart The PRESIDENT pro tem, laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, in answer to the resolution of the Senate relative to the purchase of lands near the Portsmouth navy yard. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALE (Rep.), of New Hampshire, and Mr. SUMNER (Rep.), of Massachusetts, presented petitions protesting against the action of the Advisory Board of the Navy. Messrs. KING (Rep.), of New York, POMEROY (Rep.), of Kansas, and HOWARD (Rep.), of Michigan, presented petitions in favor of the general bank-

mr. ANTHONY (Rep.), of Rhode Island, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of allowing Surat cotton to be imported into the United States upon the payment of the same duties as for cotton imported from heyond the Cane of Good Hone. from beyond the Cape of Good Hope

Utah Territory.

Mr. BROWNING (Rep.), of Illinois, introduced
bill to amend the act establishing the Territorial overnment of Utah, and to facilitate the adminis tration of justice in the said Territory. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Medical Examination of Soldiers.

Mr. WILSON (Rep.), of Massachusetts, gave notice that he should, to-morrow, introduce a bill to facilitate the medical examination of invalid soldiers in the hospitals and convalescent camps of the army. Appointments in the Navy.

Mr. HALE (Rep.), of New Hampshire, called up the bill relative to appointments in the navy, providing for the confirmation by the Senate of volunintments the same as regular appointment Mr. GRIMES (Rep.), of Iowa, moved to amend the bill so as to confine its operation to future ap-pointments, which, after some discussion, was dopted. Mr. HALE then moved that the bill be indefinitely Vote of Thanks.

A message was received from the President re-commending a vote of thanks to Lieut. Commander George W. Morris for his determined valor and he-roism displayed in the defence of the sloop-of-war Cumberland against the rebel iron-clad Merrimae; also, recommending a vote of thanks to Licut. Geo. L. Worden for the skill and gallantry exhibited by him in the battle between the Monitor and the rebel steamer Merrimac. Referred to the Naval Con Also, a communication in answer to the resolution of the Senate for information and evidence re

lative to Indian barbarities in the State of Minne

sota. Ordered to be printed

Arrest of Delawareans The resolution relative to the arrest of certain citizens of Delaware was then taken up.
Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem.), of Delaware, submitted a letter, which was read. Meredith, stating that himself and Dr. John Laws were confined in Fort Delaware. Mr. MORRILL, (Rep.), of Maine, contended that he resolution, as it now stood, was not a mere reso the resolution, as it now stood, was not a mere reso-lution of inquiry, but a charge against the Govern-ment, and an indictment against the President, and he should vote for no such resolution. He claimed that, in this state of war and rebellion, with the land full of traitors and spies, the Commander-in-chief has the right to arrest such men. No one, not even the Senator from Delaware, Mr. Saulsbury, had claimed that these men were loyal. There had been many arrests made, and the fair and proper pre-sumption is that the President had arrested guilty men, and had simply done his duty as he ought to do sumption is that the President had arrested guilty, men, and had simply done his duty as he ought to do it. It will not do to pretend that a whole State, and all its people, are loyal. It is known that the State of Kentucky has been but a nest of traitors, and three out of every four of the able-bodied men of Kentucky had gone to rebeldom, and nobody left but old women, and yet the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Powell) asks for commiseration for these men. That Senator had denounced the Government from the beginning, the same as his colvernment from the beginning, the same as his col-league, who had followed the logical result of his

league, who had followed the logical result of his reasoning and gone into the rebel army; but not a single word does that Senator offer against the rebels. And the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Powell) rejoices over the recent elections, and says that the lion-hearted Democracy are rebuking this Administration. Well, every rebel throughout rebelsom rejoices in the same way. It is supposed will force this Government into an inglorious peace and that encourages Jeff Davis and foreign countries in their schemes of intervention. There ought to be some proof that these men were loyal.

Mr. SAULSBURY said that they could not present proof till they knew what the charges of guilt Mr. MORRILL continued, and contended it was no ground for complaint that the men were arrested upon suspicion. Men are always arrested upon suspicion of crime, and the fair presumption is that the President is doing his duty.

Mr. WRIGHT (U.), of Indiana, moved to amend the resolution so as to make a call upon the President

dent, instead of upon the Secretary of War. In a time like this, he was willing to trust the President, and he wanted none of that miserable doctrine that could be the loyalty to the Government and disloyalty to the Administration. inistration. There was only an uncon ditional loyalty to the Government and to the party in power to be allowed at a time like this when the life of the nation was at stake. He dare not do anything else than give his hearty support to the Government and to the President. He said reference had been made to the elections in the West. He met the other day a life-long Whig, and asked him how he had voted, and the reply was that he had voted the Democratic ticket. He (Mr. Vright) expressed his great surprise at that, as Wright) expressed his great surprise at that, as he had long endeavored to et his vote for the Democratic ticket, whereupon the gentleman replied: "Governor Wright, the Government is not in earnest." He (Mr. Wright) dared not now do anything to confirm any such opinion as that. If we were to ask Jeff Davis how he maintained this rebellion, and how he united the South so bitterly against the North, he would reply that he had permitted no man to live in the South who opposed his Government, or said anything against it. r said anything against it.

Mr. SAULSBURY wanted to know if the socalled Southern Congress had not passed a reso-lution calling on their so-called President to know why he had arrested certain persons in Virginia. Mr. WRIGHT said he knew nothing of the case nentioned, but he knew that no man was permitted to live in the South who had any sympathy with the North. He would like to see some of the same spirit as that shown by Stonewall Jackson. When he found forty-seven of his men skedaddling from the battle, he marched them in front of the regiment and had every man of them shot. Instead of that, we have propositions for Conventions, &c. Men seem to think that we are playing here, and forget that the life of this nation is at stake. He would

that the life of this nation is at stake. He would stand by the Government and the President, and he would have the power of the Government felt by every traitor North or South.

Mr. BAYARD (Dem.), of Delaware, argued at some length that the affairs of Kentucky had nothing to do with the State of Delaware; that true loyalty to the country did not imply loyalty to any individual. If this was to be a free country, people had the right to inquire into the acts of the Presiad the right to inquire into the acts of the Presi-Mr. POWELL said he had stated that the President violated the Constitution, and he was ready to prove it, and he defied the Senator from Maine or any other Senator to the lists on this question. He denied that three-fourths of the people of Kentucky were in the rebel army. Three-fourths of them were not in arms at all, and he believed that more were not in arms at all, and he believed that were in the rebel army. Three-fourths of them were not in arms at all, and he believed that more were in the Union army than in the service of the rebels.

Mr. MORRILL wanted to know if the majority of the effective fighting force of Kentucky was not in arms against the Government.

Mr. POWELL was astonished that the Senator was not better acquainted with the state of things in Kentucky. He thought that most of them were fighting for the Government. If the gentlemen on the other side of this Chamber wanted to say that he (Mr. Powell) was disloyal to the Government, he wished that they would say it out directly, and not by inuendo or insinuation. If they will say it directly, he would meet them in such a way as to prevent all debate in this Chamber. That was all he had to say on that subject. He wanted to indulge in no personalities. There was a way to settle personal matters elsewhere. He wanted Senators to meet his arguments fairly. He did not believe that this Union could ever be restored by the force of arms; therefore he had opposed the war, and should continue to oppose it. his colleague, and should vote for it, and also vote for an armistice while that Convention should be in session. He contended that the President had vio-lated the Constitution in enlarging the regular army, suspending the writ of habeas corpus, and arresting citizens, interfering with the freedom of the press, and in his proclamation. He was rejoiced at the late elections. He considered them a great moral victory, and he expected to see such victories all through the other States—New Hampshire and

others.

Mr. CLARK (Rep.), of New Hampshire, said that some men of that State were taken prisoners lately by Stonewall Jackson, and he paroled them, and told them togo home and vote the Democratic ticket, and that would end the matter. [Laughter and sup ressed applause.]
Mr. POWELL said that if that would end the pressed applause.]

Mr. POWELL said that if that would end the matter, he hoped they would vote that ticket.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep.), of Maine, said he had hoped that the question of politics would have been left out of this debate, but it has been dragged in. When the Senator from Kentucky talks about the triumph of the Democratic party being a great moral triumph, he was at a loss to understand his meaning. He was willing to admit that something had been done apparently without law. There has been a great cry that the country is in danger; but when he saw where the cry came from, he regarded it no more than the cry of a pack of wolves. The cry comes from the newspapers which have assailed the Government, and thrown all the obstacles in the way that they could, and from men who are known to be in sympathy with the rebellion. If he (Mr. Fessenden) should find any fault, it would be that the President had not been quite strong enough. He should have stricken down the great heads of disaffection instead of the smaller parties. If any great paper advised the military commander to seize the Government, he should atrike down that. He was afraid there had been more solicitude for the opinions of individuals in this chamber than for the interest of the great masses in this struggle. There are many things which may be a search must be done in time like these which in chamber than for the interest of the great masses in this struggle. There are many things which may be done and must be done in times like these which in ordinary times could not be allowed. Does anybody doubt the patriotism of the President of the United States? Does any one pretend that he has not done what he thought was best to suppress rebellion and preserve the country, or that he has wilfully violated the rights of any citizen.

The President did not take an oath to support the court; he took an oath to protect preserve, and decourt; he took an oath to protect, preserve, and defend the Constitution, and his paramount duty is to fend the Constitution, and his paramount duty is to preserve and defend it; and the occasion may arise when he is compelled to violate the right of a citizen for a time, in order to preserve the nation; and does anybody pretend he should hesitate an instant? Nobody can pretend that. He asked the Senator from Kentucky the other day, if he was President, and believed an individual was about to commit a crime injurious to the country, and there was no other way to prevent it, if he would not arrest him and hold him by the strong hand, and after one siderable fencing the Senator thought he would not! He would not yote for him for President. If the

Schafor from Kentucky believed that a party was POWELL said he thought he would watch Mr. POWELL said he thought he would watch such a man, and if he saw any intimation of violence he would seize the man, and would kill him rather than he should kill a Senator.

Mr. FESSENDEN continued and argued that no one could doubt the honesty of the motives of the President, and it was his duty, when he believed any persons were about to commit treason against the Government, to arrest them and if possible, to prevent such a crime. Though, perhaps, it could not be substantiated by legal proof, he said every one believed that the Legislature of Maryland intended, if possible, to carry that State out of the

nded, if possible, to carry that State out of the nion. Mr. KENNEDY (U.); of Maryland, said there ras no evidence of any such thing to tais day.

Mr. FESSENDEN said that was the exact point e was arguing, that there might not have been any vidence. Mr. KENNED'S said the men were efferwards cleased.

Mr. FESSENDEN said that was because the time ad passed when they could do any injury of that ind. Perhaps it was more to call attention to this unknown to the officers of the San Jacinto. The matter, than to relieve individuals, that the esolu-tion was offered. Had any one inquired of the Mr. SAULSBURY (Bem.), of Delaware, said-it would be si no use for any one on that side of the hamber to make inquiries.

Mr. FESSENDEN said that, so far as his obser-Mr. FESSENDEN said that, so far as his observation went, the gentlemen on that side of the chamber had quite as much influence as any. He thought the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Powell) did not improve much upon the speeches of his late-colleague (Breckinridge), in denouncing the President, though he considered him a very different man. He would like to hear less denunciation of the Administration and more denunciation of the recels. If gestlemen could show anywanton, wilful violation of rights by the President, he would

ful violation of rights by the President, he wou call for the reasons as soon as any one, but until they did he should not try to embarrass the Admiistration in any way. Mr. BAYARD (Dem.), of Delawars, replied at some length.

Mr. LATHAM (Dem.), of California, from the Committee of Post Offices and Post Roads, reported a bill to authorize the survey of a route for telegraphic communication between San Francisco and the Amoor river, Russia.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Thanks to Commander Worden. Thanks to Commander Worden.
The SPEAKER laid before the House a message from the President, recommending that John L. Worden receive the thanks of Congress, by resolution, for his gallant conduct on the Monitor in her combat with the Merrimac, such thanks being necessary under the law to advance him one grade in the naval list of officers. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Naval Appropriations. Mr. SEDGWICK (Rep.), of New York, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to adjust the appropriations heretofore made for the civil service of the Navy Department, so as to correspond with the resent representation of the Department. ond with the recent reorganization of the Department. It makes no new appropriations. The bil vas passed.

The Alahama. The Alabama.

Mr. FENTON (Rep.), of New York, offered the following: That the Secretary of the Navy be directed, if the exigencies of the public service will admit of it, to provide a United States vessel-of-war to convoy in safety from the attack of the rebel cruiser Alabama, or any other pirate vessel, any other provisions, intended as a free offering by the citizens of the United States to the starving poor of Tradend and that the president of the Chernberger. England, and that the president of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York, and other mari-time cities of the United States, shall notify the Secretary of the Navy at what time such vessels shall be ready to sail. Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING (Rep.) remarked that he himself had given notice of a bill to that effect. A

mere resolution passed by the House would not assure the purpose designed.

Mr. TRAIN (Rep.), of Massachusetts, objected to the consideration of the resolution, and called for he regular order of business. The Jules et Marie.

The Jules et Marie.

Mr. COX (Dem.), of Ohio, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported back the Senate bill for the relief of the owners of the French bark Jules et Marie. It appropriates \$2,500 as full compensation for damages received in the collision between this vessel and the United States steamer San Jacinto Custody of Criminals. A bill was passed authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the authorities of conve-nient States for the custody and employment of per-sons convicted of penitentiary offences in the District.

of Columbia, the penitentiary of this District now being used for arsenal purposes. The bill also legal-izes the late removal of its inmates to the peniten-tiary at Albany, New York. Bankrupt Bill. Mr. ROSCOE CONKLING (Rep.), of New York asked leave to report a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy, with an amendment, in the nature of a substitute. He desired to have a day assigned for its consideration.
The SPEAKER reminded the gentleman that the

Payment of the Troops. Mr. WICKLIFFE (Union), of Kentucky, offerer resolutions, calling on the Secretary of War to state what number of soldiers, regulars and yoluuteers. have been placed on the army roll: what regiment have been placed on the army roll; what regiments have not been paid up to the 1st of December, 1862; what regiments remain unpaid, and how long they have been without pay, and whether the money appropriated by Congress for pay, clothing, and subsistence, has been spent for any other purpose.

Mr. STEVENS (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, offered an amendment qualifying the call, by adding that, if such information is not incompatible with the public interests; and in this form the resolution was adouted. was adopted.

President's Proclamation.

Mr. YEAMAN (U.), of Kentucky, offered the following, to lie over for future consideration:

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That the proclamation of the President of the 22d of September, 1862, is not warranted by the Constitution. And resolved, That the policy of the proclamation is not warranted by the constitution. emancipation as indicated in the proclamation is not calculated to hasten the restoration of peace, is not well chosen as a war measure, and is an assumption of power dangerous to the rights of citizens and the perpetuity of a free government.

Mr. LOVEJOY (Rep.), of Illinois, moved to lay
the resolutions on the table. Carried—yeas 95, nays



Norton (D.) Odell (D.) Pendleton (D.) Price (U.) President's Message. saying that history has clearly taught whatour own statesmen have often affirmed—namely, that free-dom and slavery are incompatible beyond the hope of reconciliation, and beyond the power of compro-mise. The sooner, he said, this pre-eminent truth is mise. The sooner, he said, this pre-eminent truth is regarded as an axiom in our politics the sooner we shall be blessed with a permanent peace. Without it, we may have hollow truces, treacherous compromises; and a deceifful peace, but nothing more. Liberty is right; slavery is wrong. Such antagonism cannot co-exist in harmony in any form of government. Our Revolutionary fathers saw this, and sought to avoid it by framing a Constitution for sought to avoid it by framing a Constitution for liberty, expecting it would destroy slavery.

The real cause of the rebellion is the insecurity f slavery in a democratic government, as it exist inder our Constitution. Slavery requires a goernment where the aristocratic element can control beyond the reach of the clamor or elections. To avoid this, it has rebelled. A State institution, at war with the General Government, may be overhrown, if necessary, to preserve the Government The President's proclamation presents this question The President's proclamation presents this question to loyal people, Shall slavery, whose supporters have conspired against the life of the nation, and who are using slavery to strengthen their military power, be destroyed, that the nation may live? This step has been deliberately taken by the Executive, and is in the nature of a military order having effect in States and parts of States in insurrection, and its intendment is to aid in putting down the insurrection, and to prevent its recurrence. As a war measure it and to prevent its recurrence. As a war measure it was wisely adapted to the object. Mr. Hutchins spoke of the strength of slavery under our policy heretofore to the rebels. This measure will weaken the rebels and strengthen the Government. The rebels fear this proclamation. He had watched too long and carefully the growth of the anti-slavery sentiment, and had too much faith in the teachings of the war, to doubt the success of this grand scheme, which, in the termination of the war, will restore reedom to a race, and peace to a continent, and nobly saye the last best hope of earth—the Republic f the United States.

Mr. MENZIES (U.), of Kentucky, in replying, MIT. MENZIES (U.), of Kentucky, in replyings said that he was in the habit of regarding the enemies of the proclamation as the friends of the Constitution. He understood the gentleman from Ohio (MIr. Hutchins) to be opposed to the Union as it was. No doubt the reasons assigned by him for the recent No doubt the reasons assigned by him for the recent defeats of Republicans were satisfactory to the gentleman himself; but he (Afr. Menzies) would say these disasters to that party were attributable to the Abolition programme of the President and his party. He understood the Democratic party of the North to stand fairly and squarely against Secession and its offspring, the Southern rekellion. It was more powerful for the suppression of the rebellion than the Republican party, because it insists on the support of the Constitution. If the Crittenden propositions had been adopted, the country would have lost nothing thereby, nor would the Republican, or any other party. any other party.

Mr. MENZIES recapitulated the measure adopted by the Republican party, including the abo-lition of slavery and confiscation act, passed in a manner which had shocked the civilization of the manner which had shocked the civilization of the age. The course of the Administration in illegally imprisoning American citizens in Northern prisons had given the rebellion increased confidence of success. The recent elections, however, were more appalling to the rebels than anything that could happen, because a free people, who will not submit to the tyranny at Washington, will never submit to the overthrow of the Constitution by the rebels. In conclusion, he earnestly reprobated the guilty leaders in the rebellion, while at the same time he insisted that the Abolitionists have done great mischief in retarding its suppression. hief in retarding its suppression.
The committee then rose, and the House ad-The committee ther ourned till Monday.

A Probable Wreck. NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The bark Acme reports that, on the 9th inst., in lat. 38 deg. 6 min., long. 75 deg. 58 min., she saw a large number of wine boxes and part of a deck house. She sent out a boat and picked up a head-board with the name "Empire" inscribed thereon in gilt letters.

The brig Webster, Kelly, picked up on the 7th inst. packages of navy stores from, apparently, the

From New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The hospital ship St. Mark, rom Alexandria, has arrived.

The steam-tug Lafayette was sunk this morning by collision with a Staten island ferry boat. Berks County Regiment. READING, Dec. 11.—The 167th Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. Knoderer, 1,000 strong, left here this afternoon for Washington. They are a fine, hale-looking set of men, and will make their mark, there can be no doubt.

Carpet Factory Burned.

PORTLAND, Dec. 11.—Bailey's carpet factory in Æirthrop, comprising two large buildings, was burned last night. Loss \$18,000.

New Mosic. We have received for sher, E. Monsinger, a new piece of posed by Mr. C. Merazinger, entitled My Maryland, Schottisch," and dedicated in the State of Maryland. The music is re and the words to which it is set are ple and true.

ANOTHER -- We liave also to acknowledge ceipt of some very stirring and patriotic v cautifully printed sheet, composed by Fr Meriam, and entitled "The Union Must St hig at onee designed as a memorial of our and a compliment to our generals, living and This song is set to rausic by the author, and mission, dedicated to Major Ge McClellan.

"Engineering and Spirittal Lide" the title of a nextly-printed, and very intetle volume, intended for Sunday school use ject of which is Engineering, with Mustr Nature, as applied to Spiritual things. The of this volume, Mr. Lewis La Hours, has his subject in a clear, conversational str adapted for juveniles, and the moderate he which it is sold, thirty-five cents every, will, ng which it is som, many saids. It can be had at the theran Board of Publication, No. 42 p

DONATIONS TO THE COOPERSIES LOOK AND HOSPITAL.—The following decilie have been made to this institution for the p of feeding the volunteers, and taking can sick and wounded soldiers Broseeds of the fair held at No. 905 Callenger street, by a party of little girls, \$21; ditto Wharton street, \$14. Also, donations of Whateon street, par. dies. Aid, of Radnor township, Pa., through, president, Annie E. Paxon; from the Gr serves, \$40; Germania Concert, 556. TO BE KEPT AFLOAT. A meeting of the prominent members of the Breckinridge cracy was held last night, to devise Beans, to prolong the decaying life of sion organ of this city. It was stated that said organ had nearly wound up, and, in vie loss of sheriff's printing, &c., little hope co obtained that it would successfully battle of the times. We understand that about \$1500 was asked for as the probable amount necessity prevent life oozing away. With a portion of this sum it is proposed that a new press be obtained. No definite conclusion was arrived at.

FUNERAL.—The funeral of Charles H Mellon was attended, Jesterday morning, by a large Mellon was attenued, resterning monthing by a large number of the members of the Corn Exchange Assa ciation, and others of the mercantile hesides a great many of the personal friends of the deceased. ORDINATION.—This morning the order of

Sub-deaconship will be conferred in the Catholic Sub-deaconship with and Summer streets. The order of the Priesthood will be conferred on Sunday more. ing, when solemn Pontifical Mass will be also colorated. FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

THE MONEY MARKET. PHILADELPHIA, December 11, 1362 The gold market was steady to day, but few transactions being made outside of 1311. The news of actions being made outside of 131; 1ne news of the bombardment of Fredericksburg came too late to affect money circles, and, consequently, the quotations at the close were rather steady. Old demand notes closed at 126, with considerable activity. Certificates of indebtedness are rising in public estimation, and they were worth & p cent more. For a short investment these certificates offer unusual at vantages, being easily converted, and bearing into rest payable in gold. The subscriptions to the new National loan, at the office of Jay Cooke, Esq., amounted to overone hundred thousand dollars to-day. The most extensive preparations have been made to place the loan within reach of all classes, in all sections of the country. Thus far, a large portion of the various amounts subscribed have come from persons in moderate circumstances, and from the evidence of the interest of the people at a distance and near home, this loan appears to be growing more popular every day. When Burnside accomplishes the work

so long desired and so long deferred, we may look for larger and more cheering figures. The Stock market was moderately active, and select committee on that subject had expired with the former session of Congress, and it would have to prices rather steady. State fives sold at 91; r new city sixes advanced 1/4; Camden and Amby sixes 1883, were steady at 101; 1870's rose 1; Treating Railroad sixes brought 1041/2: Schuylkill Northtion sixes, 1882, were steady at 68%; Susquetura Canal sixes were active at 37; Ridge-avenue sents sold at 95; Philadelphia and Erie sixes at 1913; Chesapeake and Delaware Canal sixes at 93%; E. mira sevens and North Pennsylvania Railmai bonds were steady; Delaware Division Canal shires brought 37; Schuylkill Navigation and Lehizh No. vigation were without change; Reading Railroad shares opened at 3814, but fell off, and closed at 81; Harrisburg sold at 60; Catawissa preferred rose; North Pennsylvania was in demand at 10: Pennsylvania nia was active at 57%. Long Island at 22. Cambra and Amboy rose 14. Minchill was steady at 51. Norristown at 54. Passenger railways were more active. Race and Vine sold at 9. Second and Thirl at 761/2. Fifth and Sixth at 51%. Arch-street a 25%. Green and Coates at 36%. Seventeenth an Nineteenth at 10. Girard College at 25%; all being vesterday's figures. In bank shares nothing wa done. The market closed steady-\$39,000 in bonk and 2,600 shares changing hands.

Drexel & Company quote: Demand Notes.... The following is a statement of the coal trans ported over the Delaware and Hudson Canalior the veek and season, compared with the same time lat Week ending Sesson Delaware and Hudson Canal......25,630
Pennsylvania Coal Company......19,337

...44,367 Delaware and Hudson Canal, Nov. 29...... 353 Pennsylvania Coal Company, Nov. 27..... 255 Pennsylvania Coal Company, Nov. 27.. The following is the statement of coal transported over the Hazleton Railroad, for the year ending bea

Tons. Cwt. 111,855 19 115,231 14 63,050 17 64,957 09 Cranberry 1,916 12 119,915 03 82,767 10 10,595 07 37,275 01 35,035 15 65,691 04 67,227 05 33,635 03 34,455 12 109,556 03 111,53 17 Milnesville 852 14 Jeddo..... 2,272 09 Total... Corresponding period last year... 9,361 11 663,810 09 673,172 9 659 08 Increase..... 8,151 14

4 Harrisburg R. SECOND BOARD. 3000 Ridge ave 7s...... 95

200 L Island R 500 do rg R..... 60 1000 Trenton Il bender CLOSING PRICES-FIRM. US 6s cpns 'Sl...1945' 1945' Catawissa R...
US 7-30 D bik...1035' 194 Do prid...
American Gold .332 1824 Beaver Mead R
Phila 6s .0ld .100 1005' Minehill R...
Do new... 1023 1025' Winehill R...
Winnington R

Do bonds-Girard College Lehigh Val R... 65 Lehigh Val bds..107½ 108

Philadelphia Markets. The Flour market is without any alteration, with a limited demand both for export and home use, only about 1,000 bbls have been taken for shipment mostly Western extra family, at \$7 ior commission and \$7.25@7.50 for good brands. The sales to the Table range at \$6@6.25 for super, \$6.50@7 for extras-7.75 for extra family, and \$\$@\$.50 for fancy braining according to quality. Rye Flour is but little in quired for, and quoted at \$5.25@5.50 per bbl. Con Meal—The receipts are light, and Pennsylvania Meal—The receipts are light, and Penasylvate steady, at \$3.50 per bbl.

WHEAT.—There is less offering; the market is firm, and rather more active at previous quotations; firm, and rather more active at previous quotations; sold at 147@150c, the latter for prime lots in story white ranges at from 165@185c, as to quality, keep white ranges at from 165@185c, as to quality, keep white ranges at from 165@185c, as to quality, keep corn is very scarce; some small sales of Penasylvania yellow are reported, at \$5@50c, and 1.00 bit vania yellow are reported, at \$5@50c, and 1.00 bit with sales of 3,000 bus, mostly good Delawston with sales of 3,000 bus, mostly good Delawston 19c. Barke, Quereitron is steady at \$36 \(\geq \text{top}\) for it.

BARK.—Quereitron is steady at \$36 \(\geq \text{top}\) for it.

The following are the receipts of Flour and Grain at this port to-day: