The Press.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1863.

FORNEY'S "WAR PRESS,"

For the week ending SATURDAY, December 19, is ready, and for sale at this office. Its contents are valuable and interesting, viz:

STORY.—The fine original sketch of "Abigail," by "M. L. S."

ORIGINAL POEMS.—The Clouds—Rainbow—Isn't it Hard! by favorite contributors.

LITERARY MISCELLANY.—A melange of all descriptions of intelligent reading.

THE WAR.—Major-General Halleck's report in full—Correspondences from the Army; and a summary of all the telegraphic news.

CONGRESS.—Full reports of the Session—Correspondence from Washington, &c.

VARIOUS FEATURES.—Agriculture, Finance, Editorial, Review, &c.

Specimens of the "WAR PRESS" will be forwarded when requested. The subscription rate for single copies is $2 per year. A reduction from these terms will be allowed when clubs are formed. Single copies, put up in wrappers, ready for mailing, may be obtained at the counter. Price, five cents.

The Work Before Congress.

There is one work before Congress which will not be defined in any resolution or bill, yet will be almost as important as any, and will make a part of all its essential action. It is informal, yet fully understood by the people. It is already begun, and will only end with the session. Unless it is well done the country will be disappointed, and its foes will have reason to rejoice in an underhand success. This work is the full exposure of the secret principles and purposes of the enemies of the Government. To do it well is very important, for this exposure must greatly affect the coming Presidential election, and the future of the whole country.

Is there any doubt that the loyal professions of that minority, which never omits any opportunity of interfering with the war, and attacking the Administration, are insincere? There is name. When Mr. Vallandigham was in Congress, how reverently did he lift his hat whenever the Constitution was mentioned! How devotedly did he adore his country—how passionately did he long to lose his life, his fortune, and his sacred honor for her sake! But when his wish was gratified—except in the losing of his life—where was Mr. Vallandigham? A banished man, on a triumphal tour through the armies of the rebellion, and in Southern cities, where no loyal Northerner would have been safe. Mr. Vallandigham's friends in Congress are now taking off their hats to the Constitution, and adoring their country. Yet all the while they denounce the Government, oppose the war, want to send peace commissioners to Richmond, and present a united front of resistance to all those great measures which the loyalty of the nation has so repeatedly approved. Of this Mr. Edgerton's resolution is an instance. What, exactly, they mean? "Vallandigham has been exposed; now we want Vallandighamism itself revealed.

This work will be done day by day in the votes upon all important bills necessary to the prosecution of the war, and the restoration of the Southern States. It is incumbent upon the loyal leaders in Congress that they should shape their legislation into test questions. Wherever subterfuge is possible, it will be used by the men who are now plotting the election of a pro-slavery President in 1864. The possibility must not exist. Under the pretence of opposition to the Administration, there are others who really oppose the Union; the real nature and object of their enmity must be uncloaked. The strength of a conspiracy is in concealment, and the disunion conspiracy which for twenty years or more has been a part of Congressional legislation, is *not* ended by the withdrawal of its old leaders. Jefferson Davis pleaded for the Union while planning its destruction, and his friends have not forgotten that the uniform of the enemy is the protection of the spy. We do not believe that the fifty or sixty votes regularly cast against the Government and the resolution of the loyal States are, without exception, those of hypocritical friends of the rebellion, but we do believe that the secret of this opposition is disloyalty. In Congress, there have is far better opportunity than existed in the recent State elections, this secret should be dragged into the light. We want the people to know what would be the meaning of the election of an anti-Administration candidate in 1864; when they do know that, we shall be satisfied with all the rest.

The Murder of Colored Soldiers.

In June last, eighty colored soldiers, a first lieutenant and a captain, were captured by the rebels, after a hard fight, at Milliken's Bend. Their fate was long unknown; but information has lately been received by the Government that, after a brief imprisonment, the two officers were taken from their cells at night and hung. Very soon afterwards the eighty men "disappeared," a cant Southern phrase, which means that they were murdered. This is one fact, which gives importance to a second. The steamer Planter, the vessel which Robert Small, the colored pilot, so gallantly ran out of Charleston harbor, was lately recaptured, with her colored crew, and, it is supposed, Robert Small. Are these joined, in the service of the United States, to meet the fate of the heroes of Milliken's Bend?

The military authorities of the rebellion claim that they are justified in hanging all colored soldiers they may capture, who have escaped from slavery, on the ground that they are deserters. This is the argument by which murder is justified; an argument which, if good for one side, must be good for the other, which must have universal application or none at all. Upon this matter the *Tribune* argues so closely that other comment is superfluous. It says:

"Since the United States is admittedly a Government, both *de facto* and *de jure*, it must have at least equal rights with the Confederacy, which exists but in all, only *de facto*. If, then, the Confederacy claims to hang or deserters all the inhabitants of its territory found in arms in our ranks, the claim of the United States to hang those who have deserted from its service must be equally strong. It follows that, if the rebels have a right to hang recaptured negroes, we have at least as good a right to hang recaptured rebels."

The truth is, that the barbarous treatment of our white soldiers captured—the murder of our black troops—the injustice and cruelty of the rebel authorities in regard to the exchange of prisoners, are crimes which must ere long compel terrible punishment. The mercy our Government has thus far shown to its enemies must soon be transferred to its friends, unless these enemies—from whom mercy is not expected—answer generosity with simple justice.

An Important Test-Case.

The decision in the test-case of the Alexandra, seized by order of Earl Russell, under the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act, had not been made when the steamer "Hibernia" sailed on the 8th instant. It had been erroneously stated that "the decision of the British Government will be made on the 7th of December." On the contrary, the British Government is one of the parties in the case, certain shipbuilders and others being the defendants. The prosecution was at the suit of the Crown. The verdict was against the Crown, whose law officers immediately tendered a bill of exceptions to the judge's charge to the jury. On the earliest opportunity the Crown-lawyers came before the judges of the Court of Exchequer, sitting *in banco*, and obtained a conditional rule for a new trial. Subsequently, counsel for the defendants appeared before the Court and argued against this rule *nisi*. The Crown-lawyers replied. The Court then took some ten days to deliberate, and *their* decision was to have been announced on December 7th. Considering that Chief Baron Pollock, (an octogenarian with unconceaded Secession sympathies, tried the case, and is charged with having misdirected the jury,) is head of the five Exchequer judges who will have to decide on the question of a new trial, it may be anticipated that the demand will be refused. Of course, there is a final appeal beyond this.

We are justified in calling this a test case. It is so in a double sense. It will test the sincerity of the British Government, in its avowed neutrality, and it will test the efficacy of the Foreign Enlistment Act. If that statute, expressly framed to check, prevent, and punish, the construction, equipment, and warlike fitting out of vessels to be employed in hostilities against the ships, property, and commerce, of nations with whom England is at peace, be inadequate to effect this, it is clear that Parliament must be immediately applied to, by the British Government, in the Queen's name, to pass a law which will effectively do what is required. If an Opposition—composed of office-seeking Tories, sympathizers, and discontented no-party men—get up a cry, *as they will*, that this demand for a stringent law is only a complete surrender of "dictation from Washington," it is not improbable that such an outcry will be raised throughout too-credulous England which will drive the Palmerston Ministry either into resignation of office or a general election, with almost a certainty of the new House of Commons being even more unfriendly than the old. Just so, in February, 1858, Lord Palmerston was compelled to quit office, when the popular cry was that he was passing the new Conspiracy Act especially to gratify the Emperor Napoleon. It will thus be seen that the case of the Alexandra is unusually important.

"The Country Must Succumb."

Mr. Memminger's report of the state of the rebel finances is an admission of the impossibility of maintaining the rebellion. Unless some remedy for ruin is provided, he declares that "the army can neither be paid, clothed, nor fed; arms and munitions of war can no longer be supplied; the officers of the Government cannot be supported, and the country must succumb." At the same time, let it be observed, he, with all his labor and experience, can suggest no remedy, nor is there any that human ingenuity can invent. Mr. Chase himself would fail in the attempt to drag the rebellion out of its hopeless bankruptcy. It follows, therefore, that the rebellion is considered a failure by its own leaders, and it will not be long before we shall see man after man escaping from its toils, and Mr. Davis, who has set his life upon a cast, vainly striving to find friends to help him stand the hazard of the die.

Reaction.—Mr. Wood, Mr. Reed, Mr. Bayard, Mr. Garrett Davis, and other eminently conservative men, are still where they were—constant as needles that have their points fixed in their sockets; or, if they have changed, they have only grown more conservative—more Southern, indeed, than the Southerners themselves. Meanwhile the State of Missouri has become more radical than the North, and even Arkansas is agitating the abolition of slavery, at the instance of the former rebel Brigadier General Gantt. Mr. Wood and his friends call our Government despotic and horrible, and yet we are reliably informed that, in greeting their deliverers, the women of Arkansas were more affectionate. They threw their arms even around the horses' necks, in their great joy, and wept like children. We are also told the gratifying fact that "in many portions of the State it would be worth as much as a man's life to advocate the re-establishment of the 'institution.'" The loyal Arkansans are fully equal to the President's proclamation of freedom, if they have not advanced a step beyond it. Fearful of the facts that the President's proclamation only freed the slaves at the time being in such States to which it applied—that slaves from Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky might be brought into the State, the constitution of Arkansas prohibiting its Legislature from preventing slave-owners of those States from bringing them in—it was, therefore, resolved, by a Union meeting at Little Rock, "that it is the duty of the people of Arkansas to call a convention as soon as practicable, and so amend our constitution as to place the question beyond the reach of cavil." Evidently, the world is moving onward, yet some respectable people are standing very still, or travelling slowly backward.

Senator Hale very naturally felt desirous that the newspaper assertion that he had been guilty of accepting a bribe should be examined by the Senate, and the matter was very properly referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. But we respectfully submit that this action should not be made a precedent. If each of the loyal Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers, and soldiers, who have been charged by reckless journalists with crimes greater than bribery, should ask formal vindications of Congress, that body would have no time for the transaction of public business.

WASHINGTON

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17.

The Congressional Debates, &c.

In the Senate to-day a resolution was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin, instructing the Committee on Printing to inquire as to the best mode of securing an accurate synopsis of the debates and proceedings of the Senate to be reported by telegraph for the Associated Press.

The motion on the part of the Senator was altogether independent of consultation with, or even intimation from, the gentlemen having charge of the Congressional telegraphic reports, but, nevertheless, it is regarded as a friendly act.

At present, the extended verbatim, official reports appear only in the *Globe*, and do not reach the great mass of the people; hence, doubtless, the movement to ascertain the best mode of accomplishing this object.

The telegraph arrangements, in each wing of the Capitol, are for the convenience of the newspaper press and members of Congress, and messages are thence despatched to all points.

The Supreme Justices.

The customary annual visit of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States was postponed, on the 7th, on account of the illness of the President, but upon a formal notice that he would be happy to see them to-day, they proceeded in a body to the executive mansion and severally paid their respects to him.

Appointment to the Revenue.

Charleton Lewis, of Connecticut, to-day entered upon his duties as Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, to which office he has recently been appointed.

Claim Argument.

The case of Carmac and Ramsey against the Government came up for argument before the First Comptroller of the Treasury yesterday. It involves a claim of about $2,000,000, with interest, and has been in litigation for ten years. It is on account of a mail contract for service on the Pacific coast. William Cullen Noyes, Esq., of New York, opened the argument for the claimants, and will be followed by Milton Whitney, Esq., of Baltimore (and of the firm of Whitney & Lamborn, of Washington,) who is here to reply for the Government. The case will probably occupy the entire week.

Personal.

General Buford's funeral will take place on Saturday.

General Rosecrans will probably take command in Missouri in place of General Schofield.

It is raining hard here to-day. The army of Potomac it preparing to go into winter quarters.

RECAPTURE OF THE STEAMER CHESAPEAKE.

Escape of Most of the Rebel Crew.

HALIFAX, Dec. 17.—The steamer Chesapeake moved to Sambro Harbor, which is twenty miles from Halifax, on yesterday. The United States steamer Ella and Annie was informed of it, and will be at that point early this morning.

The Government of Nova Scotia has issued orders for the arrest of the pirates.

There are no other gunboats here.

HALIFAX, Dec. 17.—The U. S. steamer Ella and Annie, captured the steamer Chesapeake this morning, in Sumbro harbor. All but three of the crew escaped.

Soon after the capture the Dacotah came up, and ordered them into Halifax, and all three of the vessels are now here.

HOW THE CHESAPEAKE WAS RETAKEN.

HALIFAX, Dec. 17.—The movements of the Chesapeake since her first appearance at Sheeburne, have been narrowly watched by the United States officials, and the American citizens of the Provinces.

Her whereabouts were daily known, but the absence of the gunboats caused delay in her capture. On Tuesday the Ella and Annie, Lieut. Commanding Nickels, arrived here for coal, and was immediately supplied at the Cunards' wharf. She received information of the pirate, and at eleven and a half o'clock P. M. steamed for her, arriving at her rendezvous at three o'clock P. M., but the Chesapeake left at 9 o'clock A. M., of Wednesday, there by evading her pursuers.

The Ella and Annie immediately turned back, and steamed for Lunenburg, for orders, arriving in the evening. In the meantime, the officials securing information of the pirates being at Sambro, notified Lieutenant Nickels, who immediately steamed for her, determined to take her, and at daylight on Thursday accomplished it.

The crew offered no resistance, but at the sight of their pursuers immediately fled to the wood, leaving a sumptuously prepared breakfast.

The Chesapeake was immediately taken in tow, and Lieutenant Nickels started for an American port.

The Dacotah soon came up and ordered Lieutenant Nickels and his prize into Halifax, to await the sanction of the act by the Government. The vessels arrived at four o'clock P. M. Three of the original crew were captured; the others were shipped in Nova Scotia.

The Niagara left Puberico this morning bound east.

It is reported that the officials who were despatched by the authorities, to arrest the pirate Braine to day, were resisted.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Blockade-Running into Wilmington.

GEN. BUTLER RAISING AN ARMY OF COLORED TROOPS.

NEWBERN, N. C., Dec. 12.—Refugees from Wilmington state that General Whitney, commanding the rebel forces at that point, left with his brigade recently for Tennessee, and was relieved by General Martin. The command in and about Wilmington consists only of one small brigade.

The running of the blockade into Wilmington continues to increase. It is estimated that a half a million of dollars worth of goods arrive there every twenty-four hours.

North Carolina is nearly abandoned by the rebel troops, there being but two brigades in the State.

It has been decided by the banks, as a matter of safety, to dispose of their specie, which they are now paying out as fast as possible to the citizens of the State, giving them one dollar in gold for four dollars in North Carolina money.

General Butler is raising an army of colored troops for this department. The three black regiments of cavalry, which were recently started, are rapidly filling up.

FORTRESS MONROE.

Burning of the Hospital at Fort Yorktown—Explosion of Shells—Loss of Life.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 16.—About ninety rebel prisoners arrived here this morning, via Yorktown. They were captured last Monday, at Charles City Court House. Among them are seven commissioned officers, and also a female soldier.

The names of the officers are:

W. J. Hamlet, captain 42d Virginia Cavalry.
A. J. Rodgers, captain 42d Virginia Cavalry.
A. B. Doak, assistant surgeon 42d Virginia Cav.
F. J. Ballard, 1st lieutenant 42d Virginia Cavalry.
T. J. King, 2d lieutenant 42d Virginia Cavalry.
J. B. Salmon, 2d lieutenant 42d Virginia Cavalry.
I. M. Rodgers, 3d lieutenant 42d Virginia Cavalry.

The expedition was commanded by Colonel R. M. West.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 17.—About 8 o'clock last evening the hospital in Fort Yorktown took fire, communicating with the bakery.

At about half past 8 one of the magazines exploded.

The fire continued, and shells exploded during the whole night. At 4 o'clock this morning another explosion took place.

Several buildings were destroyed.

One wounded man arrived here this morning.

BERMUDA.

Movements of Blockade Runners.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The brig Oleander, from Bermuda on the 11th, has arrived here.

The steamers A. D. Vanee, late Lord Clyde, and Eugene, were overdue from Wilmington, and it was reported that they had been captured.

The Heroine, Coquette, and Ranger were in port. The two former loaded for Wilmington, and the other was a new arrival from England.

The Denbick sailed on the 2d for Havana, and the Flora on the 4th, for Wilmington.

EUROPE.

TEN DAYS LATER BY THE CITY OF CORK AND HIBERNIAN.

THE PROPOSED CONGRESS OF POWERS.

American Topics, &c.

Threatening Aspect of European Politics.

Grant's Victory Considered in England.

THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The steamer City of Cork has arrived with Liverpool dates to the 28th, and via Queenstown to the 30th:

She passed the Pittsburgh Dec. 1st, the Glasgow on the 4th, and the Persia on the 8th.

The Pope, in reply to the invitation to take part in the Congress, from Napoleon, expressed a conviction that the Congress would respect its rights to the Pontifical provinces of Piedmont.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* attacks the English Government for declining to enter the proposed Congress, and says if trouble and confliction should ensue, as is probable, the responsibility would fall on those who rejected the work of peace and conciliation.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has confirmed treaties of commerce and navigation with France.

The Swedish Chambers have granted all the credits asked by the Government.

In the Austrian Lower House of the Reichsrath, on the 28th, there was an animated debate on the Holstein question. Some of the Deputies demanded the most energetic conduct on the part of the Government.

Arrival of the Hibernia at St. Johns.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 17.—The steamer Hibernia, from Galway, arrived this morning. Her dates are to the 8th inst., three days later than previous advice.

The steamers Glasgow and Sidon, from New York, arrived at Queenstown on the 6th.

The political news is not important.

The Danish German question remained in *statu quo*.

The United States corvette Kearsarge was off Queenstown on the 7th, and relanded sixteen men recently stripped there.

The Gibraltar, formerly the Sampter, had arrived at Queenstown with 30 bales of cotton from Wilmington, N. C.

The Court of Exchequer did not give a decision in the Alexandra case on the 7th inst.

General Grant's victory at Chattanooga attracts much comment in the English papers.

The steamers Edinburgh, Hansa, North American, and Asia had doubtless arrived out prior to the sailing of the Australian, though no notice of them came by the despatch, which embraces the news subsequent to the departure of the Australian.

The despatch contains no intelligence of the prize-fight between Heenan and King.

GREAT BRITAIN.

English politics are unimportant.

The Colonial Ministers were leaving town for their Christmas holidays.

General Grant's victory at Chattanooga attracts the sympathy of the English press.

The *Daily News* takes it for granted that Bragg was defeated with a position selected by himself, and that unless Longstreet was determined to risk all at Knoxville, he would have retreated and rejoined Bragg, thereby relieving Kay Department repeating of his former stories; and also the official report of the sinking of the Wheelwright on the Yar of Chickamauga, and the official report of the springing aleak of the Sangamon at the Washington navy yard, on the eve of her departure on a cruise.

Bills and Reports.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, introduced a bill supplementary to an act to promote the progress of the useful arts, which was referred to the Committee on Patents.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, introduced a bill to grant land to the citizens of Kansas, as an indemnification for the losses which they have suffered during the present rebellion.

Mr. HARLAN, of Iowa, introduced a bill for the relief of the widows and children of the Supreme Court in the cases therein described.

On motion of Mr. SPRAGUE, of Rhode Island, the bounty back pay bill was taken up, and recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Treasury communicating the report of Professor A. D. Bache for the year ending November 1, 1863, and the report of Commodore Saltonstall, in relation to the Coast Survey of California.

The resolution of the House for an adjournment being taken up, Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, moved to amend it by striking out the words "this House adjourn" and inserting "both Houses of Congress adjourn." The amendment was carried.

A motion of Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, to lay the resolution on the table, was negatived.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, it was voted to postpone the consideration of the resolution till Tuesday next—yeas 31, nays 11, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Davis, Grimes, Hendricks, Hicks, Lane of Kansas, Powell, Saulsbury, Ten Eyck, Wilkinson, and Wright.

The remainder either voted in the affirmative or were absent.

Message from the President—The Freedman's Aid Memorial.

The following message was received from the President of the United States:

To the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Herewith, I lay before you a letter addressed to myself by a committee of gentlemen representing the Freedman's Aid Society, in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati. The subject of the letter is indicated above, is one of great magnitude and importance, and one which, in view of known ability and high character, seem to have considered with great care. In having the time to form a mature judgment of my own, as to how, or whether, it can be made a part of, or submit the whole subject to Congress, deeming that their attention thereto is almost imperatively demanded.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Mr. FOOT, of Vermont, moved that when the Senate adjourn it be till Monday next. Not agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the annual report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

Mr STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses for the year ending with June, 1864.

Thanks to Captain Rodgers.

Mr. BRIDGE, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a joint resolution which was passed, tendering the thanks of Congress to Captain John Rodgers and the officers of the Monitor Weehawken, for his gallant and skillful conduct in the fight with the Confederate iron-clad Atlanta, and the thanks of the country are tendered to the officers and men of the Weehawken, and the Monitor, for their efficient aid in opening the navigation of Mobile Bay.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a resolution to print ten thousand copies of the foreign correspondence accompanying the President's message. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Printing.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, it was resolved that when the House adjourn to-day it be till Monday next.

Pensions.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, of Missouri, the Committee on Invalid Pensions was instructed to inquire what legislation is necessary to secure to the widows and legal representatives of persons who have died, or may hereafter die, after their discharge from military service, in or when on their way to their homes, the same pensions as are allowed to others.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the Committee on Public Lands was instructed to inquire into the propriety of granting bounty lands to soldiers in the regular army.

Roads and Canals.

Mr. PRICE, of Iowa, introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the advisability and necessity of constructing and enlarging the Northern canals as may be necessary to connect the waters of the Hudson and Mississippi with the great lakes, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. HOLMAN, of Indiana, moved to lay the bill on the table. The motion was lost—yeas 67, nays 66. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. ALLISON, of Iowa, offered a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the expediency of improving the upper rapids of the Mississippi, commencing at Davenport, with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. MCCLURG, of Missouri, a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Interior, commissioners appointed by the President to examine into the accounts of officers and men employed in the Western or Missouri Department of the army.

Mr. ROGERS, of New Jersey, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to increase the pay of the privates and non-commissioned officers of the army.

Also, a joint resolution to refund to the States, counties, townships, wards, cities, and municipal corporations all the moneys paid by them, respectively, for bounties to volunteers in the Union army.

Habeas Corpus, &c.

Mr. HARRINGTON, of Indiana, offered a preamble, setting forth the principles of the Constitution in regard to personal liberty, and that the Thirty-seventh Congress passed a law, authorizing the President to suspend the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus throughout the United States, and further that the President has assumed to suspend it in the loyal States, subjecting the people to arbitrary arrests without due process of law, denying to them the right to a speedy trial, and causing them to languish in prison; and concluding with a series of resolutions denying the power of Congress to confer upon the President the right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in the loyal States, and asserting that the assumption of the President in those respects is contrary to the process of the age, despotic, and wholly subversive of the alimentary principles on which the Government rests.

The series concludes with instructions to the Judiciary Committee to report a bill to protect the rights of persons in accordance with the foregoing declarations and the provisions of the Constitution.

The resolutions were rejected—yeas 67, nays 59.

The House passed a bill for the payment of invalid and other pensions for the year ending with June, 1863.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for all documents showing the practical operations of the so-called reciprocity treaty which may be in his possession.

The President's Proclamations—A Conservative Resolution Laid on the Table.

Mr. EDGERTON, of Indiana, submitted the following:

Whereas, The Proclamations of the President, of January 1st, 1863, and December 8th, 1863, in relation to emancipation, impose certain conditions of pardon and amnesty to persons who have participated in the existing rebellion, as well as the conditions of the President to the re-establishment and recognition of the State Government in the states to which the said proclamations apply, which, in the judgment of a large number of faithful citizens, have a tendency to give the rebellion the advantage of a change of issue, and to reinvigorate the otherwise declining insurrection in the South, and to prolong the war; and

Whereas, This House cannot but regard with anxiety the unprecedented and extraordinary claims and assumption of a high prerogative in the President, in the said proclamations; especially in view of the fact that the President, in his inaugural address of the 4th of March, 1861, declared: "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution in the States where it exists. I believe I have no right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so." Therefore, be it

Resolved, As the judgment of this House, That the maintenance inviolate of the constitutional powers of Congress, and the rights of the States, and especially, the right of each State to order and control its own judgment exclusively, is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric of the Federal Union depends; and we denounce, as among the gravest of crimes, the invasion or occupation by an armed force, of any State, under the pretext or for the purpose of coercing the people thereof to modify or abrogate any of their laws or domestic institutions that are consistent with the Constitution of the United States, and we affirm the principle declared in this resolution to be a law, alike to the President and to the people of the United States.

Mr. GRINNELL, of Iowa, moved to lay the preamble and resolution on the table, which was agreed to—yeas 86, nays 46—as follows:

YEAS.

Alley,	Frank,	Orth,
Allison,	Garfield,	Patterson,
Ames,	Gooch,	Perham,
Anderson,	Grinnell,	Pike,
Arnold,	Hale,	Pomeroy,
Ashley,	Higby,	Price,
Baldwin (Mass),	Hooper,	Randall (Ky),
Beaman,	Hotchkiss,	Rice (Mass),
Blaine,	Hubbard (Iowa),	Rice (Me),
Blow,	Hubbard (Conn),	Rollins (N H),
Boutwell,	Hubbard,	Schenck,
Boyd,	Julian,	Schofield,
Brandegee,	Kasson,	Shannon,
Broomall,	Kelley,	Sloan,
Brown (W Va),	Kellogg (R N),	Smith,
Clark A W,	Kellogg (N Y),	Smithers,
Clark F,	Loan,	Spalding,
Cobb,	Longyear,	Stevens,
Cole,	Lovejoy,	Thayer,
Cresswell,	Marvin,	Tracy,
Davis (Md),	McClurg,	Van Valkenburgh,
Davis (N Y),	McIndoe,	Washburn (Ind),
Dawes,	Miller,	Washburne (Mass)
Deming,	Moorhead,	Whaley (W Va),
Dixon,	Morrill,	Williams,
Driggs,	Morris (N Y),	Wilder,
Dumont,	Myers, A,	Wilson,
Eckley,	Myers, L,	Windom,
Eliot,	Norton,	Woodbridge,
Fernsworth,	Odell,	Yeaman.
Fenton,	O'Neill (Pa),	
Frank,	Patton (Pa),	

NAYS.

Allen, Jas C,	Harris (Md),	Perry,
Allen, Wm J	Harris (Ill),	Radford,
Ancona,	Herrick,	Randall (Pa),
Baldwin (Mich),	Hutchins,	Robinson,
Biles,	Johnson (Md),	Rogers,
Brooks,	Kernan,	Rollins (Mo),
Chanler,	Knapp,	Ross (Ill),
Cox,	Law,	Scott (Mo),
Craven,	Le Blond,	Steele (N Y),
Dawson,	Long,	Steele (N J),
Denison,	Mallory,	Stiles,
Eden,	Marcy,	Strouse,
Edgerton,	McDowell,	Stuart,
Eldridge,	McKinney,	Voorhees,
English,	Middleton,	Wadsworth,
Finck,	Miller (Pa),	Ward,
Gansen,	Morris (O),	Wheeler,
Grider,	Morrison,	White, A,
Griswold,	Nelson,	White, J W
Hall,	Noble,	Winfield,
Harding,	O'Neill (O),	Wood, F
Harrington,	Pendleton,	
Harris (Ills),	Pomeroy,	
Herrick,	Pruyn,	
Holman,	Sheffield,	

Unconditional Resolutions.

Mr. SMITH, of Kentucky, submitted a series of resolutions, of which the following were read first in order:

Resolved, That as our country and the very existence of the best Government ever instituted by man is imperilled by the most unjust, unnatural, and unholy rebellion that the world has ever seen; and, believing as we do that the only hope of safety, and of saving and preserving the Government is by the power of the sword, we are for the most vigorous prosecution of the war until the Constitution and Union shall be restored and obeyed in all parts of the United States; and, to that end, we oppose any armistice, or intervention, or mediation, or proposition for peace from any quarter so long as there shall be found a rebel in arms against the Government, but we do not, in making this, or any other issues, and recognize but two parties in this war, viz: patriots and traitors.

Mr. CHAVENES, of Indiana, moved to lay the series of resolutions on the table. His motion was disagreed to—yeas 65, nays 66.

The above resolution was then agreed to by the following vote—yeas 83, nays 65—as follows:

YEAS.

Alley,	Garfield,	Orth,
Allison,	Gooch,	Patterson,
Ames,	Grinnell,	Perham,
Anderson,	Hale,	Pike,
Arnold,	Higby,	Pomeroy,
Ashley,	Hooper,	Price,
Bailey,	Hotchkiss,	Randall (Ky),
Baldwin (Mass),	Hubbard (Iowa),	Rice (Mass),
Beaman,	Hubbard (Conn),	Rice (Me),
Blaine,	Hubbard, (Jenks),	Rollins (N H),
Blow,	Kasson,	Schenck,
Boutwell,	Kelley,	Schofield,
Boyd,	Kellogg (Mich),	Shannon,
Brandegee,	Kellogg (N Y),	Sloan,
Broomall,	Loan,	Smith,
Clark, A W,	Longyear,	Smithers,
Cobb,	Lovejoy,	Spalding,
Cole,	Marvin,	Stevens,
Cresswell,	McAllister,	Thayer,
Davis (Md),	McBride,	Tracy,
Davis (N Y),	McClurg,	Van Valkenburg,
Dawes,	McIndoe,	Washburn (Ind),
Deming,	Miller (N Y),	Washburne (Mass)
Dixon,	Moorhead,	Whaley,
Dumont,	Morrill,	Wilder,
Eckley,	Morris (N Y),	Williams,
Eliot,	Myers, A,	Wilson,
Fernsworth,	Myers, L,	Windom,
Fenton,	Norton,	Woodbridge,
Frank,	Odell,	Yeaman.
	O'Neill (Pa),	

NAYS.

Allen, Jas C,	Harris (Md),	Perry,
Allen, Wm J	Harris (Ill),	Radford,
Ancona,	Herrick,	Randall (Pa),
Baldwin (Mich),	Hutchins,	Robinson,
Biles,	Johnson (Md),	Rogers,
Brooks,	Kernan,	Rollins (Mo),
Chanler,	Knapp,	Ross (Ill),
Cox,	Law,	Scott (Mo),
Craven,	Le Blond,	Steele (N Y),
Dawson,	Long,	Steele (N J),
Denison,	Mallory,	Stiles,
Eden,	Marcy,	Strouse,
Edgerton,	McDowell,	Stuart,
Eldridge,	McKinney,	Voorhees,
English,	Middleton,	Wadsworth,
Finck,	Miller (Pa),	Ward,
Gansen,	Morris (O),	Wheeler,
Grider,	Morrison,	White, A,
Griswold,	Nelson,	White, J W
Hall,	Noble,	Winfield,
Harding,	O'Neill (O),	Wood, F
	Pendleton,	
	Pomeroy,	
	Pruyn,	
	Sheffield,	

A vote was next taken on Mr. Smith's second resolution, which is as follows:

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress to pass all necessary bills to supply men and money and the duty of the people to render every aid in their power to the constituted authorities of the Government in crushing out of the rebellion.

This resolution was also agreed to, by a vote of 153 yeas—the only negative vote being cast by Mr. Bail, G. Harris, of Maryland.

The last resolution in the series was then submitted, as follows:

Resolved, That our thanks are tendered to our soldiers in the field for their gallantry in defending and upholding the rights of the Union, and for the many great principles dear to every American patriot.

This resolution was adopted, by a vote of 166 yeas, Mr. Harris, of Maryland, being the only member that voted in the negative.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

Liberia.

Abraham Hanson, Esq., has been appointed by President Lincoln Commissioner and Consul General to the Republic of Liberia. This is a judicious selection, and cannot fail to lead to important results to two continents and two races. Mr. Hanson is a citizen of Wisconsin, and has resided for upwards of a year, as United States Commercial Agent, at Monrovia. In a letter lately written by Mr. Hanson, he thus speaks of the progressive country to which he is now accredited: "Although I have in instances of their earnest devotion and perseverance. The particular history of monasticism was dwelt upon, especially since the day of St. Benedict, the founder of the Monastic Order in the West. The Order of St. Benedict had 72 articles of rule, based upon the Christian principles of labor and obedience. The monks filled the earth, as well as the field of thought. This was duty for the monk. Obedience in the heart, earnest, sincere, and cheerful was required also, and practically and religiously performed. Passive obedience to men whose only law is caprice and their passions would be a servitude indeed, and this was no part of the monk's duty; but his obedience was obedience only to the mandates of the Lord. Benedictine Orders of Christian monks furnished models for good and perfect government. Wherever breathed the spirit of Christian nobleness, of humanity, the principle of representation was earnestly embraced in them. The heads or superiors were elected by the brethren, and chosen because of superior merits and virtue. The general of the order was obliged to consult the brighter, and, all were governed by a written constitution, which no one could infringe. They lived in harmony, which is obedience to superiors, and showed in their conduct the value of the truth, that the governed should have a share in the government. The second period, the period of Monasticism, was that between the sixth and ninth centuries, when Europe was overrun by barbarians. The Franks, Goths, Vandals and other tribes, had taken complete possession of civilization. They sat down amid the ruins they had made, and rested from their work of destruction was done. What power could save European literature and civilization from total loss? What agency could redeem it from total oblivion?

St. Benedict went to Attila and told him that in nine years his career would be ended. The monks met the floods of barbarism and turned them to the sea of Christ and humanity. They impressed themselves upon barbarism by the examples of their lives. They were as brave as the rude conquerors. Every monk was a knight, and he had the respect of the rude invaders, and afterwards their love and fear. All Europe is indebted to these monks for their conquest of these barbarians and their subsequent conversion to the faith. [Applause.] The monks addressed themselves to the work of their Master. Where the Roman eagles did not penetrate the monk pursued, and caused the pagan to kneel before the sign of salvation. Britton was first conquered by the monks. In Ireland the monk pursued everything before them. There is scarcely a town now in Europe which does not owe its origin or foundation to some obscure monk. The monks were the conservators of civilization and Christianity followed in their train. The serf who chose to be a monk became a free man, and the monk pursued the serf. Under the promptings of conscience was met by the abbot and confronted with punishment if he dared to tear away a soul from its devotion to Christianity. The monks kept the chronicles of nations, and preserved the literature of the ancient world, and for this we should give them thanks.

The lecturer discussed the Crusades, and showed the relation which the monks bore towards them. The Knights Templar, the Teutonic Knights, and others, were founded devoted to chastity and poverty, who willingly offered themselves as substitutes for the poor who were forced into the armies. The Hospital of Jerusalem was established in opulent to millions of hearts. They gave themselves up as captives to save others to the faith. They were not dreamers or philosophers or theorists in every-day life. They were noble and generous men, full of patriotism and liberty, living for goodness and God. At all times the monk has commanded respotism, and been the friend of the people. For justice and liberty he would surrender up his life. As to the so-called abuses of monasticism, the speaker did not pretend to say the monks were in every instance immaculate. They were men—human, like us all. If there were some great lights of intelligence among them, neither did it follow that all were such. And if corruption might have sought out its victim among the great lights, it was not contagious, but rather where it took root. Mr. Boyle further dwelt upon the varied and useful labors of the monks in their capacity of founders of hospitals and schools for the wretched and oppressed, and illustr