FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1864.

We can take no notice of anonymous commi alcations. We do not return rejected manuscripts,

No Voluntary correspondence is solicited from all
parts of the world, and especially from our different
military and naval departments. When used, it will

Mr. Seward's Letter. .

A finer rebuke has never been administered to the British friends of the rebellion than that embodied in Mr. SEWARD's letter to Mr. ADAMS. More elaborate documents from the pen of the great American statesman have arrested the attention of nations. but he has written nothing that appeals more powerfully to the loyal people of this country. To Mr. SEWARD's matchless skill are in very great part due the amicable relations of our Government with that of Great Britain, and the success of his foreign policy adds force to his rebuke of foreign interference. Far greater than their enmity to the rebels is the contempt of loyal Americans for the Englishmen who give the rebellion cowardly and mercenary aid; but never has the national scorn had nobler expression than in these keen words of Mr. SEWARD. The supreme indifference with which he speaks of these men, who obtained notice only by forcing their insolence upon our Government, is in the finest spirit of disdain, for the absolute indifference of the American people to these panders to slavery is only qualified by extreme contempt. The country will thank the Secretary of State for this letter. It is just what we all wished to say, and no one could have said it so well as Mr. SEW-ARD, with the authority and inspiration of the nation. He has not set the wheel of State revolving to crush a butterfly, but with the careless ease of strength, has delicately lifted Lord WHARNCLIFFE and the whole Liverpool Bazaar from their obscurity and held them up in their ridiculous attitude to the derision of the world.

As we write, one of the correspondents of this paper has arrived from Annapolis, where are now four thousand Union soldiers just liberated from the prisons of the South. No words can tell the story of their long agony in cruel captivity, or the misery to which many of them are condemned for the future. This gentleman saw sixteen men die in three minutes. Imagine a multitude of skeletons, and you have the condition of hundreds of these soldiers. These horrors are not to be told they have been merely hinted. Mr. SEWARD could not refer to these revelations of suffering, but we may; and we ask how Lord WHARNCLIFFE and the hypocritipal philanthropists of England dare to offer to distribute £17,000 among the well-fed rebels in the prisons of the United States while so many thousands of our men are perishing in the slave pens of the rebellion? They profess a pure desire to relieve human suffering, without reference to the merits of this war, but they have shamelessly neglected their only opportunity of proving their philanthropy. They would have wasted their money upon rebels who are too well cared for hy our Government to need other help, and whose only claim on their sympathy is treason; but they have looked with inhuman indifference upon the anguish of those whose only crime is their loyalty to the United States.

The Navy Report. The report of the Secretary of the Navy is, as usual, vigorously written, and necessarily a large one, is crowded with instruction and suggestion. Our naval experiachievement. The two most prominent forts in Mobile harbor by FARRAGUE, and the sinking of the Alabama by Winsloware accurately reviewed and faithfully credited by the Secretary; and it must give general satisfaction to know that he has recommended the institution of the highest rank in naval honor, that of vice Mobile. The whole merit of the service will, of course, profit by the new grade. The number of vessels now in the navy

(some in the course of construction) is 671, with an armament of 4,610 guns—an excess ordinary and scientific demands, the expenses have been economical. Over thirty million dollars were left as a balance in its favor at the commencement of the present fiscal year. The appropriations for the current year are \$109,256,814, and the total available resources over \$139.000.000. The total expenditures of the navy since the 4th pensions of the navy.

money accrued from prizes has paid all the its object, it is not worth serious considera-Of great interest to the whole country, but especially to our own locality, is Secretary Welles' conclusive discussion of the new demands in the enlargement of navy system, or establish a Church making yards. All our present yards were established for the construction and repair of bers of one Christian denomination wooden vessels; but the naval revolution | and another. Yet we differ with these from wood to iron requires a grander sphere in building, especially if we shall have ever to contest with the armaments of the old world. From want of suitable docks and workshops, and the utter failure of contractors to complete important work within a specified time, our greatest enterprises were delayed. At the outbreak of the war the Government had but three vessels of war fully at its disposal; and though we must wonder at the energy which has given us more than half a thousand ships, we are equally surprised that even at this time the Naval Department has not one establishment "where a shaft can be made for our steamers or a plate for our ironclads," while "the wharfage at all our navy yards, so important for repairs, is less than is required at each of them." The mere suggestion that England has to pay fifty million dollars for additional military defences at Portsmouth, rendered necessary by its proximity to the ocean, is sufficient to show the unwisdom of making a similar location for a new navy yard or refusing to grant necessary and economical appropriation for the enlargement of yards which enjoy natural protection. Fresh water, which is essential to the preservation of iron vessels laid up during peace, extensive water frontage, ready access to coal, iron, timber, and to the skilled industry, markets, and conveyance furnished by a great city, are the requirements which Secretary Welles prescribes for the location of a pavy yard, carefully discriminating between the claims of New London, Philadelphia, and New York (the latter having already three navv yards), and doing justice to the great advantages of a site upon the river Delaware. For all these considerations Secretary Welles recommends the enlargement of the navy yard at this station, and the prompt acceptance by Congress of the six hundred acres on League Island offered to the Government by the city of Philadelphia. Our city is thus fortunate in having advantages possessed by no other, and, bewond all local satisfaction, we congratulate the Government upon the choice of to be true without affirming the others to Secretary WELLES.

The investigation of prize law is an--other remarkable passage of the report, and the opinion of the Secretary appears to us just. The law passed by Congress since the rebellion is a reversal of all former laws, as it seems to preclude prizes | are questions for the common sense of the in the inland waters, (such as Delaware, | people to answer. It is plain that the tole-Chesapeake, and Mobile Bays, and Lake | ration of all religions, and the establish-Pontchartrain,) where the navy sometimes finds its greatest element, and where captures may be as frequent and as perilous as on the high seas. The present law also not the toleration of any religion, but the makes it optional with the navel seizer absolute equality of all religions. Anyeither to turn his capture over to the prize courts or to, the treasury agent, while all and State, and, no matter how slight that other persons must refer their seizures to may be, the precedent is dangerous, and the latter authority—a rule apparently without specification or purpose. Under this act no more of the proceeds of captures go religious faith of an American citizen is into the treasury than under the regular | not to be measured by the degree of injury laws of war, as it authorizes a moiety to be | and interference; it is absolute in its na-

given as an incentive to informers and col- ture. The Constitution which should an lectors, thus taking the share of officers and | nounce "we, the people of the United crews. Mr. Welles recommends the reeal of the law. The reports of the bureaus are highly

satisfactory. The personnel of the navy is now 6,000 officers and 45,000 men. Report of the Interior.

Secretary Usher's report covers such important subjects as the public lands, the mineral lands, and the Pacific Railroad, and is, therefore, a very interesting document. During the year ending June 30, 1864, and the quarter ending on the 30th of September, four and a quarter millions of acres have been paid or sold; and the cash receipts for sales, homestead and location fees, for the same five quarters, were over one million dollars. The aggregate of surveyed lands to the 30th of September was over one hundred and thirty-three and a half millions of acres. The annual receipts from ordinary sales for four years past have been nearly two million dollars. Nineteen States have received land and land-scrip amounting to nearly five million acres under the act donating lands for the benefit of agriculture and mechanics On the subject of the Indian troubles

Mr. Usher favors the present policy of respecting all existing treaties, but thinks that stipulations for the payment of money annuities may be reasonably omitted. The Pacific Railroad is progressing faithfully, over a half million dollars having been expended upon the main line leading westward from Omaha, of which one hundred miles have been permanently located, and forty are in construction. Over fifty thousand pensioners are on the rolls, and of these there are 22,767 soldiers, and 25,483 orphans and mothers. Four million and a half dollars were thus expended last year, three and a half millions of which were granted on account of deaths and disabilities in the present war. More than seven millions will be required to satisfy accruing claims under the pension laws during the current fiscal year; and it is recommended that the national banks be made pension agencies. 6,740 applications were made for new patents, and about 5,000, including reissues and extensions, were granted. The receipts amounted to \$268,571, leaving a balance of more than \$50,000-\$20,000 over the receipts of the

past year. Our mining interests furnish the most attractive features of the report, and are additionally encouraging. New discoveries of gold and silver have been made in Nevada, Idaho, and Arizona, near the range of the Sierra Nevada, and we notice with pleasure the suggestion to appoint experienced mineralogical explorers to examine and report the mineral regions. Mr. Usher approves the granting of requisite lands, to insure their conversion, and the construction of necessary railroads, so that such mines as New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California, may become accessible. This, we think, is excellent policy, if we may judge from the probable future of the Pacific Railroad, which will run through a region of Nevada, where, if the mines now opened were supplied with the proper machinery, a yield of ten million dollars per month might be secured. We have thus the prospect of a mineral future ncomparable for resources and prosperity.

The Union of Church and State. We give place to day to several communications in regard to the proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States so divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the truth of the Holy Scriptures. It is with reluctance that we return to a subject which is so easily misunderstood, and the mere ment has awakened the interest of the agitation of which has already caused so world, and its last year's history is full of | much bad feeling and wrangling; yet, as one of our correspondents considers the victories of the service—the capture of the Convention misrepresented by our former comments, and the others speak for religious organizations which believe themselves wronged by the Convention, it may be well enough to repeat more clearly the plain objections to the proposed amendment. "Theophilus," whom we understand to have been one of the leading members of admiral, to be conferred upon the hero of the Convention, writes to us in a tone

which might have been improved, and in correcting our supposed mistakes makes a number of his own. Not the greatest of these is his emphatic declaration that no reporter of this paper was present at the of 88 vessels and 167 guns over last year.

For this great establishment, with all its on vague rumors. On the contrary, we rily become public. On reading it the American provided for a correct report of the important action of the Convention, and could not have been influenced by vague in which they are engaged, the insurgents who have rumors, as we had heard none. We cannot blindly rushed into that condition are suffering no privations that appeal for relief to charity, either at trifles with our correspondent. The real question at issue is whether the amendnent proposes the establishment of religion March, 1861, have been \$280,647,261. The by law, and we contend that, unless this is tion. We have too much respect for Judge STRONG and Governor Pollock to suppose that they would care to impose upon the Constitution an enactment of a Christian invidious distinctions between the memgentlemen in our understanding of the force of the amendment, which would, if we have any knowledge of the language. we speak, declare Christianity to be the religion of the United States, as positively as Mahomedanism is the religion of Turkey. More than this, it would recognize by national authority the faith of the majority of Christians, and not that of a large minority, for the Unitarians of New England, the Friends of Pennsylvania-especially the Hicksites—those who accept generally the theology of which Theodore
Parker is the exponent, are among the sects which could not give the doctrines of the amendment unqualified approval. If, then, it does not speak absolutely for the Christianity of America, which ranges from the extreme Protestantism of Parker to the Catholicism of Archbishop McCliosary, we need not dwell upon the almost entire repediation it must have from the Americans who are not Christians. Yet

Americans who are not Christians. Yet it is the wrong-which the amendment would do these citizens which is the chief practical objection to its adoption. The friends of the amendment fall to make the simple distinction between the esta blishment of one religion and the prohibition of others. Our Jewish correspondent is also in error, if he supposes that belief in the Trinity would, were this change made, a sidence within the logal States, in the suppose of the required of the voter and the office holder. We admit that the amendment would leave the inhabitants of this land free to worship God according to the dictionary of their consciences: we deny that they all could do so as American citizens, and appeal in proof to the amendment itself. Adopt it, and thus the Constitution reads: We, the people of the United States, humbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Ruler among the nations, and His revealed will as of supreme authority, in order to constitute a Christian Government," etc. What is the plain meaning of this? Can a formal Christian Government exist without the establishment of a national religion? Can the Constitution declare one religion be false? If American Christians make the supreme law of the land affirm the truth of their creed, can the American Jews. equally loyal and law-abiding, join in that proud declaration, "We, the people of the United States, do thus ordain?" These

ment of one may coexist, but it was

not upon such a principle that the Republic

was established. Our republicanism means

thing less than this is the union of Church

therein mentioned—namely, a copy of a letter which was addressed to you on the 17th of November last, by Lord Wharncliffe, and a copy of your answer to that letter. Your proceeding in that matter is approved. You will now inform Lord Wharncliffe that permission for an agent of the committee described by him to visit the insurgents detained in military prisons of the United States, and to distribute among them £17,000 of British gold, is disallowed. Here it is people will be well aware that while the United States have ample means for the support of priso-

home or abroad, and the American people will be likely to reflect that the sum thus insiduously tendered in the name of humanity constitutes no large portion of the profits which its contributors may be justly supposed to have derived from the insurgents by exchanging with them arms and munitions of war for the slave labor, nor will any portion of the American people be disposed to regard this sum thus ostenta-tiously offered for the relief of captured insurgents as a too generous equivalent for the devastatio which a civil war, promoted and protracted by British subjects, has spread throughout States which before were eminently prosperous and happy. Finally, in view of this last officious intervention in our domestic affairs, the American people can hardly fail to recall the warning of the Father of our Country, directed against two great and ultimately connected public dangers—namely, sectional fac-tion and foreign intrigue. I do not think the insurgents have become debased, although they have sadly wandered from the ways of loyalty and

patriotism. I think that, in common with all our countrymen, they will rejoice in being saved by their considerate and loyal Government from the grave insult which Lord Wharneliffe and his assoclates, in their zeal for the overthrow of the United States have prepared for the victims of this un-WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

vate property, at various points throughout the loyal States.

**EII. The strictest vigilance and the greatest care in guarding against incendiarism are enjoined upon all officers in charge of property of the Department.

1II. Officers of the Quartermaster's Department will employ at the depois where valuable from the tast six months, been living in Causalant stringers from the disloyal States, or ass Trillions from the orat.

IV. Officers of this Department will require from those whom they may employ at depots in positions which could facilitate access to stores or storehouses, satisfactory evidence not only of loyalty, but of residence within the loyal States, in addition to the unual cash, of allegiance.

MARAUDERS FROM CANADA—ORDER OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL. The Provost Marshal General to-day issued the

The Provost Marshal General to-day issued the following circular, namely:

"Reliable information has been received that a large number of evil-disposed persons, consisting of rebel sympathizers, secessionists, marsuders, and other outlaws, who have collected in Oanada with a view to enter the commercial cities of the North, and particularly those on the Canadian frontier, with the estensible purpose of seeking employment, but who are in reality intent upon the destruction of life and property, will shortly arrive in the United States. All officers of this bureau are instructed to place all persons suspected to be of this class under strict surveillance, and to arrest such as evidently belong to it. elong to it. "Provost marshals will confer with the municipal "Provost marshale will comer with the municipal authorities with a view to provent the mischief contemplated, and will aid the civil authorities in discovering these persons, and causing their arrest. "James B. Frx, "Provost Marshal General." PASSES FOR ALEXANDRIA.

Passes are now issued for Alexandria at the foot of Seventh-street wharf, from whence the boat leaves. They will be issued for no other-point. A great accommodation this will prove to strangers, who have heretofore had to hunt the provost marshal a long distance from the boat, and at a grea CONFIRMATION OF POSTMASTER GENERAL DENNISON.

The Senate, in executive session to-day, con-

proposed bill, started homewards this morning, wearing gladdened faces at the result of yesterday's

Hop. JAMES SPEED, Attorney General of the

s Postmaster General. SERENADE TO GOVERNOR FENTON. Governor FENTON, of New York, was serenaded conight by a large party of convalescents and wounded men from several of the hospitals here. PERSONAL. New Orleans Markets.

CARO, Dec. 7.—The steamer W. E. Arthur brings New Orleans papers of the let instant, but they contain no rews. Cotton opened unsettled and depressed, and continued dull and drooping to the close. Bales of strictly low middling, 120; good ordinary, 118; Harly in the day 130 was offered and refused for strictly middling; white clarified sugar, 25e; flour, superfine, \$10.70; extra, \$11.75. There are very few absentees in this Congress Gold brokers and speculators, who came here in great numbers after reading THADDEUS STEVENS

United States, was, on motion of Hon, T. J. Correte admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court yesterday as an attorney and counsellor. XXXVIIITH CONGRESS .-- Second Session. people of the United States who do not believe it, and would make aliens of whole SENATE. NOTICE OF A PEACE RESOLUTION.

States," believe the creed of the proposed

bodies of religious men.

amendment would be an outrage on those

This question is not one of religion, but

of law. It has nothing to do with the

truth of Judaism, Christianity, or any

other faith involved in the decision. It is

whether any religion, true or false, shall

be declared true by national authority.

The mere preliminary discussion of the

matter has been full of bitterness; we can-

not publish all the letters we have received,

written on both sides, for this reason. But,

it is clear to our minds that the success of

this innovation on our republican principle,

the adoption of the amendment, would evoke

all the worst elements of sectarian rivalry,

injure the cause of true religion, and sub

stitute for the harmony of all our sects a

fierce war of recrimination and abuse.

Now the Constitution knows neither Jew

nor Christian; in this impartial spirit it

was created, and so let it remain. We

simply wish to do as we are doing now-

let all men believe what conscience dic-

tates, and protect them in that belief. The

love and the worship of God in the natural

progress of Christianity need no examples

and no masters. All we have to do is to

confine the Constitution and the laws to the

civil welfare of our fellow-citizens. The

interests of the Republic demand, that

Church and State, Religion and Politics,

should remain asunder, as one pole from

Abraham's Latest and Best Joke.

And proves the patriot-prince of wags; For lo! the father of green-backs

Abraham's Soliloguy.

"They say I am too slow. Too slow, indeed!

And vet, perhaps, I can improve the case :

I'll give my Cabinet superior Speed,
And show the Court Supreme a grander Chase

A Question.

Does the present generous proprietor of the Public Ledger intend a rivalry with the American Tract

WASHINGTON.

BRITISH SYMPATHY FOR REBEL PRISONERS.

Letter of Secretary Seward to Minister Adams

Emphatic Rebuke to English Insolence

ORDERS OF THE PROVOST AND QUARTERMASTER

GENERALS ON BEBEL INCENDIARIES.

Confirmation of Postmaster General Dennisor

BRITISH REBEL SYMPATHIZERS—LETTER

OF SECRETARY SEWARD.

The President to-day sent a message to the Se-

nate in reply to Mr. Sumner's resolution calling

upon him, if not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish the Senate with any information

in his possession relative to a proposition of British subjects to give aid to the rebellion:

Lord WHARNCLIFFE informs Mr. Adams that the

Liverpool Bazzar produced about £17,000, and asks permission for an accredited agent to visit the mili-tary prisons within the Northern States, and dis-

tribute aid to their inmates. He denies that any

political aid is aimed at, or any imputation that

Donfederate prisoners are deprived of such atten-

tions as the ordinary rules enjoin. He says : "The

issue of the great contest will not be determined by

ndividual suffering, be it greater or less, and you, whose family name is interwoven with American

history, cannot view with indifference the suffering

desire of the Government to treat with unnecess

of American citizens, whatever their State and

or vindictive severity any of the misguided indivi-dual parties in this desperate rebellion who have

war, and that he should greatly rejoice if the effects

of such sympathy could be extended to ministering

to their mental ailment as well as their bodily suf-

ferings, thus contributing to put an end to a struggle which otherwise is too likely to be only

procrastinated by their English sympathizers."

Mr. SEWARD replies as follows to the application

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5, 1864.
Sir: I have received your despatch of the 18th

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

ived through Mr. ADAMs:

into its hands in the regular course of the

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.

ciety by publishing The Child's Paper?

He makes the father of green-bags !

Our joker now his best joke cracks,

Mr. DAVIS. of Kentucky, said; I wish to give no tice that on to-morrow! I will introduce a joint resolu-tion for the restoration of peace and Union and the viadication of the Constitution and the gnarantee of the rights of the citizens of the several States. Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island. I move that the Senate proceed to the election of the Senate standing committees. Carried.

Mr. ANTHONY. I move that the rules which require the election of standing committees by ballot be suspended, and that the following committees be chosen:

On Foreign Relations—Mr. Summer, chair man: Foster, Isochitte, Barrie, Davis, Johnson, and McDöugall.

On Finance—Mr. Sherman chairman; Howe, Cowan, Giark, Van Winkle, Couness, and Henderson, On Commerce—Mr. Chandler, chairman; Morrill, Ten Eyck, Moigan, Sprague, Saulsbury, and Lans of Kenass. STANDING COMMITTEES. en Byck, Moigan, Sprague, Saulsbury, and Lane of Panes.
On Apriculture—Mr. Lane of Kaneas, chairman; Srind, Wilson, Powell, and Farwell.
On Mittigery Agairs and the Mittig—Mr. Wilson, airman; Lane of indians, Howard, Nesmith, Morth, Sprague, and Brown.
On Award Afairs—Mr. Grimes, chairman; Authony, 'illey, Ksmeay, Harding, Hicks, and Hendricks.
On Manufoctures—Mr. Sprague, chairman; Morgan, iddie, Wilkinson, and Hendricks.
On the Justiciary—Mr. Trumbull, chairman; Foster, en Kyck, Harris, Foot, Powell, and Johnson, On Post Offices ond Post Monds—Mr. Collamer, airman; Dixon, Ramsay, Connecs, Buckalew, and Omercy, Lands—Mr. Lands—

Pomercy,
On Poblic Lands—Mr. Harlan, chairman; Pomercy,
Foot, Harding, Carille, Hendricks, and Wright.
On Private Land Claims—Mr. Harris, chairman;
Sunner, Howard, Riddle, and Harding.
On Indian Afairs—Mr. Doolitie, chairman; Wilkinson, Lane of Kansas, Harlan, Nesmith, Brown, and inchalew. On Pensions—Mr. Foster, chairman; Lane of Indi-na, Van Winkle, Saulsbury, Buckalew, Foot, as: Jown. Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Wilkinson, chair-isn; Chendler, Wilson, Nesmith, and Wright. On Claims—Mr. Clark, chairman: Howe, Pomeroy, nthony, Morrill, Hicke, and Davis. On the District of Columbia—Mr. Hale, chairman: Ixon, Morrill, Wade, Willey, Henderson, and Rich-On Patents and the Patent Office—Mr. Cowan, chair an; Ten Eyck, Lane of Indiana, Ramsey, and Saulsdry. On Public Buildings, and Grounds—Mr. Foot, bairmas Trumbull, Grimes; Farwell, and Hendricks. On Territories—Mr. Wada, chairman; Wilkiuson, ale, Lane of Kansas, Carllle, Davis, and Biohardon the Pacific Railroad—Mr. Howard, chairman; Collamer, Johnson, Harlan, Trumbull, Sherman, Mor-gap, Connecs, and Brown, JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.

JUINT STANDING COMMITTERS.

On Printing on the part of the Senate—Mr. Anthony, chairman, Morgan, and rowell

On Enrolled Bitle, on the part of the Senate—Mr.
Howe, chairman lowan, and Hicks.
On the Library, on the part of the Senate—Mr. Colinner cuarring Juliago, and How id.
Selvet Committee on Slavery and the Treatment of
Freedmen—Mr Sunner, chairman, Howard, Carlile,
Pomercy, Buckalew, Brown, and Couness.
The Louiselaw A are the con-THE LOUISIANA SENATORS.

Mr. MOEGAN, of New York, asked that the crain-tials of the tenators from Louisians, presented yester-day, be referred to the Judiciary Committee. So or-dered FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. RAMSAY, of Minnesota, presented a memorial in relation to foreign immigration, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture,

DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILOES.

Mr. MORGAN, of New York. I desire to present a petition, signed by Wm. C. Bryant, Henry W. Long-rel'ow, John A. Dix, U. S. Graat, Peter Gooper, Henry J. Raymond, Horace Greeley, and many others, asking an appropriation for a fund for the support of a national home for totally disabled soldiers and seamen of the army and navy of the United States. In consideration of the in portaneo of the subject, and the character of the memorialists, I ask that it be printed and referred to the Military Committee. So ordered.

Mr. SHEEMAN, of Ohio, asked the reference of the bill introduced by him on Monday. for the construction of revenue cutters on the lakes, to the Finance Committee. So ordered.

REFRENCES. REFERENCES. Mr. LANE, of Indiana, moved that all bills and ma morials now before the Senate be referred to appropriate committees. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT TILL MONDAY.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, moved that when
the Sonate adjourn to-day it adjourn to meet on Monday. Carried. day. Carried. THE FIRANCES.

Mr. SHEEMAN offered the following, which was agreed to: Ordered. That so much of the Energies in the Committee of Finance.

On motion of Mr. Lang. of Kansas, it was ordered that it e bill introduced by him, in relation to the Kan-sas militia, be referred to the Midtary Committee. that to oblil introduced by him, in relation to the Kansas militias, be referred to the Miditary Committee.

THE INVESTIGATION IN GENERAL PAYNE'S CASH.

Mr. POWELL, of Kentnekry moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the resolution introduced by him yesterday, that the Secretary of War be directed, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate the proceedings of the military commission appointed to investigate the conduct of General Payne in Kentucky.

Mr. TRUMBULL of Illinois. I would like to inquire of the Senator from Kentucky whether he is aware of the character of the report which he has asked to bring before the Senate. I know the resolution leaves it in the discretion of the Secretary of War to furnish it we withhold it, and I have faith in the judicious exercise of that discretion! I do not suppose he will communicate anything which would be improved the have before the public. I would like to inquire whether this report of the commission is a report maxable year this report of which General Payne and any notes in the field making some laquirles in regard to General Payne a conduct in Kentucky, and reporting it to the Secretary of War for his private information. Just a report of a commission that General Payne never his waything about, and never had any opportunity to appear before? I fit is a report of that character, I presume the Senator from Kentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Kentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky is as far removed as any other Senator from Wentucky to publish a report and a report was any other Senator. the sensitor from Mentucky is as far removed as any other sensitor from wishing to publish a report made in the dark to reflect upon any one. Therefore, I think the resolution ought to go to the Committee on Military Affairs, and let them inquire. I myself am very fluch opposed, and think it unjust to the character of any officer that a report regarding his conduct, made out by a commission of which he had no knowledge, expands on the dark, should be published.

officer that a report regarding his conduct, made out by a commission of which he had no knowledge, exports and in the dark, should be published.

Mr. POWELL. It would afford me very great pleasure to give the Senate all the information I have on the subject. I do not know what is the report. I have heard some persons, who claim to know, state what was in it. I rave understood from persons in that locality, who ought to have some knowledge of the characteries this man of the most heinous barbartites and gruelting fairs report, that it has such evidence in it as convict this man of the most heinous barbartites and gruelting ever inflicted upon any people or any civilized commutity, and not only was General Payne engaged in these, but, some of his subordinate officers and some citizens outside. I have seen and conversed with persons who were present when this commission was in session. From these persons I learn the character of the quidence of some extent. It has also been a matter of a good deal of discussion in the newspapers of Kentucky. I understand that General Payne did have notice of the sitting of this o mmission; that he was notified that the commission would assemble at Paducah, and jak he and his staff officers absented themselves. I understand there is no supposition about the damning crimes with which these men are charged, but that there is full proof against the m.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin. I would like to know what General Payne the Senator refers to.

Mr. POWELL Centeral Payne the Senator Payne from my own State. I would not like to have any misapprehension good as to the fluctity of the officers of whom the Senator is speaking.

Mr. POWELL refterated that General Payne from the Senator is speaking. ienaior is speaking.
Mr. POWELL refersted that General Payne trad been actified of the tession of the commission. He understood he had since resigned, and his resignation had notified of the session of the commission. He understood he had since resigned, and his resignation had been accepted.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, said he had voted for the resolutions of inquiry, and was as much in favor of exposing improper conduct as the Squador from Kentucky; but it appears that the Senator from Kentucky; but it appears that the Senator from Rentucky is not informed at all, except by rumor. He has been that the senator from the commission.

He (bir. Peweil) admits that General Payne was not before the commission. I understand that Gen. Payne, he of the commission. I understand that Gen. Payne has private secret report of some officers inlinicat to him The Senator from Kentucky has heard reports frajulation to the character of Gen. Payne. I have heard a very good account of Gen. Payne, and the only complaint I have ever heard in regard to him from any source came from the enemies of the country; that he estimable enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the country. In the opinion of the enemies of the reacting upon him, if it does reflect upon him, if it was made by men acting in scret, who gave him no opportunity for defence. I move the refrence of the reacturing to the Committee on Milliary Affairs.

Mr. DAVIS rose and advocated the wiews of Mr.

Mairs. DAVIS rose and advocated the wiews of Mr. Powell. EXECUTIVE SESSION... The doors were opened in a few moments, when a shadlesse from the President, recommending a vote of Stanks to Captains Winslow and Cushing was read, similar to that mentioned in the House parsecding raiso, a message from the President in answer to Mr. Rumner's resolution relative to aid furnished by British subjects to the rebellion.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, this was referred to the Committee on Foreign Belations.

Committee on Foreign Belations. On motion of Mr. LANE, of Kansas, the Senate ad-journed till Monday. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Mr. ETEVENS, of Penesylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means resported back the joint resolution explanatory of so muchof, the internal sevenue act as referred to the duty of cigars (an abstract of which was printed on Wednesday merning).

Mr. BROOKS, of New York, said that the Secretary of the Treasury had recommended the tax, and he now wished to know whigher the Committee of Ways and Means intended to charge the duty on tobacco.

Mr. STEVENS replied that he had given the subject some consideration; but he did not know what he conclusion of the committee would be.

Mr. BROOKS suggested that the bill he postponed for a few days for further examination.

Mr. STEVENS replied that, in the opinion of those best instructed, the Department had lost millions of dollars by the construction of the Commissioner of Internal Reviging.

Mr. BROOKS, said in the opinion of a large number of manufacturing it was quite impossible, under the principal of Mr. Strocks were it was quite impossible, under the principal of Mr. Strocks were it was quite impossible, under the principal of Mr. Strocks were it was quite impossible, under the principal of Mr. Strocks.

unufactuluis linu stoppe meanly buttraise in dones genee of this very singular construction and law he construction even went beyond the law itself. He lought something more than a simple joint seed on was necessary to remedy the defects. He hopes is friend from Pennsylvania would be prompt in earling in the difficulties with americands the sphiact. was here repealed to give the proper construction to the law mere repealed to give the proper construction to the law mere repealed to give the proper construction to the law mere repealed to give the hone that the committee wind take time to consult with honest manufacturers in order to remove the existing difficulties. As the Secretary of the Treasury had a commissed a dury on each case the commended a dury on least similar to posting stamps, say one cent. As yielding the largest revenue. The temperation to smagaring from Canada and clear here was now irrest tible. Old stamped sigar boxes were used in which to put new stars, and so a stamp alone would stop this, basices realizing the largest revenue. Mr. LEONALD MYER, of Fennsylvania, trusted the subject would be acted upon at once, as owing to the present construction lie theome of the Government was losing revenue by cigar paying, but \$6 instead of \$6 at housand.

At the angestion of Mr. ETEVENS the subject was postponed till Monday.

CAPTAIN WINGLOW AND LIBITENANT OURSHING.

A message was received from the President recomment. APTAIN WINGLOW AND LIBUTENANT CUSTING.
A message was received from the President recommending that Captain Winelow and Lieutenant Onshing each receive a vote of thanks—the one for the destruction of the pirate Alabams; and, the other for the destruction of the rebel iron-clad Albemarie—this action being necessary under the law, in order that these officers may be advanced one grade.

The message was referred to the Committee on Mayal Affairs.

REFERENCE OF THE MESSAGE. On motion of Mf. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, the curious branches of the President's annual messag were referred to the appropriate standing committees.

UNEMPLOYED OFFICERS. WINEMPLOYED OFFICERS.

Mr. ECHENCE, of Ohio, introduced a bill to drop from the rolls of the army unemployed officers, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

TRADE WITH REBELLIOUS SPACERS.

On motion of FERNANDO WOOD, it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Meaus he directed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the eighth section of the act entitled an act in addition to the several acts concerning comp srelal intercourse between loyal and insurrectionary States, approved July 26, 1864.

The section authorizing the appointment of commercial agents is the one Mr. Wood proposes to repeal. chal agents is the one Mr. Wood proposes to repeal.

DENATIONALIZATION OF FUGITIYES FROM THE

DENATIONALIZATION OF FUGITIYES FROM THE

Mr. SCHENCK, of Ohio, offered a resolution, which
was adopted, instructing the Committee on the Judiclary to inquire into the expediency of passing a law
denationalizing persons who go abroad to secape draft,
and requiring application for naturalization in case they
want to be restored to the privilege of citizenship.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

THE WAR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE. REBEL BATTERIES ON THE RIVER BELOW NASHVILLE.

An Attack Made by Union Gunboats UCCESSFUL RECONNOISSANCE BY OUR FORCES ORREST REPORTED TO HAVE CROSSED THE CUMBERLAND

The Rebels Believed to be Leaving Nash ville for Kentucky. UNION ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE AT GRAHAMS VILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Fight Hotly Contested for Seven Hours FIRING HEARD FROM RILTON HEAD MORE VESSELS BURNED BY THE REBELS ON JAMES RIVER.

GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY: RISK FIRING AT FORT HELL—A PICKET TRYCE-WILL THERE BE A MOVE? pecial Correspondence of The Press. J HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, BEFORE PETERSBURG, Dec. 5, 1864.

With the exception of pretty brisk cannonading in the vicinity of Fort Hell, this foreneon, there has

been nothing to vary the monotony of life along the lines—at least nothing permissible to be recorded. For several days a truce has been existing between our own and the rebel pickets on the right, and, I believe, pretty generally on the centre and left. Under the protection of the little white fluttering bit of rag, it is now tolerably safe to ride to the outermost fortifications, without the risk of being made he target for a rebel telescopic rifle. According to the stories of deserters, in: late raid of Gregg's cavalry to Stony Creek Station has been a severe blow to the enemy, and the effect is being felt in their camps in the diminished supply being left in their camps in the diminished supply of forage. Of course they will still communicate with the Southside road by wagon trains. Another story is that they were sending forward infantry and cavalry to the same point, in apprehension of a repetition of the "outrage." This may be incorrect, but it is evident from various signs, that the rebals understand Grant's character too well to magine that he will go into winter quarters immediately; and, as their papers several days ago ment on our part.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE. A REBEL BATTERY ON HARPETH SHOALS. CAIRO, Dec. 7.—A despatch from Paducah states that a report had reached there that the rebels had planted a battery on Harpeth Shoals, Tennessee river. A gunboat had been sent to that locality, and transports are not permitted to proceed above The steamer Belle of Memphis brings 39 bales o otton for Cairo. APPAIRS AT NASHVILLE - FORREST REPORTED

ACROSS THE CUMBERLAND—THE REBELS BELLEY ED TO BE EVACUATING. LOUISVILLE, Dec. 8.—The Nashville Press of ves erday says: "The shelling of the rebel lines and their working parties was kept up on the 6th inst., but hardly so igorously or persistently as on the day before.
"Forrest, with his command, is said to be acros the Cumberland. We cannot vouch for the truth of the statement, but give it as we hear it. "The impression gains strength among both sol-diers and clitzens that the Confederates are evacuating. If this be so, the march on Kentucky may be said to have commenced. We think it quite posible—indeed, probable." SUNBOAT ATTACK ON THE REBEL BATTERIES

SUCCESSFUL UNION RECONNOISSANCE.
NASHVILLE, Dec. 8.—Matters at the front preent no change from that of several days previous. There was less cannonading to-day than usual.

A rebel battery is established on the bluff, fourteen miles down the river. Last night seven gunbly damaged. A reconnoissance was made by our forces to day petween Lebanon and Nolansville pike, and, after proceeding a short distance, the enemy was disco-

vered in considerable force. Our croops charged apon the hill which they occupied and drove them off. Two or three men were killed, seven severely off. Two or three men wallghtly.

Col. Johnston, who escaped from Block-house No.

2, was slightly wounded by a bullet of the rebel Two prisoners were brought in belonging to Ten see and Arkansas regiments. The river is five feet on the shoals and falling. FORTRESS MONROE.

BY THE REBELS-BRUTAL CONDUCT OF THE CAP-TORS-TWO MORE SCHOONERS AND A STRAWRR REPORTED BURNED. If the tug Lizzie Fallman, while anchored off the outh of Warwick river, night before last, by a rebel naval party, the mate of the tue. Mr. William Spiel, was severely wounded in the shoulder, and one of the colored soldlers, acting as a guard on the parge E. Zimmerman, which the tug had in tow, was shot down in cold blood, and two others were langerously wounded, although not offering any re-The passengers and crew of both the tug and the and valuables, and were confined in the hold of the

barge, with the hatches shut down, for several he scene of the occurrence above narrated, with about fifty camp-fires on shore. It was supposed that the rebels had made another capture, and had lestroyed the steamer Patuxent, with a tow of three schooners, which left here yesterday afternoon for City Point, but no additional information has been

ARRIVAL OF A VALUABLE PRIZE. has advices from Admiral Porter of the capture and arrival at Hampton Roads of the Confederate eamer Armstrong, of 630 tons measurement, beautiful ship, very fast, and quite new, captured by the gunboats Cuyler and Gettysburg, on Decemper 4th. Her cargo was 450 bales of cotton, the argest portion of which was thrown overboard i

BENERAL POSTER'S EXPEDITION—THE ENGAGE-NENT AT GRAHAMSVILLE—A HOT FIGHT FOR SEVEN HOURS—THE PIRING HEARD AT HILTON New York, Dec. 8 .- The steamer Trade Wind rom Hilton Head, brings a statement that, the regiients were still under arms and doing guard duty, dents were still under arms and doing guard duty in consequence of General Foster having taken at the available troops to co-operate with General Sherman, who was soon expected on the coast. A number of Foster's wounded had been brought to lton Head, from which place heavy firing could be heard. The Trade Wind brings Port Royal advices of the 4th instant. The Palmetto Herald says that on the

th ult, an expedition left Port Royal and went up Broad river, accompanied by several gunboats The troops landed at Boyd's Point, and proceeded inland several miles, meeting with rebel pickets only. The next morning the enemy appeared in force on the road leading to Grahamsville, with cavalry, infantry, and artillery. We advanced, and drove them gradually back to a battery and en-A hot engagement of seven hours ensued, during which there were charges and counter charges on each side, with considerable loss. Night put a stop o the fighting, the lines on both sides rethe same. We took a few prisoners, and lost a few Our casualties are variously estimated at from 600 to 1,000. During the evening we fell back a short

stance, and since then an advance was made in ther directions. HE INDIANS DEFEATED WITH GREAT SLAUGHTER WHAR FORT LYON.

DERVER CITY, C. T., Dec. 8.—Detachments of the let and 3d Cavalry, under command of Col. Chivenoton, had a fight with the Indians near Fort Lyon, and killed between 400 and 500 of them, and Lyon, and killed between two sid ow of them, and captured 500 ponies and mules. The chiefs Black-kettle, White Buffalo, and Little Bob were killed. Our loss was 9 killed and 38 wounded. MEXICO AND CURA. VATION TO MAXIMILIAN ON HIS RETURN PROD THE INTERIOR—ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERN-

PROOPS LANDED AT MAZATLAN-MOVEMENTS OF REBBL STEAMERS—CAPTURE OF A BLOCKADE NEW YORK, Dec. 8.—The steamer Ariel, from New Orleans on the 29th ult., and Havana on the 8d instant, arrived at this port to-day. She brings Tavana advices to the 2d inst. City of Mexico he 15th ult., and Vera Cruz to the 23d ult. Maximilian had met with an ovation on his return to the city. He had issued instructions to the prefects of the empire for the civil administration, providing for the union of gubernatorial action, justice for all, inexorable rigor towards evil-doers, ustice for all, inexorable rigor towards evil-doers, no matter what flag their deeds are committed unr. The press unanimously consider these instruc

der.

The press unanimously consider these instructions a step in advance towards reorganisation.

Gaecatian was captured on October 30, by eight hundred Juarists, aiter an obstinate defence.

Maximilian, in a letter to his Minister of State, says he was convinced, in his journey through the interior, that the empire is an act firmly, based upon the free will of an immense majority of the nation.

Guadalajara was declared under martial law on the 18th of October. Gen. Miramon and St. Aguilar Y. Marache, Maxican minister to Rome, had left Vera Cruz for Europe.

Part of the 90th Line regiment, the first French troops fent to Mexico, had left for France. A party of eight hundred guerillas, under Guilerres, had attacked a force under Gen. Rivas, and were routed. The guerillas lost one hundred killed; the Imperialists only eleven.

It is said a Council of State, for consultation only, will be formed.

A party of Juarists that had left Oajaca had been routed.

The cotton crop had been given up, owing to the depredations of guerillas.

Coloma had been captured by Marquez.

An English vessel had landed three hundred men.

at Mazatlan to look after the interests of British at Maxatlan to look after the interess of subjects.

The blockade-runners Helen Denny, Coquette, and Will-o'-the-Wisp had arrived at Hayana, from Nassan, the Coquette coming in under the rebeings, and having a large number of men. It is feared she is intended for private-ering. Other vessels, one an iron-clad, were also expected.

The United States steamer luke ran in for a day this week, and the United States steamer Magnolla leit to-day.

The notorious blockade-runner Mall, alias Susanna, was captured on the 27th by the United States steamer Metacomet, off Campeachy, with 150 bales of cotton.

The men who arrived at Havana in an open boat report having captured an American bark and burned her. Serious Railroad Accident in New Jersey. NEW YORK, Dec. 8.-A collision occurred on t Yew Jersey Contral Railroad vesterday, between reight train and a coal train. The engines were smashed, the cars piled up, and the legs of a brake, man broken, while several others were slightly injured. Soon after the western-bound express train came along and plunged into the wreck. Fortu-nately, no person was injured. A new track had

to be built to let the other trains pass, so great was the mass of wrecked matter on the road. The loss o the company will not fall short of \$100,000. The Weather. OSWEGO, N. Y., Dec. 8.—A snow storm commenced here at 8 o'clock this morning.

NEW YORE, Dec. 8.—10 P. M.—There is a heavy gale here to-night, and the weather is quite cold. The Bank of Pottstewn Nationalized. POTTSTOWN, PA., Dec. 8.—The Bank of Pottstown has been converted into a national bank, and from this date will be known as the National Bank

Non-Arrival of the Canada. HALIFAX, Dec. 8-7.30 P. M.—There are as yet I signs of the Canada, now due from Liverpool. The weather is fine and cold.

NEW YORK CITY. NEW YORK, Dec. 8, 1864. BURNING OF A GOVERNMENT STABLE. A large Government stable at Fort Hamilton was set on fire last night and destroyed. The horse

were saved.

THE EVENING STOCK BOARD.

11 P. M.—Gold, 239%; Michigan Central, 121% Erie, 94%; Hudson River, 115%; Reading, 136 Michigan Southern, 73; Illinois Central, 130 Cleveland and Pittsburg, 118%; Rock Island and Chicago, 108%; Northwestern, 43%; Northwestern Preferred, 77%; Fort Wayne, 105%; Prarie du Chien, 53%; Ohio and Mississippi Certificates, 38% Canton Company, 35; Cumberland, 48%; Mariposa 36. vere saved.

Union Movement in Kentucky. A STATE CONVENTION CALLED.

A meeting of prominent Union men of the Sixth Congressional district of Kentucky was held at Osyngton on the 30th day of November last, W. W. Trimble, of Harrison county, presiding, and A. L. Burke, of Pendleton, acting as scoretary. Seven counties were represented.

After a full comparison of views, a series of resolutions was proposed and adopted, declaring in favor of measures to be set on foot in the district and Commonwealth, and urged upon the State and Federal authorities, "which shall effectually and speedily scoure a total extinction of alwery" in the State; and that peace to them as a people demands that African slavery, the foundation principle of the insurgents, shall be removed, and "a new, fixed, and reliable element of labor established."

The meeting also concurred in the call for a convention of the friends of the Government, to meet at Frankfort on the fourth day of January next.

A central committee for the Sixth Congressional district was appointed, a headquarters established at Covingtob, and arrangements made for the thorough organization of the United States.

"Church and State."

To the Editor of The Press: SIR: To err is human ; to confess and correct errors is almost divine. In your edition of December 1, 1864, under the above caption, you have fallen into a number of errors, which are also injuries to a large and respectable association of Christian peo-ple, spread over many states of this nation, and in-cluding members of nearly all Christian denomi-nations. You have undoubtedly taken up "vague" rumors," and uttered your remarks upon them having had no reporter present at the meetings of the association in West Arch street Presbyteria Church ; you will, therefore, see the propriety, and, we hope, feel the justice of correcting the mistakes

1. The convention did not meet, that is, commence their sessions, yesterday (Nov. 80), but on the eve

ning of the 20th. 2. This first meeting did not arouse but "little in-terest." It was large and full. Governor Pollock, one of the vice presidents of the association, on taking the chair, read a noble letter from Rev. Doctor Eddy, the president, excusing his unavoidable absence, and requesting him to preside. He then made a short but stirring and arousing speech in advocacy of the cause in which we were engaged. He then introduced Judge Strong, of the Supreme , in terms of hie of the Philadelphia Bar and the Pennsylvani Bench; but moreover, as an humble, devoted, and most decided follower of the Son of God. "who is and glory it is the grand object of this association and glory it is the grand object of this association to promote. Oh, sir, if you had been there, you would have listened to the Judge's speech with intense interest, and you would have been saved the trouble of these convictions. For, after his beautiful demonstration, the thought could nover have en. tered your heart of charging this association, as you have done, with aiming at "the establishme 3d.; This is your third error, and the one which sim

plejustice calls upon you to correct. There is not a body of men in the world more firmly opposed to such an establishment, than this association. This opposition is written out in the entire history of their proceedings, and uttered in nearly every speed advance in support of your charge it would be exceedingly gratifying to the present writer to answer if you could spare a little space for it in you interest. But at present let me note a viz: that the majority of American Christians think the change unnecessary; and, singularly enough, whilst your compositors were handling these types, the present writer was expressing in the convention the opposite opinion, viz: he was objecting to the nation ought to recognize in its Constitution the being of God, the headship of His Son as King of kings, and the Bible, as Judge Strong had denonstrated and as every lawyer knows to b at least the Christian religion to be, as it always has been, an important part of the common law this whole nation; and the reason why I thought it unnecessary farther to discuss in proof was be-cause it is admitted by nearly all Christians, of all denominations, and that some for the largest ecclesiastical bodies in the nation have, by unanimous vote, approved of and called for the amendment proposed. [See minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, p. 315.] Our information from California to Maine assures us of this truth. Besides, the proposed ent is substantially " the supreme law of the land" already; for it is part and the first part and parcel of the treaty of 1788, by which Great Britain prise a rare entertainment.

scknowledged our independence. The very first words of that treaty stand thus on the record: "In the name of the Most Holy and United Trinity."
5. You suppose there was little or no interest felt at the meetings of this Convention. Had you been present last night (November 30) you would not have thrown out the insinuation. The large church was, compactly filled. The audience was intensely inteested, and could not be entirely restrained from noisy approbation. There was no dropping out, but carnest and unremitted attention to the very last minute and the hour of adjournment, a little after 10 o'clock. I have seldom attended a meeting in a place of worship, and whose character was deci religious, where there was displayed so high a mea-

PHILADEEPHIA, Dec. 1, 1864.

PRILADELPHIA, December 5, 1864. To the Editor of The Press: SIR: Will you follow the generous example of the Evening Post of New York, and permit a Hebrew to give expression to the feelings of indignation and sorrow called forth by the late precedings of the Presbyterian Synod held last week in this city. Naturally the resolution agreed upon by this body of Christian ministers has caused much excitement and discussion among our citizens of the Hebrew faith, but I trust their efforts will prove abortive. In lieu of the proud boast that this is the land of freedom, where the oppressed of other lands can find a home of peace and toleration, shall it be said that it has become the abode of religious persecu-tion and of fanatical intelerance? Shall an in-dustrious, a thrifty, a law-abiding class of citizens be oppressed, be deprived of their rights as freemen in this land, where hitherto the desolate, the poor, and the oppressed of the Old World have flown for and have found protection? this land, where they expect to find liberty of mind and thought as well as liberty of person and the opportunity of exercising those powers given alike to Jew and Gentile? And is it because there are men among the Jews who put themselves in oppo-sition to the Government that the whole body should be maligned and that a sect of Christians should desire to deprive them of liberty? Why. sir, where there is one Jaw in this opposition there are one hundred Christians, or the world would not have to look on in profound horror and amazement at the present fratricidal war. Shall the days of "the Inquisition" return? Before a man can vote, before he can take his seat in the legislative halls of his country, of his State, shall he be asked if he believes in the Trinity? Monstrous idea! And although the Jews were not named in this resolution, we all know at whom the shaft was aimed. But this concerns others as wel as Jews; the Unitarian, the Hicksite Quaker, the Deist. I fervently trust that the American people will never suffer the stigma of religious persecution to rest on their country. May it remain as it has ever been, the home of the oppressed, the land of liberty and justice. Another correspondent, who belongs to the Society of Friends, sends a communication, which we

regret is too long to print. We quote his concluding words:

"To conclude: It is proper and important, in the present imperfect state of the world regarding theology, that this subject, and the others connected with it by the proposed petitioners, be left, as regards governmental interference, to take care of themselves, as they naturally will do, and have done since the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. Our Presidents and other officers of the Government, in their proclamations and State papers, can use the name of the Suprementing and recognize such religious doctrines as their consciences dictate, but to form an instrument requiring the recognition of any set of religious dogrmas by the citizen is at once to curtail his spiritual rights, and assume the prespectative of God, who alone is 'the Sovereign Lord of conscience.'

"PREN." regret is too long to print. We quote

PEREMPTORY SALE-OF CARPETINGS. COTE MATE TIEG. &C., THIS DAY. - The attention of dealers is requested to the assortment of superfine ingrain, royal damask; venetian, cottage, list, and, hemp carpetings, coir matting, &c., to be peremptorily sold by catalogue, on four months' credit, commencing this morning, at 11 o'clock precisely, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 332 and 284 Market

The Incendiary Plot at Memphis.

How It was discovered in that city a few days since. Gen. Washburne received an anonymous communication about ten days before the fires occurred, warning him that the rebels contemplated inflicting some serious blow at Memphis. He did not attach a great deal of consequence to the notice, but determined there should be no remissiness on his part, and handed the matter over to Captain Swivel, of the United States detective force, with instructions to follow up the matter and give it a thorough investigation, the result of which was the discovery of a most atrochous plot, instigated by the rebel Government, and to be carried out under the supervision of rebei agents.

It was also ascertained that the offers of the rebel Government of ten per cent. on all public or other property destroyed by hired incendiarles had induced a conspiracy to set fire to the depoi, round-house and other buildings belonging to the Charleston and Memphis Raliroad. Captain Swivel pursued the investigations as suggested by General Washburne, and watched the plot as it ripened. At last it became evident that on Sunday night, November 27, the conspirators were about to carry out their neferious design.

With the utmost caution, detective officers and twelve picked men belonging to the 8th lowa Regiment were, one by one, slipped into the depot and yard, and carefully secreted. The night was intensity dark, and there was a high wind blowing, and all circumstances favorable to the designs of the incendiarys than the moritogian the morning the compristors appeared, and, after cautiously satisfying themeelves that the coast was clear, proceeded to where they had placed a quantity of waste and greasy cotton under the roof of the building, and, lighting a match, were in the act of applying the incendiary brand when the detectives and soldiers pounced upon them. In the confusion and darkness one of the wretches made his escape, and was at once pursued, and was devended to the Charlestown House, the keeper of which is The Incendiary Plot at Memphis.

papers.
One of the incendiaries is known as Wilson, alias Salty; has been conductor on the Charleston and Memphis Railroad, and is a very desperate fellow, as also is Mike Shenan, another one of the conspirators.

Had not the plans been happily folled by the de-tectives, the darkness of the night and the wind, and plenty of combustible in terial, render it pro-bable that the whole of the rallroad buildings and

Public Entertainments.

"The lite Entertainments.

"Mr. Forrest's 'Hamlet,' last evening, evined a genius akin to that of the great dramatist himself. I very much doubt whether, since the time of John Philly Kemble, the stage has ever witnessed a finer conception and representation of this character. Sure I am that it has never been trod by a nobler or more commanding figure, or one upon whose form and lineaments Nature has stamped more of the herole features of tragedy. The plastic features of Mr. Forrest, illuminated by a most intellectual eye, serve as a mirror in which every emotion, from the most terrible burst of passion to the slightest wave of feeling that roffles the soul, are reflected with a power and truth that present an almost visible working of the might serve for a mask for Melpomene, and in the beautiful inception of the love of Othello for the gentle Desdemona, Erate herself, crowned with roses and myrtle, never, through the mask of an Athenlen actor, represented with more grace the tender and amorous passion. The physical energy which marred the acting of Mr. Forrest in his early day has now given place to a subdued, refined, elegant, and highly intellectual style. He has evidently of late devoted himself with a passionate correctness to his profession, and is now attaining, if he has not already reached, a climateric which will place him among the first actors of this or any other age.

"The involved structure of the play of 'Hamlet,' in which the King hills his brother, and marries his wife, and in turn is killed by the son of his incestions. Queen, in some degree resembles the plot of the Edipus Tyrannus of Sophocles, in which the unhappy Edipus kills his father, and marries his mother, who finally puts a period to her own existence, while Eddpus toymes a wanderer and outcast. The English poet, unfettered by the arbitrary laws of the ancient drams, has handled his subject with more effect, and has rendered it more interesting by stirring action, which was illy supplied by the continual presence of the chorus of t I see my father,' seemed to possess the imagina-of the actor; the solemn and measured medits:

burst of emotion in which he exclai or gesture.

"Space does not permit a minute analysis of this performance. It would be impossible to point out the many beauties of a representation which excited the warmest admiration in those who witnessed it."—Spirit of the Times.

"Haulet" will be played again this evening, on which occasion Madame Methua Schueller will ap-pear as Ophelia, in which she made so great a sensation at Niblo's Garden, New York. CRESTNUT-STREET THEATRE. - "JOSSIO Brown" is being performed at the Chestnut in fine style The story of the heroic Scottish maiden is familiar to all of us, and is stirringly portrayed in the play. The scenery with which it is produced i this theatre is well-known. The concluding scene is a splendid picture. The acting, too, is certainly equal to the scenery. Miss Germon as Jessie Brown fully sustains the reputation which she acquired in "Pauvrette." She gives the Scottish dialect very oreditably indeed, considering that it is her first attempt. Her songs are always received with very great favor, especially "Auld Lang Syne," about which the only regret of the audiences is that the fair actress does not vouchsafe them more of it. Mr. Mordaunt gives us a good rendition of Randall Mc-Gregor, playing the part with considerable vigor and effect. The other characters are all performed in a manner to give general satisfaction. The incients of "Jessie Brown" are very stirring, and fol-

low each other in rapid succession. It is a play arly adapting it to the present times. ARCH-STREET THEATRE.-Mr. Clarke takes a penefit to-night, which it will of course be a benefit to everybody to attend. The bill is full of his best humor, and the comedian will appear, as usual, in every piece. "Married Life," "Sudden Thoughts," and "The Spectre Bridegroom" (in which Clarke's Diggory has long been famous) com-CLASSICAL CONCERTS .- The first Concert of the

fine series announced by Carl Wolfsohn and Theo. Thomas will take place on Saturday evening, the 10th instant, at the Foyer of the Academy of Music. A splendid rondeau for violin and plano, by Schubert; a great quartette from Schumann; Carl Wollsohn's Album Blotter, and a transcription from "Faust" are among the most delightful features of the programme to be executed by Thomas, Wolf-schn, Kamerer, and Ahrend-musicians whose intelligence and study give the highest promise of performance. The programmes in store for fuure concerts are even more interesting. Among Beethoven, two from Mozart, four from Schumann Bach, Spohr, Tartini, Liszt, Brahms, and Haber a dezen brilliant novelties, are included in this retrumental rendering will be more than usually intevers of classical music.

GERMANIA ORCHESTRA .- At the rehearsal to norrow afternoon the following pieces will be _"Le Roi d'Yostot"..... Song—"Parting," cornet solo Boetiger
Waltz—"Hymen's Festive Sounds" Lanner
Second part of Symphony No. 2. Beethoven.
Overture—"Melusine" Mendelssohn
Second Finale from "The Merry Wives
of Windsor". Nicolal.

- As a specimen of editorial correspondence th editor of Dwight's Journal of Music publishes the following quaint letter, at once amusing and patheite. It comes from Canada:

"Messrs.— Dear Sirs: I should of Writen to you before this abought the deth of my belovid Daughter, Miss.—, she died with hart desies verrey suddenly on the second of June aged I7 years? months 14 days she was acknowlaged to be the gratest pie onist in this part of the Provence. You will do me A favor by insuring hir deth in your Jurnal. Please continue to send the paper till the year is up and your bill and I will remit to you. Dear Sir many heavvey peases of Musick my daughter had of by hart to 2 of her choice peases was one carnival de venice by J. Schullhoff and others to maney to be menchend her faverite pease was home swetch home by theilburgh she could play this in eight minutes and all the other peases on abought the same time Dear Sir, she told hir mother A fu days before hir deth When playing swetch home she said Mam do you heare the are of home swetch home she said isten Mam how beautiful it is When all the angels will join in the are of home swetch home she said isten Mam how beautiful it is When all the angels will join in the are of home swetch home she said isten Mam how beautiful it is When all the angels will join in the are of home swetch home how beautiful it will be in Heaven. She spoke thease words abought 15 days befor she died. We had not the siltest thought of hir death at the time. If you would compose a vurs on the happy angels of God. I should be glad as I beleave my child Was A heaven sucest thought of hir death at the time. If you would compose a vurs on the happy angels of God. I should be glad as I beleave my child Was A heaven born child destined for eturnal glorey. I hope you will simpethise with me in my bereavment."

CITY ITEMS.

Zephyr Goods for Christmas We know of nothing more popular or more appro-priate for presenting purposes during the holidays than the elegant zephyr-work articles that have of late become so fashionable. A gift is always the more valuable for having upon it the marks of loving fingers. What, therefore, could be more desirable or suitable than the beautiful designs in zephyr for slippers, chair seats, cushions, rugs, and a variety of other articles, filled up in the plain parts by the hands of a friendly or affectionate giver? Ladies who entertain our opinion on this point should visit the store of Mr. John M. Finn, Seventh and Arch streets, where they will find the most magnificent assortment of embreidered zephyr designs, o the class above referred to, ever offered in this city Some of these constinceptial representations in zephyr of tuits of howers, game heads, and tropical birds, which, to be appreciated by the lovers of the beautiful, need only to be seen. We would also rate, in this connection, that Mr. Finn has a very large assortment of zephyr, which he is selling at as moderate prices as any other house. Don't forget the blace-John M. Finn, Seventh and Arch.

A very large assoriment of Stocking Yarns, embracing nearly one hundred different varieties, suitable for fine ladies' wear, the heaviest articles for gentlemen's use, articles for the soldlers, every description of infants' wear, all colors suitable for

gioves, including the fine white Say make), will be found at the ctore of E. Finn, Seventh and Arch streets, GRRMANTOWN WOOL This elegant and deservedly popular for the German Zephyrs is rapid for all purposes for which the zeph The colors of the Germantown W. rich and durable as the zephyr, the soft, and the price a great deal low to get it is at John M. Finn's, soft Seventh and Arch streets. FANCY ARTICLES SUITABLE FOR In this department such things agr els, Pocket-books, fine Brushes, Beads, Celognes, Soaps, Umbrell that class, are always acceptable of perior assortment of them may be At this season, also, good style Dres are much in demand. The most ent

ment of fashionable Buttons, star all kinds, what are denominated term of Small Wear; also, Cloth in great variety, now offered outheast corner of Seventh and A EVERY DESCRIPTION OF POPEL street. Making old hats new it.

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