The Press.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1864.

The Release of the St. Albans Raiders.

The event which has just happened in Canada is well calculated to seriously affect the public mind of both England and America. Viewed independently of its cause and circumstances, the release of thirteen manifestly guilty men, already convicted by the common jury of mankind of the charges of robbery and murder, is sufficiently alarming. What makes the case more aggravated is the fact that these men were arrested after violating the neutrality of Canada to rob and kill citizens of the United States. They were not enough in number for war, but enough to do a bold deed of outrage, whose impunity astonishes civilization and the world—quite enough, at least, to ground a judgment adverse to the United States, and in favor of the rebellion. If the people of the North are amazed at this act, they may well be. Their position is only that of an innocent man, whose life being aimed at, and whose property destroyed, sees his enemies acquitted in the face of a mountain of evidence.

It is due to justice that an event so important should be accurately narrated. Our telegram is, perhaps, but a meagre rehearsal of all that was said and done in the court at Montreal, but it seems to contain the vital features of the case. The prisoners appeared before COURSOL, the judge of an inferior court, and were about to be tried under the laws of extradition relating to the Ashburton treaty. Trial of the real case or cases upon the charges alleged never occurred; and, by a legal device, the question became one of jurisdiction. After hearing the first indictments discussed, the judge, with a readiness which appears to have surprised more than one member of his court, decided that he had no jurisdiction whatever, and thereupon ordered the release of the prisoners. The points of Judge COURSOL's decision were that the case came under Imperial act of the Queen and Parliament of Great Britain, and not under any law or treaty of Canada; and that, therefore, the warrants for the arrest of the prisoners required the signature of the Governor General of Canada, instead of the Courts. Thus, for want of an item of form, the raiders of St. Albans were released, the judge declaring that where the liberty of person was involved judgment to that effect could admit of no delay. To this, Mr. DERLIN, the counsel in favor of the United States, and a member of the bar of Montreal, entered an earnest and logical protest, both in behalf of British law and international fairness, adducing in argument the great moment of the case, the just and friendly precedents of the United States in extradition, and the significant fact that the judge had ordered the release of the prisoners on the invalidity of one indictment while there were six others which ought to be heard before any mature decision. But the British judge was unmoved, and thirteen robbers, who have committed the most heinous offences against international and criminal law, were discharged.

The immediate consequences of this novel Canadian decision are apparent. The rebel prisoners are at perfect liberty to make their escape beyond recall, and a new cause for indignation against the form which British neutrality has taken will have place in the mind of the North, in spite of effort to the contrary. It is impossible to compensate for the loss and insult which, independent of jury, such an act involves, unless the criminal can be again taken to trial and convicted. The technicality upon which the prisoners were released does not weigh an atom before the colossal crime of which they are charged, nor can we be too curious to inquire into the motives which actuated their release. Had they been fairly tried upon all the indictments, there would have been opportunity to correct the informality attending their arrest, and thus robbers and murderers, against whom it is the duty of the law to use its utmost power, would not have been so gratuitously thrust at large by a British judge. Why it was not known before the decision of Judge COURSOL that the warrant required the signature of the Governor General—why the Governor General himself, and the court which issued the warrant, were not aware of the fact—why the judges of the Supreme Court, which had concurrent jurisdiction in the matter, were not called to the trial—must remain a part of the mystery of this startling decision.

THE rebel press places upon Mr. LINCOLN's message its usual distorted interpretation. "Submission," as the one grand term of peace, is construed into all the crimes of the calendar. "Absolute, unqualified submission, to be followed by spoliation of our property and the Africanization of our country," exclaims the Richmond *Sentinel*. To speak of the South being Africanized is simply crying old news. Wrong-headed opinions, such as these, offer new reasons for the policy of "submission."

THE BILLIARD MATCH between Mr. Victor Estephe, the champion of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Robert T. Ryall, took place last night in Sansom-street Hall, in the presence of a large audience, a number of whom were ladies. It resulted in a victory for Mr. Estephe by 234 points, the score standing 1,200 for Estephe, 966 for Ryall. His success was obtained by much beautiful and careful playing, especially in the first two-thirds of the game; in the last few hundreds his playing was inferior. It is doubtful, however, if Mr. Estephe will be soon challenged again to make good his title to the championship, for the result of this match has confirmed the decided victory he won in the late tournament, when he was the only player who lost no games. Mr. Ryall's play was greatly superior to that he made in the tournament, and he deserves no ordinary credit for his steadiness and success during the latter part of the game, long after it was evident that there was no chance of winning. None of the runs in this match were remarkable, and the average contrasts forcibly with that of the game between Messrs. Parker and Coon, played in Baltimore yesterday, when Mr. Coon ran 273 points. This difference is undoubtedly caused by the wise prohibition of the push-shot in the Pennsylvania matches. The runs last night were repeatedly interrupted by the difficulty of counting without its aid. The runs of 20 and over were as follows: Estephe—20, 22, 51, 21, 35, 46, 36, 49, 25, 34, 23, 27, 22, 33, 23, 60, 29, 21, 39, 34, 22; Ryall—24, 23, 33, 33, 35, 76, 25, 39, 21, 43, 20, 28. Innings, 113. Average, 10.71. Time, three hours and fifty minutes. Mr. Michael Phelan acted as umpire. Exhibitions so interesting and well-conducted must do much to increase the popularity of the game of billiards.

A LECTURE BY WENDELL PHILLIPS GARRISON, son of the distinguished Abolitionist, and one of the editors of the New York *Independent*, will be given this evening at the Spring Garden Institute, Broad and Spring Garden streets. The lecture is entitled "The New Corner-stone," and will present the claims of the future, in the reconstruction of the Union, and the extension of Freedom and Justice to all classes. The cause of the working-woman will come under review. "To-morrow will be the first lecture of Mr. Garrison, Jr., in this city, and he will no doubt receive a kindly welcome.

PETERSON'S DETECTOR for December 15th, just issued, contains descriptions of thirty-six new counterfeits that have been put in circulation since the 1st of the month. In these days of unlimited paper money, no business man can safely do without a *Counterfeit Detector* like Peterson's. The eighth year commences in January.

LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE SALE OF nine hundred lots of plain, hemstitched, and embroidered linen cambric handkerchiefs, hosiery, woolen goods, cloaks, &c., to-day, at 10 o'clock, by Pancoast & Warnock, auctioneers, 240 Market street. Particular attention of the trade is invited.

Kind Treatment of our Returned Prisoners at Annapolis.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 13.—The following despatch was received by Governor Curtin this morning from Surgeon General Phillips, now at Annapolis:

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 12, 1864.

Governor Curtin:

I visited to-day all the hospitals at Annapolis in which there are Pennsylvania soldiers lately returned from the rebel prisons. These soldiers receive the utmost care and attention. The hospitals are amply provided with everything necessary for the comfort of the sick. I do not think it is necessary, under the circumstances, to call on the citizens of Pennsylvania for supplies for the inmates of hospitals at this place. J. S. A. PHILLIPS.

Cotton at Cairo—Steamers Aground.

CAIRO, Dec. 12.—The steamer Darling, from Memphis for Cincinnati, passed up to-day with 250 bales of cotton. The Belle, of St. Louis, brought 30 bales. Several steamers are aground at Crawford's and other points on the Mississippi, above Cairo, and will probably freeze in.

Elections in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, Dec. 13.—Chas. Robinson Gainer was elected Mayor of Charlestown yesterday.

In Newburyport, George Jackman was re-elected.

THE WAR.

SHERMAN CLOSE TO SAVANNAH.

His Army in Line of Battle.

A REBEL FORCE REPORTED CONFRONTING HIM.

Southern Reports of Foster's Movements.

AFFAIRS NEAR RICHMOND.

Great Success of Warren's Expedition.

FIFTEEN MILES OF RAILROAD DESTROYED.

The Rebel Communications Cut.

ADVICES FROM KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

MOVEMENTS OF THE REBEL FORCES.

The Latest News from North and South Carolina.

SHERMAN.

SHERMAN CLOSE TO SAVANNAH—HIS ARMY IN LINE OF BATTLE—NO TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SAVANNAH AND CHARLESTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The following information has been received from *City Point* by telegraph:

"The Richmond *Dispatch*, of to-day, says Sherman is near Savannah, probably not five miles distant. He has not yet made an attack, and it is still doubtful whether he will do so or make for the coast, southeast of the city.

"It is very certain he has not yet opened communication with the coast, though he may do so VERY SOON."

A telegraphic despatch received from below Charleston, states that Sherman was in line of battle, we will not say where, confronted by a strong Confederate force. Another paper states that there has been no direct communication with Savannah for several days, but we apprehend the wires have been cut between that place and Charleston.

REBEL REPORTS ON THE 12TH—SHERMAN THEN FIFTEEN MILES FROM SAVANNAH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Richmond *Dispatch* of Dec. 12th contains the following on Sherman's movements: "The latest news from Sherman is that on Saturday, December 10th, he was at Bloomingdale, on the Central Georgia Railroad, fifteen miles west of Savannah."

GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY.

GENERAL WARREN'S EXPEDITION—GREAT SUCCESS OF THE MOVEMENT—FIFTEEN MILES OF RAILROAD DESTROYED—REBEL SUPPLIES CUT OFF—EXECUTION OF DESERTERS.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 11.—The movements in this Department, which have been in the course of execution the past few days, have now fully been developed, and now the objects intended to be accomplished may be given to the public, as well as the results attained.

It was known that the enemy were procuring large supplies for their troops by way of the Weldon Railroad to Stony creek, whence they were wagoned to Petersburg. The cavalry force sent there some ten days ago not being able effectually to stop their operations, the 5th Corps, with Gregg's cavalry and the 3d Division of the 2d Corps, were detailed to put a stop to it by destroying the railroad as far south as Hicksford, and opposite that station also.

At daylight on Wednesday morning the column started on the Jerusalem road, the cavalry taking the advance. On arriving at a point nineteen miles from Petersburg they diverged from the road about a mile to the right, where they reached the Nottoway river, and the command at once commenced crossing and then bivouacked on the south side for the night.

At 7.30 on Thursday morning the pontoons were taken up and the column started, leaving a cavalry detachment to pick up stragglers and return with them. On reaching a point two miles beyond Sussex Court House, some cavalry were encountered and were driven back to where the Weldon Railroad crosses the Nottoway.

About noon a small force of the enemy made a dash in between our cavalry and the advance of the infantry, but were soon routed with slight loss on both sides. Here a cavalryman was found who had evidently been murdered and stripped of everything, even to his boots. The advance then commenced the destruction of the railroad by burning the bridge across the Nottoway, and continued on to Jarrett's station, bivouacking at that place until Thursday night.

On Friday morning an early start was made, and in the afternoon the advance reached a point near Hicksford, where the enemy were found to be in some force, and having a battery in position, with strong works on both sides of the Meherrin river.

After the position had been examined, an attack was deemed impracticable on account of the strength of the works and the difficulty of approaching them, particularly with artillery; therefore, it was determined to carry the line of works on this side and destroy the depot, which was successfully done. During this charge, the color sergeant of the 1st Massachusetts is said to have been killed.

Troops were seen moving into position at this point, and though they had just arrived, and the fire from the batteries soon after showed that they had been reinforced.

It now got dark and began raining, snowing, and freezing. The troops camped in the vicinity for the night, and in the morning started on their return, reaching Sussex Court House, and halting there on Saturday night. The enemy's cavalry and a small body of infantry followed and endeavored to annoy the rear-guard, but each time were driven back with loss.

This afternoon the Nottaway river was reached, and the entire command crossed in safety, where they found a part of the 9th Corps, who had started to their aid in case of an engagement.

To-morrow night they will be back in their old position in front of Petersburg, ready for the next move against the enemy, in whatever direction the Commander-in-Chief may deem most effectual.

The move may be considered as one of the most successful of the campaign, and reflects honor not only on the originator, but on those to whom its execution was entrusted. A most effective blow has been dealt the enemy by the destruction of some of the fifteen miles of railroad which they were using extended only some hundred cartloads a day, loaded with supplies. The track was torn up, the ties piled in heaps, with dry wood from the adjacent fences, and set on fire, with the rails on top, the heat bending and twisting them in every shape.

All the depots on the route were burned, as well as numerous mills, barns, and dwellings, from which the occupants had fled, or from the cover of which guerillas had fired on our troops. One was caught with a gun near where a shot had just been fired, and it is said the troops hung him near the Nottaway river. Our loss in the entire trip will not exceed forty or fifty in killed and wounded, besides a few stragglers, who were captured.

The severity of the weather was the principal difficulty the men had to encounter; but as there was much wood on the line of march, and plenty of work for them to do, they managed to keep themselves from suffering.

Nothing has transpired in front of Petersburg to-day of interest. The weather has changed, and a cold wind storm prevails. Two men, named Edward Rowe and Daniel C. Smith, of the 179th New York, 2d Division, 9th Corps, were executed yesterday for the crime of desertion. They were hardened criminals, not seeming to care for themselves or any one else. One of them mounted the scaffold smoking a cigar, and taking hold of the rope gave it a pull, to see if it was strong enough to hold him. Such a lesson will, perhaps, have its proper effect on that class of men who enlist for the mere purpose of getting the bounty, with the idea that they can desert to the enemy with impunity.

KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

THE REBEL GENERAL LYON MOVING TOWARDS HOPKINSVILLE—BRECKINRIDGE TRYING TO JOIN HOOD.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 12.—The rebel General Lyon crossed the Cumberland river with his command the day before yesterday, at Yellow Creek, about twenty miles below Clarksville. His force is reported at about 2,500 men, and when last heard from he was moving toward Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and threatening that place. If he attacks it, the garrison, being small, will be compelled to fall back to a stronger or more proximate point. Breckinridge's position seems to be in doubt. A loyal gentleman, whose reliability is vouched for, says Breckinridge is at Sparta, Tennessee, with about 10,000 men. This gentleman speaks of what he knows, and the facts indicate that Breckinridge intends to reinforce Hood, and, if possible, to reach the main rebel army; but the position of our troops under Stoneman and Burbridge indicates that he will have difficulty in forming a junction with Hood.

THE SITUATION AT NASHVILLE UNCHANGED—THE SITUATION TOO BAD FOR OPERATING.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 13.—The situation is unchanged. No advance has been made by the Federal troops yet.

Some skirmishing took place on the Harding pike, and several guns were dislodged from Fort Negley. The slippery state of the ground renders locomotion almost impossible, and hostilities will be postponed until a change of weather occurs.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON—THE TRUCE DURING THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BROKEN BY THE REBELS—AN APOLOGY MADE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 13.—The Charleston *Mercury* of the 8th contains the following:

"This is the five hundred and fifteenth day of the siege of Charleston. During the progress of exchange of prisoners, now going on in the harbor, and which will probably last for two weeks, the bombardment of the city by the enemy is to be suspended. Under this arrangement there was no shelling yesterday. We understand that the truce was also to apply to the various batteries in the harbor, but by some mistake, the terms of the truce were not fully known at Fort Sumpter, and one of our sharpshooters at that port shot and killed a Yankee who showed himself at Battery Gregg. Thereupon, several of the enemy's batteries opened fire on Fort Sumpter. Finally, however, by the activity of Captain Hatch, the enemy were apprised by flag of truce of the matter, and an apology was tendered for the unintentional violation of the truce. Since then matters have resumed their former quiet aspect."

REBEL REPORTS OF GENERAL FOSTER'S MOVEMENTS.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 13.—The Charleston *Mercury* of the 6th inst. publishes the following:

"FROM THE SAVANNAH RAILROAD.—We have received no definite intelligence of any further fighting on the coast. We hear, however, that the enemy is quite active in that quarter. His main demonstration will probably be next made against Coosawatchie, while by feints at Pocotaligo and Grahamsville he will endeavor to divide our forces and distract the attention of our officers."

NORTH CAROLINA.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION INTO BERTIE AND HERTFORD COUNTIES—DESTRUCTION OF REBEL ARMY GOODS.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 12.—The expedition which left Norfolk, Va., on the 3d inst., comprising the United States gunboat Chicopee and the 23d New York Regiment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Wm. Clark, for the purpose of breaking up the contraband trade between the city of Norfolk and the rebel agent on Roanoke Island, has met with encouraging success. Lieut. Col. Clark, with a portion of the regiment, marched for several miles into the counties of Bertie and Hertford, surprising at one point a company of rebel soldiers guarding a lot of goods in transitu for the army, and captured a camp in which were found large quantities of arms and accoutrements destined for the rebel army. They were all burned, and the whole force returned in safety to Roanoke Island on the 6th inst.

THE GUNBOAT OTSEGO SUNK BY A TORPEDO IN ROANOKE RIVER—THE VESSEL TO BE RAISED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Information has reached the Navy Department that the United States gunboat Otsego, Commander Arnold, was sunk, a few days ago, by a rebel torpedo in the Roanoke river, six miles above Plymouth, N. C. The torpedo was attached to a log and planted in the river, and as the Otsego was moving up on a reconnoissance she struck the torpedo, which exploded and caused the ship to sink. There is only six feet of water in the Roanoke river where she went down, and she will be raised and repaired. No person on board was injured.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

ADVICES FROM FORT MORGAN—REBEL RAMS AND GUNBOATS AT MOBILE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A Fort Morgan letter says the new rebel ram at Selma is being armored. It is reported that there are seven rams and gunboats inside the obstructions, besides four blockade-runners, with cargoes of cotton, waiting to escape from Mobile Bay.

THE BLOCKADE.

CAPTURE OF TWO VESSELS LOADED WITH COTTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Navy Department to-day received a despatch from Rear Admiral Porter, dated at Fortress Monroe, in which he reports the capture of the blockade-runner steamer Emma Henry, with a cargo of several hundred bales of cotton, by the U. S. steamer Cherokee, and the schooner Mary, with 80 bales of cotton, by the Mackinaw.

CALIFORNIA.

THE ELECTORAL MESSENGER—THE NEVADA STATE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10.—The Presidential Electors of the State have chosen J. G. McCullum messenger to carry their vote to Washington.

The heavy rains have temporarily checked mining operations in this State, and Nevada and mining stocks are depressed.

The Nevada State Government was inaugurated on the 5th. The Legislature meets on the 13th, and will elect a United States Senator.

SOUTH AMERICA.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AT MARACAIBO—SEIZURE OF A GOVERNMENT SCHOONER BY A REVOLUTIONARY EXILE—A BATTERY TAKEN AND THE GUNS SPIKED.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The barkentine Teresa, from Maracaibo November 20, reports that Gen. Poulga, a revolutionary exile, visited the port on November 14 in a British schooner with a crew of only twelve men, made prisoners of the officers and crews of two Government boats sent to board his vessel, and having thus weakened the force aboard of a Government schooner, easily captured her. He then went ashore, drove away the garrison of a battery, and spiked the guns. Thence proceeding aboard the captured vessel, he fired into a Government steamer, killing one man and wounding the captain, and proceeded to sea with his prisoners. The vessel in which he entered the port was unarmed, except that her crew had revolvers. Maracaibo was in a great state of alarm, fearing the place would be bombarded and have to surrender. The Teresa was detained three days, no pilot being willing to go to sea until all fears were allayed.

THE ST. ALBANS RAIDERS.

THE PRISONERS DISCHARGED BY THE CANADIAN COURT.

ONLY ONE INDICTMENT HEARD BY THE JUDGE.

MONTREAL, Dec. 13.—The case of the St. Albans raiders was reopened to-day, before Justice Coursal. The court-room was well filled with spectators. The appearance of the prisoners was much the same as at the last hearing.

At the commencement of the proceedings Mr. Kerr objected that the court had no jurisdiction in the case. He denied in *toto* his Honor's right to set there at all on this investigation.

Mr. Derlin said that after having granted a delay of a month they had now met to hear evidence for the defence, and not to listen to a legal argument.

After a few words from the court, and from Mr. Johnson, Queen's counsel, Mr. Kerr was allowed to go into an argument as to the jurisdiction of the court in the premises, and after some discussion between the counsel, the court said that this was a matter of most grave importance, involving the right of jurisdiction, and consequently the validity of these proceedings from their commencement. He should, therefore, take it time to consider it before proceeding further, and for this purpose the court would adjourn until 2 P. M.

The court reassembled at three o'clock, and was densely crowded. Justice Coursal, on taking the bench, said the matter in question was most important, and in some parts its close proximity to the Canada shore, demand constant vigilance, and he had given the argument on both sides his most serious consideration, and had come to the conclusion that the case came under the Imperial act, and that he was bound to act and to obey the Imperial authority. In a national question like the one under consideration, the Imperial act was supreme and must be his guide. Our own provincial law to carry into effect the Ashburton treaty had not received the special royal sanction requisite. The case was a most exceptional one, but the national he could do no other than allow our own act to give way before that of the Imperial Legislature. The evidence taken at Montreal he stated, was that act required that the warrant under which the prisoners were arrested should be signed by the Governor General. If the court could have reserved the point for a higher tribunal it would most gladly have done so, but since the liberty of the subject was involved there admitted of no delay, and since he had not had the warrant of the Governor General, he had come to the conclusion that the court possessed no jurisdiction in the case, and he must order the immediate release of the prisoners.

This announcement was received with applause by a number of persons present, but the demonstration was instantly checked.

Mr. Derlin then arose and in a most impassioned speech implored his Honor not to order the discharge of the prisoners upon the remaining indictments, in the interests of justice to the counsel for the United States, and for the honor of the law officers, and to allow of a hearing. He contended that the prisoners could be discharged only on the ground of insufficient evidence, and the court owed it to the counsel to be heard on the others. Should it be said in an English court of justice that the Judge, having decided in favor of the prisoners in one case, he immediately discharged them in six others? What would be said outside?

The counsel for the defence themselves knew the corruption which the court had taken was unprecedented. Had not his Honor issued six warrants, and yet he had but one warrant before him? He called solemnly on the court to hesitate. He (Mr. Derlin) could not remain silent whilst thirteen men charged with robbery, and even murder, were allowed to go at liberty without their several cases being investigated. Our good name, for justice and fair play was at stake, and though some amongst us might be sympathizers with the prisoners, we had yet to learn that they set at naught the laws of fair play. He again called upon the court to hesitate before discharging these men, and give the counsel for the prosecution a chance of being heard, for here the most important interests of all were at stake, viz: International ones. He again implored the court not to order this wholesale delivery. He would put it to the court, was it treating the counsel for the prosecution with fairness? If the court should persist in doing this, then we must be prepared for the consequences. No country had dealt fairer with England in extradition matters than had the United States. Their judges combined to give effect to the extradition treaty. The judges of our Supreme Court had concurrent jurisdiction with his Honor, and had counsel known of the probable course of his Honor, they would have desired the court to allow these judges to have seats on the bench along with him.

Mr. Derlin again, for the last time, besought his Honor to hesitate before he formally ordered the liberation of the prisoners.

Mr. Johnson arose and said that both those who represented the United States and those who represented private interests in this affair had upon them a grave responsibility, but he thought Mr. Derlin mistaken in the view which he took of the judgment of the Court. The Court meant that the prisoners were discharged on the one charge which had been investigated.

The Court here said that Mr. Derlin had understood the judgment of the Court aright. The prisoners were discharged in every case before him.

Messrs. Kerr, Abbott, and Lafleur, counsel for the prisoners, objected to any calling in question of the judgment.

Mr. Hose, counsel for the United States, wished to speak. He said he did not mean to call his Honor's judgment, just delivered, in question.

The court declined to hear further, saying that if he had no right to arrest these men on one charge, as he held that he had not, then neither had he the right to detain them on any others.

These men had been arrested on magistrates' warrants, upon his own, and then on motion of the police, and now, when his Honor's own jurisdiction was called in question, he had discharged them and told, he saw he had been mistaken, and it was the duty of every British judge on finding that, to rectify his error. The court, therefore, ordered that the prisoners be immediately discharged, and was prepared to incur the responsibility of its own act. Applause again broke out in the court, but was quickly hushed by the police.

In a few minutes the prisoners walked through the court-room, and were congratulated by a few of their acquaintances, and when they emerged from the building a few voices were raised in something meant to be cheers. They then separated, looking pleased at their enlargement, and the crowd at once dispersed.

NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13, 1864.

ARRIVAL OF ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.

The United States sloop-of-war Hartford arrived here this afternoon, with Admiral Farragut on board.

THE EVENING STOCK BOARD.

11 P. M.—Gold 284¾. New York Central 121. Erie 94, Hudson River 116⅞, Reading 136¾, Michigan Central 134½, Michigan Southern 72, Illinois Central 159, Cleveland and Pittsburg 113, Rock Island 107½, Northwestern 43, do. preferred 76½, Fort Wayne 104⅞, Prairie du Chien 54¾, Chicago and Alton 92, Ohio and Mississippi certificates 35⅝, Canton Company 36¾, Cumberland 51, Quicksilver 83, Mariposa 35½.

THE CATTLE MARKET.

Beef Cattle advanced 1½c; receipts 6,000 head, quoted at 9@19c. Sheep higher, at 4@10c; receipts 18,000 head. Swine higher, at 13½@14c; receipts 4,000 head.

MARINE DISASTER.

The steamer Cambria, with 500 soldiers from New Haven, struck a rock in Hell Gate yesterday, causing a serious leak. The soldiers were taken off in safety, and the ship was towed to her dock.

BOSTON.

BOSTON, December 13.

NAVAL COURT-MARTIAL.

The naval general court-martial sitting at Charlestown navy yard for the trial of Franklin W. Smith, charged with defrauding the Government, concluded taking evidence to-day. The court has been taking testimony for sixty-seven days, and the evidence covers over twenty-five hundred written pages. Six days are allowed the counsel to prepare the defence.

NON-ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

10 P. M.—There are no signs of the Canada at the lower station. She will probably arrive late to-night, and will remain below till early in the morning.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, December 13.

THE RECIPROCITY TREATY.

The original joint resolution in relation to the reciprocity treaty was reported by Representative ELIJAH WARD, of New York, from the Committee on Commerce, last April. The preamble only was at that time acted on, and this, among other things, declares that nearly all the articles which Canada has to sell are admitted into the United States free of duty, while heavy duties are now imposed upon many of those articles which the people of the United States have to sell, with the intention of excluding them from the Canadian market; and further, that the President of the United States, during the first session of the Thirty-sixth Congress, caused to be submitted to the House an official report setting forth the inequality and injustice existing in our present intercourse with Canada, subversive of the true intent of the treaty, owing to the subsequent legislation of Canada.

With the view of carrying on commercial intercourse reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory to both parties, a resolution was appended authorizing and requiring the President to give notice to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland that it is the wish and intention of the Government of the United States to terminate the treaty unless a new convention shall before the end of ten years from the negotiation of this treaty be concluded between the two Governments, by which the other provisions shall be so abrogated or so modified as to be mutually satisfactory to both Governments, and authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners for the revision of the treaty, and to confer with other commissioners duly authorized therefor, whenever it shall appear to be the wish of the Government of Great Britain to negotiate a new treaty.

The preamble having been adopted at the last session, the question to-day recurred on the adoption of the resolution, but this was superseded by the substitute offered by Representative MORRILL, merely requesting the President to give the Government of Great Britain and Ireland the notice required for the termination of the treaty, without any reference whatever to a new one. The Senate has yet to act upon the subject.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate to-day in executive session confirmed the nominations of DAVID MCDONALD to be judge of the United States Court for the District of Indiana, BARRETT PIKE to be District Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, and CHARLES H. SHRINER to be collector of internal revenue of the Fourteenth district of Pennsylvania.

THE REGISTRY OF AMERICAN SEAMEN.

The Secretary of State communicated to the House to-day the returns made by the collectors of customs, in pursuance of the act of 1790, for the relief and protection of American seamen registered in United States ports in 1864. Of the whole number, two thousand seven hundred and sixty, 1,079 are returned from Maine, 13 from New Hampshire, 1,417 from Massachusetts, 81 from Rhode Island, 1 from Connecticut, 40 from New York, 97 from Pennsylvania, and 32 from Florida.

XXXVIIITH CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE.

Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, President *pro tem.*, in the chair.

LOST CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, introduced the petition of Lake Brothers, bankers, of Boston and New York, setting forth that they were the owners of certificates of indebtedness to the amount of $10,000, of which they set forth that evidence was furnished the Treasury Department of the loss, but that they had not received full compensation for the loss. They pray for a remedy in the Congressional case; and also, by further legislation, to protect the interests of persons in such a situation.

As the question involved in the petition concerned the finances of the country and the credit of the country, he moved its reference to the Committee on Finance. Referred.

PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM IMPORT DUTIES.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, introduced a petition from the Collector of the port of Detroit, praying relief from the operation of the joint resolutions of last session increasing the rate of duties on imported articles 50 per cent. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

TRANSFER OF A GUNBOAT TO LIBERIA.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill authorizing the President of the United States to transfer a gunboat to the Republic of Liberia, provided that no vessel of the gunboats of the United States navy may be transferred to the Liberian Government upon a valuation to be fixed by the Secretary of the Navy, who is authorized to enter into a contract with any person duly empowered by the Liberian Government by which that Government shall engage to pay to the United States the value of the same in annual instalments, not exceeding ten in number, with interest at six per cent. per annum.

REVENUE CUTTERS FOR THE LAKES.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Finance Committee, reported a bill authorizing the construction of revenue cutters for the lakes, and appropriating $1,000,000, or so much as may be necessary for that purpose. He asked that the following letter from the Secretary of the Treasury be read:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, requesting information as to the number of revenue cutters now on the lakes, their efficiency and the necessity of their increase. The number of cutters heretofore maintained on the Northern lakes was six. They are sailing vessels, and of such build and rig as to support their sailing with efficiency. In 1861 five of them were directed to be brought down the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic coast, but objected that they might be used for purposes of the preventive service. One was left on the lakes, but was found to be worthless and was sold. During the last winter a contract was made with parties to build an efficient steamer for revenue service on Lake Erie, which is now completed that her trial has been ordered for to-day. This is the only steamer belonging to the Government applicable to revenue purposes on all the lakes. The service, however, for preventing smuggling along our Northern frontier, which the Government has established, requires to be carried on to a great extent, indeed the Secretary to charter two steamers for temporary service, one on Lake Ontario and one on Lake Champlain, which are lost on entering the harbor of Cleveland, and the charter of the other has expired and she has gone out of service. I therefore recommend that authority be given to build or purchase five efficient vessels for the lakes, to be used in the revenue service, for which, in addition to the one just completed, will leave the revenue service on the lakes, entirely unprovided. It is possible that the number here recommended may not be all required. The great length of the coast to be guarded, and in some parts its close proximity to the Canada shore, demand constant vigilance, and the proper authorities should be conferred to meet contingencies. If possible, such vessels should be ordered and commissioned by the opening of navigation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, W. P. FESSENDEN, Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. FOSTER asked if the vessels provided for were armed vessels?

Mr. SHERMAN replied that he understood revenue cutters were usually armed with pivot guns only; they were not armed ships.

Mr. FOSTER said that by an arrangement between the Government of the United States and of Great Britain, made on the 28th of April, 1817, there was a stipulation in regard to the armed force which the Government of the United States should keep on the lakes.

Mr. SHERMAN said the Finance Committee had carefully considered that arrangement before taking action on the bill. It did not interfere with it in any way. The bill as reported was then passed.

THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF COLORED SOLDIERS.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, introduced a joint resolution to provide for the enlistment of slaves, by making free the wives and children of colored soldiers now held as slaves in the South.

The resolution provides that the wife and children, if any be have, of any person that has been or shall be mustered into the service of the United States, shall be forever free, and in determining who is the wife and who are the children of the enlisted person, evidence that he and the woman claimed to be his wife have lived together associated as husband and wife, and so continued to have lived or associated at the time of enlistment, or the marriage, shall be deemed and taken to be prima facie evidence of such marriage, and the children mentioned in this act. The above was referred to the Military Committee.

IMMIGRATION.

On motion of Mr. LANE, of Kansas, it was ordered that so much of the President's Message as relates to the subject of immigration be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

BANKRUPTCY.

A message was received from the House of Representatives announcing the passage by that body of a bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy.

On motion of Mr. FOSTER the bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and ordered to be printed.

THE RHODE ISLAND SENATOR.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, moved the Senate adjourn, but afterwards withdrew his motion to permit Mr. Sprague to present the credentials of Mr. Anthony, as Senator from Rhode Island, for six years, commencing March 4, 1865.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The Senate then went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

LOUISIANA.

Mr. ELIOT, of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution that whenever the State of Louisiana may resume its political relations with the Government of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PACIFIC CALIFORNIA RAILROADS.

Mr. COLE, of California, introduced a bill granting lands to certain railroad companies in California. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

MINING DEPARTMENT.

Also, a bill to establish a mining department, with a commissioner and the necessary clerks and mineralogist, for the purpose of collecting and diffusing useful information throughout the United States.

Mr. COLE moved that the subject be referred to a select committee of five.

Mr. BROOKS, of New York, would have no objection if it would be the means to permit Mr. Spring to present a mass of mining revenue from the mines.

Mr. ASHBURNE, of Illinois, was opposed to the whole scheme.

Objection thus being made, the subject went over.

THE POSITION OF LOUISIANA.

Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN, of Illinois, moved to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Eliot's proposition was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. He wanted it sent to the Committee on the Rebellious States. It was read for information, and proposes to admit the Senators and Representatives in Congress under the new Constitution recently adopted in Louisiana. The motion was reconsidered.

Mr. ELIOT, of Massachusetts, remarked that when he suggested the Committee on the Judiciary, it was because that standing committee was the proper one for the consideration of the question, and they were all looking to the same end was heretofore referred to the Committee on Judiciary. He did not suppose the subject would receive anything but kindness from the Committee on the Rebellious States, nor had he any reason to believe that that committee was opposed to this resolution. He would have no objection to such a reference.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on the Rebellious States.

TAX ON COAL.

Mr. CHANDLER, of New York, introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tax on coal.

NAVAL DEPOT ON THE LAKES.

Mr. BROWN, of Wisconsin, asked leave, but objection was made, to introduce a resolution for the appointment of a select committee of seven members to whom shall be referred all resolutions, petitions, &c., relative to a naval depot on the Lakes, and whose duty it shall be to select the most suitable site, and report by bill or otherwise.

BONDED GOODS.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, asked leave to introduce a bill, with a view to putting it on passage, extending for the withdrawal of goods from any public stores or bonded warehouses in cases where the three years' time allowed by the law of July, 1862, has been interfered with by any order of the President of the United States.

Mr. BROWN, of Missouri, objected.

NAVY YARD FOR IRON-CLADS.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to establish a navy yard for iron-clads at New London.

Mr. O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, renewed the remarks from yesterday in favor of League Island for a navy yard for iron-clads, &c. The Secretary of the Navy had risen above local prejudices in favoring that point, looking only to the interests of the country and the promotion of the efficiency of the naval service.

Mr. O'NEILL proceeded at length to show the superior advantages of League Island, and remarked that everything required for such a navy yard was within easy distance of procurement. Neither Philadelphia nor Pennsylvania came here to ask for this location as a boon or as a favor. He urged the selection for, among other reasons, that there is fresh and deep water, an adjacent population which can furnish all the required mechanical skill and all material in abundance. Philadelphia was the proper place, and no argument had been advanced to show that there was any other place possessing equal advantages.

Mr. BROOMALL, of Pennsylvania, offered a substitute that the President shall appoint a commission of seven scientific and practical men, three of whom shall be officers of the navy, not below the rank of captain, who shall select a site for a navy yard for iron-clad vessels, having in view fitness of location as well as convenience of construction. A majority of said commission shall be authorized to make a report. If the report be confirmed by the President, the Secretary of the Navy shall forthwith procure the title to such a site to be held in the United States, and shall cause plans and estimates for the immediate commencement of the work. Mr. Broomall, while preferring League Island, said his