TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1865. We can take no notice of anonymous commus. We de not return rejected manuscripts. Voluntary correspondence is solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different nilitary and naval departments. When used, it will

Internal Taxation. There is some prospect, it seems, of a Commission being sent to Europe, to inquire into the various modes and principles upon which national taxation is levied there. If capable persons are thus sentmen with no foregone conclusions and unwedded to any pre-conceived ideas heromuch good may be the result. The misfortune is that this, if it comes at all, will come very late. The inquiry ought properly have been made before we commenced the imposition of internal taxation. And it is a matter of equal congratulation and surprise that the precipitate and frequently absurd system which went into operation when the expenses of the war had to be provided for has not been even more annoying and burthensome than it is. A fact it is, which our lawmakers seem to have overlooked, that it requires great financial ingenuity to distribute taxa-

tion so as to make its burthen tolerable. Until the war began, in 1861, the United States scarcely knew anything of direct taxation. Sufficient money for liberal national expenditure was raised by the customs duties, by occasional revenue from excise, and by the sale of public lands. The war rendered it indispensable that a large revenue should be raised, to pay the interest on the Debt and to meet expenses -the amount and increase of which no human sagacity could even approximate. That revenue is paid, but a still larger amount might have been raised, in a manner less burthensome to the tax-payers, had the framers of the Internal Revenue Law known how to do it. In Europe each taxbill is framed by or under the supervision of the Finance Minister, whose duty it is to place it before the legislature, explaining its details and stating the principle upon which it is based. A moderate time is allowed to intervene between its introduction and its second reading. In this interval the individuals or the classes who may think their interests likely to be self, and if subjected to cross-examination affected by the new imposts have the opportunity of submitting their views to the | In equity, on motions for injunctions, both Finance Minister,—sometimes this is done in person,—and modifications are frequently the result. Finally, the measure is discussed, clause by clause, in the legislature, before the proposition passes into the statute-book. Here, our Finance Minister has nothing to do with the system of taxation or its details. A Congressional Committee of Ways and Means frames each tax-bill, and a measure which would receive a month's discussion in and out of the legislature, in England or France. generally passes here, in a lump, almost as a matter of course, and no one is respon-

We appear to have taken up, in our new taxation, the very worst parts of the European fiscal system, and particularly those which, after long trial, British legislation has finally abandoned. For example, England clung, for a century and a half, to the taxes upon knowledge-viz: the imposts upon paper, advertisements, books, and pamphlets, and the stamp upon newspapers. Our Internal Revenue system levies the tax upon paper, print, and advertisements, and virtually will impose an equivalent to the newspaper stamp, if the proposition that publishers shall pre-pay their newspapers sent through post become the law. Again, when Sir ROBERT PEEL imposed his Income Tax, in 1842, the English complained, bitterly and justly, that its operation upon permanent and upon uncertain revenues was unfair and unequal. He persevered, and the tax was imposed as he desired, and a great public wrong, which Mr. GLADSTONE's moral courage has not dared to remedy, was committed, and has since been persevered in. When our Income Tax was imposed, did our law-makers, when they studied the details of the English statute, take notice of its unjust and unequal ope ration? They did not. With their eyes open, our "Ways and Means" followed PEEL's plan, and made no distinction between certain and uncertain income. The lawyer, the medical man, the clergyman, the man of letters-all, in fact, who live by the labor of their brain, whose income depends wholly on their own exertions, whose sole means of subsistence may be suddenly swept away by a fit of sickness, or by an accident which would prevent them following their usual avocations—these, who literally live from hand to mouth, are squeezed under our income tax as much, and no less, as the millionaire whose personal revenue is derived from the interest on mortgages or other investments which preserve his ample capital in full, whatever may happen to himself. The man whose income is actually an accident, for it may be destroyed in an hour, is taxed here equally with his rich neighbor whose eternal income cannot fail, for it is the permanent interest or profit out of permanent capital. We grant that this is also the evil of the English income tax; but one thing we have done which the British Parliament had it been proposed, never would and never could have sanctionedwe enacted, contrary to every recognized principle of taxation, that the income tax for 1863, which was duly paid once, should be paid over again. Such an ex post facto enactment cannot be found in any statute-

The proper principle of taxation is to press as lightly as possible upon the necessaries, and to draw liberally upon the luxuries of a nation. When Sir ROBERT PEEL undertook to remodel the British system of taxation he found twelve hundred articles subjected to various duties. He remitted nearly all of these duties. The amount realized from them was small (a trifle over \$2,500,000 per annum), but an immense number of vexatious custom house restrictions were swept away, and a little army of tax-collectors was dispensed with. At present, in round numbers, \$120,000,000 are annually raised by the customs duties upon cocoa, coffee, corn, fruits, hops, spices, spirits, sugar, tea, timber, tobacco, and wine. From the excise, \$190,000,000 is the annual revenue—four-fifths arising from the consumption of home-manufactured liquors, hops, and the license-duties for selling liquors. The remainder is made up of license duties, payable by some professions and trades, tobacco-dealers, soapmakers, vendors of quack-medicines, letters of horses and carriages, game-killers, distillers, vinegar-makers, legacy-duties, &c. To subject lucifer-matches, billheads, pins, wood-screws, and such small to parties; for the defendant cannot be a wares to ad valorem taxation, would be received in any European legislature as petent. The objection, therefore, is to all a sorry joke. Taxation ought to visit our domestic productions very lightly, or not at all. Fpon luxuries-of food, dress, furniture, fashion, travelling—the taxation ought to be large. If people want superfluities, let them pay for their whistle. The amount of taxation must be paid, and can be readily raised; the objection is to the mode, which augments the price Taxation upon a great variety of small

articles produced in this country, at once discourages enterprise and industrial labor, and creates a necessity for a large number of persons to assess and collect the impost. There are, in Philadelphia alone, as many as four Collectors of Internal Revenueeach receiving a large income, with a per centage on the sale of stamps. When one gentleman is capable of performing all the duties of Collector of Customs in New York, it may be a question whether four Collectors of Internal Revenue are necessary in Philadelphia. Whenever our system of national taxation is remodelled, no doubt considerable alterations will be made in this respect. Too large a staff of tax collectors, too highly paid, is not to be com-

cant articles of consumption. Those who can best afford it should contribute most to the public necessity. Taxation, which is for the benefit of all, should reach the pockets of all, but in a degree proportionate to their means of payment. We should like to see our national taxation based upon the broadest principles, and anxiously await "the good time coming," when our system will be judiciously revised and carefully adapted to the means of every citizen.

The Law of Evidence. An applicant for the benefit of the Inolvent Laws makes himself a witness, and upon his examination must produce all books and-papers, and must answer all questions put to him by the court or his creditors, and if by his examination or other evidence the court should believe his insolvency arose from gambling, or the purchase of lottery tickets, or that he has embezzled any moncy, either as bailee, agent, or depositary, or that he has concealed or conveyed his estate with intent to defraud his creditors, it is made their duty to commit him for trial; and if upon such trial he is convicted, he may be sentenced for embezzlement or concealment of property, to undergo an imprisonment, by separate or solitary confinement at labor, not exceeding seven years, and for insolvency produced by gambling or purchase of lottery tickets to an imprisonment not exceeding three years. Trustees, bankers, merchants, brokers, attorneys, agents, directors, officers, and members, for certain breaches of trust, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, but they cannot refuse to make a full and complete discovery, by answer to any bill in equity, or to answer any question or interrogatory, in any civil proceeding in any court of law or equity, but no such answer shall be admissible in evidence against such persons charged with said misdemeanors. These persons are, therefore, witnesses,

although in the first instance their testimony may convict them of a crime, and in the second instance they are forced to testify as to transactions for which they are liable to criminal punishment. But a party or person in interest may make affidavits to hold to bail of defence, and in Allegheny county he is forced, in certain cases, to swear to his cause of action. In all these cases he is a witness for himhe would be a witness for his opponent. parties testify as witnesses now, on affidavits, and if cross-examined, as we believe is now done in England, they would sents both sides, and in England, in affidavit of the plaintiff, and refused on that of the defendant; if both were crossexamined the court would have the whole truth, so far as the parties could tell it. These are some of the instances in which interested parties really testify, and we re-

fer to our former articles for others. Now, what is the objection to parties and interested persons being competent witnesses in civil actions? A disbelief in their veracity; a total exclusion, because the 10th is lamentably inefficient. Second, his lecture next Thursday evening, we believe they cannot and will not tell the City Councils should exercise their upon the subject of "Equality betruth—this is the only ground; if so, no | full powers, and they should be assisted | fore the Law," may well be encouraged, party or person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police, but and not even the person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police, but and not even the person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police, but and not even the person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police, but and not even the person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police, but and not even the person interested ever should be not only by the Mayor and his police. allowed to testify by affidavit or other- also by the whole of the judicial authowisc. But the law says no; in a great rities of this district. Outside of Mifflin number of instances from necessity, or and Allegheny streets no such combustible of their future. Those rights to which some other reason, we do consider them article can be brought within one thousand competent, and we will judge of their | feet or nearly three squares of any house credibility; if so, why not make them without the consent of the owner. It is, to their credit? Because a witness is com- the range of the common law of crime. petent we are not bound to believe him, and his credibility is always for the jury. How often do we hear a judge say this witness has sworn positively, if you believe office for complaints of the storage of pehim: or where two witnesses have sworn directly contrary to each other, how common the names of the complainants and their of these witnesses do so-if you cannot you | particulars of time, place, and amount of will take that one whose evidence you believe is most consistent with the truth and your view of the facts? Why not hear every dibility of each witness be judged separately of by the jury?

matter in which he is interested? Do you say to him, You are not competent to trine the business of life would stop, because before you will hear anything you must investigate whether the narrator has not six cents interest, which he has not and perhaps cannot get rid of. But what is the evil if you hear both

to an oral cross-examination before a court and jury? Do you distrust the capacity of thirteen men, one of them a lawyer of emiterial alterations, then there is no difficulty; | make the present movement for future seif each tells a different story, in what does | curity really efficient. it differ from any two ordinary witnesses cannot tell the truth.

the five witnesses of the defendant die; for tion of the law. the plaintiff should be excluded. Why are | was WARE. friendly references made of important cases? Because each party tells his own story, and witnesses, competent or not, are heard, and often without the sanction of an oath. Is it not wiser and more consistent, with our knowledge of human nature, to hold all these persons competent, and let the proper tribunal judge of their credit. The present striking exceptions, which demonstrate that it is erroneous and founded on the narrowest and most technical views, and that the exceptions should really form the general rule. Gentlemen who have practiced in the criminal courts often believe witnesses are rogues, particularly those who are called to prove alibis; but they must recollect that they are generally dealing with a depraved class of the community; but still, they must should be permitted to testify.

concede that this objection does not apply witness, and the prosecutor is always comwitnesses, and, if true, then no witnesses But there are signal instances of rogues defeating themselves. A person named SMYTH claimed to be heir to an estate of £30,000 per annum and to a baronetcy, and was the plaintiff in an ejectment tried at the Assizes, at Gloucester, before Justice COLERIDGE, and was put upon the stand to one of our many benevolent instituprove his own case. His counsel, Mr. | tions aims to cover more than a very limited BOVILL, Mr. PHIPSON, and Mr. DOWDESfield of operations, and even in that field WELL, were men of high character. Sir its work is by no means exhaustive. We FREDERICK THESIGER, afterwards Lord | venture to say that no local charitable organization possesses funds and facilities CHELMSFORD, was counsel for the 15 sufficient, even if they were exclusively fendant. The plaintiff told an apparently devoted to that object, to relieve fully plausible story, and pretended he was a the distresses of the poor of a single man of education. Upon cross-examination it appeared that he did not spell correctly, and was evidently a mere charlatan. ly of the good effected by these or-He contradicted himself; but what finally put an end to him was the production of a family brooch and rings, which he made a conspicuous piece of evidence. The evidence was regularly telegraphed and published in the Times, when Sir FREDERICK received a telegram from a jeweller in London, who had read the testimony, sta-London, who had read the testimony, staby this war, that a system of charley, to be
ting that he had cut it for this man a short commensurate with the needs of a wide
from Longfellow's "Hawatha;" and the comic time before. The perjury became so clear area of suffering, must be the result of con-

and internal taxation should rather come their briefs, stating that they had been history of the two institutions we have from a few great than from many insignifi- | completely deceived, and this ended the This policy is so firmly settled by expe-

rience in England, that neither the Legis-

lature, the Bench, the Bar, nor the people could be induced to return to the old antiquated and absurd rule of exclusion. The reader will find the case of SMYTH VE. SMYTH, in the Law Magazine and Quarterly Review of Jurisprudence, for November, 1853, vol. 19. New Series, p. 294. The editor says: "Among the causes célébres, which at intervals appear in our courts of ustice, the case of SMYTH vs. SMYTH, tried at the late Assizes for Gloucester, deserves to be recorded. We have here an instance of a gigantic fraud being perpetrated upon attorneys, counsel, and all who listened to the plaintiff's story, until he appeared in the witness box, when, by the combined efforts of cross examination and electricity, the claimant of family name, honors, and estate was made to appear but a clumsy forger and perjurer of the fifth or sixth magnitude. It is interesting to the philosopher and the lawyer to trace schemes of cunning through their dark and winding mazes, as it is gratifying to the moralist to behold the retribution which follows their exposure." "When the counsel withdrew from the case there remained upwards of fifty witnesses to be examined for the plaintiff and eighty for the defendants." The judge committed the plaintiff for

perjury, and said they could go before a magistrate and prefer the charge of forgery. Greek Fire. The storage and manufacture of all articles of a character dangerous to the lives and property of its inhabitants are contrary to law and nuisances in the heart of a large and populous city. Like new poisons, the number of these articles has been increased by the addition of petroleum in immense quantities in the inflammable regions of Western Pennsylvania, where it flows out from the openings in the earth and covers the surface of the Allegheny river as far down as Pittsburg. In its crude state, before it is purified from the benzine, a half-extinguished cigar will set it on fire, when no amount of water will extinguish it. Unlike gunpowder and saltpetre, it separates itself from the water and floats upon it, so that if the surface of a river were covered with it, and then the oil ignited, it would form a river of living fire, supported by a river of living water. The dangers of petroleum in all its forms, crude or refined, cannot be exaggerated, and the horrible deaths inflicted last week upon our helpless fellow-citizens attest the im possibility of controlling its ravages in be, to the fullest extent, witnesses in such a thickly-built district. Gunpowder deters cases. An affidavit presents one side of a | the most daring fireman, and the expecase, or, with cross-examination, pre- rience of the past will go far towards inspiring a dread of venturing withequity, a very large number of cases are | in the charmed limits of burning petro decided upon affidavit. A motion for a leum. Gunpowder has long been prohipreliminary injunction, involving thou- bited, and its keeping regulated with great sands of dollars, may be granted on the strictness and particularity. To this guncotton has been added, and since the great fire, fourteen years ago, saltpetre has been put in the same category. To this list the terrible calamity of last week must add petroleum, which may have been the celebrated Greek Fire of the ancients, for its

destructive effects are equally certain and even more astonishing. First, therefore, the Legislature has a duty of humanity to perform, for its act of at Washington. FREDERICK DOUGLASS, in competent and subject to the same rule as | therefore, left inside of those limits within

nuisance, and the regulations of Councils. Now, to proceed practically: 1st. A. book should be opened at the Mayor's troleum, or oil factories within those limits; rectly contrary to each other, how common the names of the complainants and their riosity to hear a woman in the rostrum is it to say, if you can reconcile the testimony residences should be taken, with all the petroleum, where stored or manufactured. 2d. This might be extended to the police stations. 3d. Upon each complaint the one, who knows anything, and let the cre- police should institute inquiries at once, and make a report of the facts to the Mayor, who may either proceed to act, or Do you not in the ordinary intercourse of | to lay the whole information before the life trust what your neighbor says of a District Attorney, and also report it to Councils. We shall then know the exact nature of our danger. We would then renarrate what concerns yourself; you will | commend that all the fire insurance compatell me an untruth, and, therefore, I will nies-the Fire Association, as representing not hear you? If such were the true doc- the interests of the firemen, taking the leadshould meet and resolve to insure no petroleum within those limits, or any building in which it may be either stored or manufactured. The quantity of oil to be kept within these limits should be very small. One of our cotemporaries says there are parties for and against themselves, subject | three hundred and sixty-four petroleum companies, and he recommends they should each one pay \$100 for the relief of these sufferers. Report says the nominal capital nence, to find out the truth? If both tell is one hundred millions of dollars, and, the same story, or if it is told with imma- therefore, it requires popular action to

The whole family of women who were doing the same thing; or suppose one is a burnt consisted of poor people, of whom rogue and the other an honest man—you we know only the names; but suppose treat them as any other two ordinary wit- the family of our richest and most respectnesses of similar character—you believe one able citizens had been the victims, what and not the other, where the variance is would have been done the very next material. But it is objected, if one party is | day? A great public meeting would have dead should you examine the living party? been held, Councils would have met at Certainly you should—always get as much once, the advice of our most eminent countruth as you can. The deceased man may sel would have been taken in addition to be able really to tell nothing, for he may that of the City Solicitor as to the measures have acted by an agent; but whether or to be pursued, the Legislature would have not, why exclude the living witness? It been called upon for the most efficient accould only be on one hypothesis, that he tion, and the whole executive and judicial power would have been invoked, not only Suppose each party has five witnesses; to prevent, but to punish any such infraca similar reason the five living witnesses of | The name of this poor friendless family

A Commission of Relief for the Poor-We have often wondered at the feebleness of the organized efforts which have been put forth by society for the relief of its poor. Even at the present time, when the work of benevolence has been generously enlarged to alleviate the hardships rule of exclusion has many broad and of our armies in the field, it has not with equal assiduity cared for the sufferings of those who are more remotely, but not less certainly, affected by the war. The solendid systems of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, which reach in their operation every camp and hospital, and meet with exquisite precision the wants of a soldier or an army, are, in their own sphere, perfect. But their business stops with the soldier. The sufferings of his family, and of all those upon whom his absence in the field has entailed more or less of hardships, are, with few exceptions, left as before, to the ordinary agencies of benevolence. That the resources of these agencies are unequal to the magnitude of the demands upon them is shown by the reports of every charitable society in our midst. It may be questioned, indeed, whether their separate efforts, however earnestly seconded by the public, will ever effectually meet the exigencies of the evil. Not

and oratorios. ward in the city of Philadelphia. We mean to speak in no sense disparagingstitutions superfluous. But we do mean to mended:

Itime before. The perjury became so clear area of sunering, must be the result of conplece, "The Apprentice who fancied himself a

If possible, the money raised by customs that the counsel of the plaintiff threw up centrated effort. A single reference to the Tragedian," was enough.

named will effectually prove this. Had a separate relief commission been required to be extemporized for every camp and hospital, and for every battle and campaign in the present war, the efficiency gained by wide experience would have been wanting, and the contributions of the benevolent The President, this afternoon, sent to the Senate would have been fewer, because of the the nomination of Senator Morgan, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury, but in the course many and bewildering calls for aid. The funds of the Sanitary and Christian Com-

lars, because it was believed by the donors that every dollar in those treasuries would be expended at the smallest cost, and with the least delay, in precisely that spot of the vast theatre of our military operations where the call for relief was most pressing. What the Sanitary and Christian Commissions are doing for the army we claim should be done by some local commission for the poor of our great city. Let the gentlemen who originated and control those bodies in Philadelphia, and to whom the details of organized effort may be presumed to be familiar, unite in establishing a relief commission in this city. Let a visitor be appointed for each ward, whose duty it shall be to familiarize himself with the special wants of every family and individual in his district who may be suffering from poverty. Let such a history of each case of destitution, thus brought to light, be kept by the society as will determine the kind and extent of the relief to be given, and will show its probable officiency. Let special efforts be put forth to procure employment for those applicants who may be able to labor. For such an enterprise, we admit, the highest prudence and skill, and a liberality which shall compute its offerings by millions, would be required. But we believe that the good which would result, through its instrumentality, to the highest interests of society, would infinitely more than compensate for the outlay. We write earnestly upon this subject, because we feel that the unrelieved suffering of poverty, and the moral degradation which is too often its attendant, are a terrible reproach to the Christianity and philanthropy of the bresent day. The evil is so pressing, and the duty of attempting its amelioration is so clear, that no rightly constituted effort for the performance of that duty

missions have amounted to millions of dol-

can appeal in vain to the community for the necessary aid. The Cabinet. As the fourth of March approaches the rumors of changes in the Cabinet increase. The first step in its reconstruction will follow the resignation of Mr. FESSENDEN. whose successor, Mr. Mongan having de clined the nomination, is not unlikely to be Mr. McCullocu, of Indiana-a man second to none in financial ability and experience. It is certain that we must have a first-rate Secretary of the Treasury. The country has been fortunate in Mr. CHASE and Mr. Fessenden, and it needs their equal in the future. Our financial condition is sound—sound as it can be with a great debt-to keep it so, energy and prudence are needed.

A FEW DAYS AGO, a colored lawyer from Massachusetts was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States. Last Sunday a colored clergyman preached, by invitation of the regular chaplain, in the Hall of the House of Representatives. colored people from the street cars of this city ought to make his people despondent every man is born the heir cannot long be withheld. The spirit of the age is reforming and educating white as well as black men, and neither race can hope to rise by keeping down the other.

MISS ANNA E. DICKINSON has been invited to lecture before the Republican Invinbles, and the title of her address on Friday night is "A Glance at our Future." Cuplace to an earnest desire to profit by her patriotism and eloquence. Women, too frequently, profess that they have nothing to do with politics, but the value of Miss Dickinson's services to the Union ought to be acknowledged as a proof that the responsibilities of loyalty do not rest altogether on one sex, to the exclusion of the

other. Hon. Thomas Holliday Hicks, United States Senator from Maryland, died in Washington, yesterday morning, of a stroke of paralysis, which overtook him on last Friday. He was born in Maryland, and from his earliest childhood manifester ose qualities which at once ornamented the man and made him a successful popular leader. He frequently served with credit in the Legislature of his State, and was elected Governor in 1858. He held this office until 1862, all through the critical time when Maryland, before and after the Sumpter attack, was wavering between truth and perjury, between loyalty and treason. Even when Treason in the very streets of Maryland's metropolis red. dened its hands in the blocd of the first offerings to a holy cause, he was undismayed by the apparent strength of the unruly, and took measures, "sharp and decisive," to crush contention while it was yet a puling babe. Though it was almost death to speak admiringly and lovingly of the old Union, he spoke, and in unmistakable tones too. When the secret commissioners of the Conederacy came to bim to sound him on the sentimen of Maryland, he persistently refused their every advance, and turned a deaf ear to their every argument. If he had but listened to them or if he had made even the most insignificant advance towards their ideas, Maryland might have been voted out of the Union, Washington out off from the North and captured, and President Lincoin's inauguration rendered a necessity in some more Northern city. The effects of the conventions which met in February and March were nullified by his influence, and to him is due the loyal Legislature which met in April and refused to pass a secession ordinance. So admirably did he perform his duty, that the extremists of the State, once with love of the Confederacy at fever-heat, slowly cooled lown, repented of their haste, and accepted the Union as a normal condition—an absolute neces-

In 1862 he left the Gubernatorial chair, and soon was elected Senator, vice James A. Pearce, de-ceased. He took his seat at the 3d session of the 37th Congress, and, his term expiring, was re-elected for the term ending 1867. He was on several important committees in the present Congressional body, among which the Committee on Naval Affairs body, among which the Committee and the Committee on Claims.

The German Opera. pany of Mr. Grover will begin an engagement at the Academy of Music, next Monday, has rejoiced our musical public. We owe the German Company a debt. Without it we should be destitute of opera. The Italian companies have treated Philadelphia with profound contempt, alternating between New York, Boston, and the West, and apparently ignorant that we have the finest opera louse in America, and a public which has never ailed to make the season of a good company sucpany in this city for years, and there is little hope that Maretzek will come in the spring. Thus for all our opera we are dependent on Mr. Grover, and we are glad to see that his announcement promises a season of anusual interest.

The programme contains two works never sung complete in Philadelphia—the "Oberon" of Weber, and the "Mireille" of Gound. The "Tannhauworthy of all study and respect, is also announced. Then we are promised the "Marriage of Figaro," ever fresh and charming, a wilderness of melody; "Fra Diavolō; ? "Les Huguenets," "Robert le Dla-ble," "The Jewess," "Faust," "Don Glovanni," "Der Freischutz," "La Dame Blanche," and impro-

bably, we hope, "Martha." As the season is limit ed to ten nights, we trust one will not be wasted on "Martha," which everybody knows. The company seems stronger than in the recent eason. Mesdames Johannsen, Frederici, and Roi ter are still its leading sopranos, and a new con-traito, Miss Adelina Motte, is announced, with Karl Formes, Hermanns, Habelmann, Himmer, Lehmann, and Steinecke. It appears that we are to have a chorus of forty volces. We have no doubt that the German Opera will obtain a great success, and it should have, not only from its merit, but because without it our musical season would be dependent entirely upon concerts

LAWRENCE'S READINGS -- At the Assembly Buildings, Mr. Philip Lawrence, the well-known teacher of elecution, has given two series of readings and recitations, which were so successful that their repetition is inevitable. He was assisted by his daughter, Mary Lawrence, an intelligent little ganizations. They are, indeed, beyond the need of praise. Nor do we mean to Snow" (by John W. Watson, of New York) was say that any amount of organized effort | recited by her with striking effect—the beauty of the will ever render the labors of existing insay, in the light of the experience afforded by this war, that a system of charity, to be

Howitt's "Spider and the Fly" contrasted with the seriousness of other pieces. Mr. Lawrence, himself, drew tears from bright eyes by Ten WASHINGTON. .

WAGDINGTON FEBRUARY 18. DEATH OF EX-GOVERNOR HICKS. United States Senator Thomas Holliday Higgs, ex-Governor of Maryland, died in this city at 7 o clock this morning. He was struck with paralysis on Friday last. THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

of an hour withdrew it. NOTIFICATION OF RE-ELECTION. Senator TRUMBULL and Representative Wilson, of Iowa, and Dawson, of Pennsylvania, compose the joint committee to wait upon President Lin-COLN and inform him of his re-election, and also notify Andrew Johnson of his election to the Vice Presidency.

THE ALLEGED SALE OF RAMS TO THE REBELS. Further information in reference to the Bordeaux steamers said to have been obtained by the rebels s looked for with interest. The Danish minister, Mr. RAASLOFF, denies the report that the vesse were sold to the rebels by the Danish Government. This information has been obtained from an authentic source. MARINE RAILWAY AROUND NIAGARA FALLS.

At a hearing before the Senate Military Committee to day a proposition was submitted on behalf of reveral capitalists to construct a marine railway und Niagara Falls, at their own expense, capable of transporting the largest vessels employed in the commerce of the lakes, as well as gunboats, be-tween Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, provided the Government, in consideration of the full use of the work forever, will, on the completion of the railway, give to the company its bonds payable in twenty years for \$1,000,000, and also \$300,000 in bonds annually for ten years, after the demonstration of the entire success of the work. The canal bill which recently passed the House proposes a Government loan of \$6,000,000, to be repaid in tolls. REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF HEAVY ORDNANCE.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War, through Senator WADE, have made a report calling attention to three classes of heavy guns. First, those made entirely of cast-iron—the Dahlgren and Rodman guns. Second, those made of cast-iron. and bound with wrought-iron-the Parrott gun. Third, those made entirely of wrought from the Ames gun. The committee say DAHLGREN never received any compensation in the nature of royalty, that PARROTT never charged anything excepting what he deemed a fair manufacturer's profit, and that Ames has made only twenty-one guns for the Government, charging so much a pound for them.

The committee have examined into the bursting of the Parrott guns of large calibre, together with the bursting of some of the cast-iron guns of large calibre, upon the vessels engaged in the operations against Charleston and Fort Fisher, and which has tended to weaken confidence in their durability, and seems to show the necessity of obtaining, if possible, some other gun which can be more implicitly relied on. The bursting of these guns is generally attributed to the premature explosion of shells within the nave of the gun. The committee, in view of all the facts elicited by the testimony, recommend that Congress immediately adopt such measures as will enable the War and Navy Departments to obtain and introduce into the service wrought iron guns, especially of large calibre, at as early a day as possible.

A CONSUL RECOGNIZED. The President has recognized JOHANNES F. SCHRODER as vice consul of Russia at New Or-leans.

THE FREEDMAN'S TRUST COMPANY. Senator Wilson to-day introduced a bill to incorporate the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. It includes as corporators, among others, William Cullen Bryant, Peter Cooper, A. A. Lawbence, and J. Wharton Smith. THE PROPOSED WESTERN NAVY YARD. The commission to select a site for a navy yard and naval denot on the Western waters have reported in favor of Carondelet and Mound City.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS---Second Session. SENATE. MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS

Mr. JOHNSOE, of Maryland, presented the memorial of Chauncey Brooks and other merchants of Baltimore, praying that the bankrupt law do not pass, at least so as to include relief from existing debts.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, presented the memorial of the Boston Board of Trade in favor of a ship canal around Biagara Falls, which was referred to the Militery from mitted. canal around Magara Falls, which was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr JOHNSON presented the petition of Andrew J. Wilcox, of Baltimore, praying that steps be taken for closing the war. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. McRAN, of New York, presented the petition of book and newspaper publishers and printers of Buffelo. askins for the rangal of the duty on articles unselfalo. askins for the rangal of the duty on articles unself. in the manufacture of paper; also, a reduction of the duty on imported paper. Mr. Morgan also presented the petition of citizens of New York city asking for the passage of the bankrupt bill. A MAIL BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. Mr. CONNESS, of California, called up the bill to establish a mail steamship service between the United States and China. It provides that the Postmaster General shall have power to contract with any company who will agree for the lowest price to establish a line of steamships to make twelve (12) round trips between San Francisco and China per year, the contract to go into effect on the first of January. The bill was passed — year 25, nays 11.

THE PREEDMEN'S BUREAU BILL. The special order for half past 12 o'clock being the re-port of the conference committee on the Freedmen's Bureau bill, was then taken up. The report was read. port of the conference committee on the Freedmen's Bureau bill. was then taken up. The report was read. It is as follows:

The first section establishes at the seat of Government a department of freedmen and ahandoned lands, whose object shall be the good of the freedmen and the administration of the lands and other property galling to the Batignal Government in the robel States not here-tolore appropriated to other uses; and this department shall be under the charge of a commissioner, who shall be appointed by the Freedmen, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, at an annual salary of \$4,000. Section 2 anthorizes the commissioner to appoint a chief clerk, and such other clerks as may be necessary. The chief clerk of commissioner shall give bond in the sum of \$100, 100 or the faithful discharge of his duties. Section 3 provides that the commissioner shall, under the direction of the Fresident, create districts of freedmen and abandoned lands within the rebel States, not to exceed two in each State, so far as the same may be brought under the military power of the United States; and each district shall be under the supervision of an assistant commissioner, with an annual salary of \$2,500, to be appointed by the President, and to give bond as required by the chief clerk.

Section a regulates the duties of the commissioner, and provides that every freedmen shall be exercised with regard to him except in conformity with law.

There are fourteen sections in the bill, most of them pertaining to the leasing of grounds, the work of freedmen, &c.

men, &c.

The thirteenth section repeals the last clause of the confiscation bill, which provides that confiscation shall only have effect during the lifetime of the person subjected to it.

REDUCTION OF THE PAPER DUTY.

No action was taken on the above, its consideration having been postponed to give way for Mr. Sherman's motion to take up the House joint resolution reducing the duty on imported paper.

The question was spot the amendment of the Senate Committee of Finance to trike out thirty one and insert fifteen per cent.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, explained that the present duty on foreign paper was twenty per cent. The amount of tax paid by home manufacturers amounted to ten per cent. It was manifest that to reduce the foreign tax to three per cent, would be unjust to home manufacturers. It was said that this three per cent, was equal to six per cent because it was paid in the gold valuation. It was three per cent, was dequal to six per cent because it was paid in the gold valuation. It was three per cent, was to the foreign tent in the committee, of making it ten per cent, which would create a lively competition between home and foreign manufacturers. The committee had overruled him, however, many of the members being opposed to any change whatever. He believed some change ought to be made in the tax, because under the present rate not one pound of paper had been imported. Fifteen per cent, had been adopted as a compromise in the committee, but he thought it would be more just to put it down to ten per cent. The Government, he said, was more interested than any individual; and therefore it was interested in this question. It has been proposed by some to allow the Government to import, free of duty, but this would be regarded as in vidious.

Mr. Olllamer, of Vermont, spoke in favor, of main-REDUCTION OF THE PAPER DUTY. Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, spoke in favor of maintaining the present rate of twerty per cent. as an act of justice and protection to home manufacture.

Mr. WADS, of Ohio, said he and his colleague, Mr. Sherman, had been instructed by the Ohio Legislature to vote for a reduction of the duty. He questioned the right of that body to instruct him on such a subject believed the argument in favor of the reduction of duty on paper would apply equally well to all other articles. He was eposed to opening American manufactures to foreign compelition, believing that if this were done, the country would be deprived of means for paying the pational debt. ing the national debt.

Mr. HALE, of New Hamp hire, was in favor of the indefinite postponement of the resolution so as to leave the duty where it is now, twenty per cent. He made this retire.

this wotion.

Mr. POSTER, of Connecticut, said that in the State of Onio, last year, there had been \$1.808,968 worth paper made, and on this a tax of \$84,269 had been paid This was a great and growing interest and ought to be profected. In whatever light the subject was viewed it must be looked upon as inexpedient to reduce the duty. SHERMAN, of Ohio, hoped the subject would not be indefinitely pistponed, but that it would be met squarely by a frank vote. He was sure that if the State Legislatures had examined the tariff law they would not have voted as they had in favor of a repeal of the duty. Paper, ne said, had not increased in price more than other articles. It had only followed the invariable standard of yalue, which was gold. He had examined this subject carefully, and had found that it would be unwise and unjust to reduce the duty to three per cent.

would be unwise and unjust to reduce the duty to three per cent.

The amount of paper manufactured in the United states was \$107,000,000 worth for the year. On this there was collected an internal tax of \$10,000,000. If the duty were placed at three per cent, there would be imported about \$42,000,000 worth in gold, on which the Government would receive about \$1,250,000 in revenue. This would be a loss to the Government of the difference between \$10,000,000 in paper money and \$1,20,000 in gold.

The motion to indefinitely postpone was decided in the negative—yeas 14, nays 25:

TRAS.

[Collamer. [Sprague.] NAYS. Mr. LANE, of Indiana, offered an amendment to strike out fitteen, and insert ten per cent. After some remarks from Metsra. LANE, of Indiana, and JOHNNON, Mr. Lane's amendment was rejected: Hendricks,
Howard,
Lane (Indiana),
Morgan,
Nesmith,
Pomeroy,
NAYS.

YEAS. Foster, Harris, Harris, Henderson, Howe, Johnson, Morrill, Fye, Pomeroy, Ramsay, Biddle, NAYS. Sprague, Stewart, Sumner, Ten Eyek, Van Winkle, Wade, Willey, Wilson.

The Question was then taken on the final passage of the resolution as amended, to strike out 3 and insert 16 per cent, and it was decided in the affirmative—reas 21, any a 19.

The Senate then went into executive session, and scon after adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. On motion of Mr. SOHENCK, of Ohio, a joint reso-tion was adopted a propriating \$25,000 for a contract of the William H. Powell to paint a picture illustrative

Howard, Lane (Ind.), Morgan, Powell,

Richardson, Sauleburg, Trumbuli, Wilkinson.

of come naval victory, to be placed at the head of the grand stairway of the Capitol. ANOTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Mr. CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, presented a pream ble and recolutions of the Phitadelphia Board of Trade, favoring an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which will confer on Congress the power to assess duties on exports. Referred to the Generation of Commerce.

SAD CONDITION OF NEGROES IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. ARLEY, of Obio, offered a preamble deciring Mr. ASPLEY, of Ohio, offered a preamble declaring

The Connection of the Prisoners with Re-

that Whereas, In consequence of the rebellion, and since the proclamation of emancipation, a large number of persons of color have been brought from the States of Maryland, Virginia, and other States, and left in and around the national capital:

And whereas, it is reported that many of them have died for want of food:

And whereas, it is reported that from ten to twenty And whereas, It is reported that many of them have died for want of food:
And whereas, it is reported that from ten to twenty thousand are in the service of the United States and fighting in defence of the Government; therefore a Revolued. That the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the truth of the said reports, and that the committee report what action, if any, is necessary in the premises, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. The resolution was agreed to.

USE OF THE HALL GEANTED.
On motion of Mr. SPAULDING, the use of the hall

On motion of Mr. SPAULDING, the use of the hall of the House of Representatives was granted to the Ma-tional Freedman's Relief Association for next Sunday PEACE MEASURES RECOMMENDED Mr. JOHN L. DAWSON, of Peansylvania, offered the following:

Whereas, The American people have now been engaged in a civil war of gigantic dimensions for nearly four years, which has resulted in frightful destruction of life, property, and treasure, creating an enormous public debt, imposing the most oppressive taxes, covering the land with affliction, corrupting the general morals, and putting in perit the liberties of the nation; and whereas, on the part of the United States, and the people of the States which athere to their Government, this is and ought to be a war colely to vindicate the Constitution and restore the laws to their just supremacy, to that we are bound by our caths and by our solemn pledges, made in the face of the world when the war commenced: therefore,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to use all honorable and just means to bring about a lasting reace and the re-establishment of fratornal relations, among all the people, by a restoration of the Union upon the simple and just basis of the Constitution and laws, with every proper guarantee to the Scuthern States that they shall be presented in the full enjoyment of their rights and in that undisturbed control of their own local affairs which the Federal Constitution was like indeed to secure to them and us.

On motion of Mr. THATEK, of Fennsylvania, the resolution was laid on the table-yeas 73, nays 43. Mr. JOHN L. DAWSON, of Pennsylvania, offere

YEAS. McGiurg,
McIndoe,
Miller (N. Y.),
Moorhead,
Morrill,
Morris (N. Y.),
Myers,
O'Neill (Pa.),
Orth, NAYS. elson. 'Neill (Ohio), teale (N. J.), PEACE MEASURES NOT RECOMMENDED.

PRACE MEASURES NOT REGOMMENDED.

Mr. WILLIAMS, of Pennsylvanis, offered a series of resolutions declaring that there is no power under the Constitution which warrants us to treat with the Southern States, either for the severance of the Union or the alteration of any article of the fundamental law; that inasmuch as said Confederate States have taken up arms against the Government of the United States without just provocation, and for the exowed purpose of asserting and maintaining their independence, and still persist by armed resistance to the authority of the United States; and whereas, our public authorities have declared it was their duty to decline to accept of any terms or anything short of absolute sub mission to its laws; and whereas, with a magnanimity almost onsurpassed, an amnesty was promised to all excepting the chief conspirators, it is hereby declared that the Government has already exhausted all the resources of a just and whice a statesmansle, except as far as regards an earnest and vigorous prosecution of the war, to effect a restoration of peace, and to that end has done all that a proper regard to our interests allows, and which a decent respect to the optinons of the world could demand; and therefore, no further overtures, public or private, official or unofficial, looking to a treaty or compromise with the conspirators at Richmond, should be made, as this would be inconsistent with our rights and disnity, and expose us to misconception as to our ability to compel the rebels to obedience.

necience. On motion of Mr. RLDRIDGE of Wisconsin the reso-utions were laid upon the table—yeas 71, nays 52. YEAS.



The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the amendatory revenue bill.

Mr. NELSON, of New York, moved an amendanent to tax maple sugar and maple molasses. In this connection he referred to the fact that the yield was thirtynine millions of gallons annually.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, said the remarks of the gentleman were intended to be sweet on him, but he would remind him that New York produces more sorghum than Vermont. This proposition was debated, among others, by Mr. Stevens, who said if the gentleman would go to the labor of abstracting the sap of the maple, and bolling it all day, he would think he had been taxed enough.

Mr. Melalo Ry. of Kentucky, thought the gentleman from New York (Mr. Nelson) used microscople power to find out what satticles should be taxed; but this sorghum abould not be taxed.

Mr. Nelson's amendment was disagreed to.

Mn. Nelson's amendment was disagreed to.

Mn. Nelson's amendment, or volumes containing only parts of either, and prayer-books, from any duty or tax. These were agreed to. The same section also exempts from duty or tax arithmetics, spelling-books, grographles, grammars, and school-books of the kinds used in common and primary schools, and all books printed exclusively for the use of Sunday schools; provided this chall not apply to books valued at more than the observables. The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union on the amendatory re

THE LEGISLATURE. HARRISBURG Feb. 13, 1865. SENATE.

EVENING SESSION. Mr. DUNLAP read a supplementary act giving the Reading and Columbia Company the right to extend their road to Safe Harbor.

Mr. WILSON read a bill authorizing the Bric Mining Company to bnild lateral roads.

The following bills passed: A bill fining persons who sell diluted or adulterated milk to cheese and butter nanufacturers; a bill incorporating the Titusville Gas and Water Company.

and Water Company.

HOUSE.

Mr GOCHBAN, of Philadelphia, offered a resolution recalling a bill regulating the storage of petroleum in Philadelphia. from the custody of the Governor, for amendment Agreed to.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. SMITH. a bill allowing insurance companies of Pennsylvania to increase their capital stock. Passed.

Mr. MILLER called up an act providing for the examination of teachers by the Board of Controllers, requiring certificatesof capacity Passed.

Mr. RUDDIMAN, a bill creating fifteen Guardians of the Proy, instead of twelve, and taking the appointing power ont of the hands of the Eupreme Gourt.

Mr. COCHBAN, a bill allowing the New Boston Coal and Pennsylvania, Quartz Company to increase their capital stock.

Mr SUTPHIN, a bill vecating Montromary street. cepital stock.
Mr. RUTPHIN, a bill vacating Montgomery street
below Beach.
Mr. PANCOAST, a bill incorporating the West
Orack Manufacturing Company.

The Impending Draft. Special Despatch to The Press.] HARRÍSBURG, Feb. 13.

Mr. Hall and the rest of the Senate committee nave just returned from Washington, where they conferred with the Secretary of War and General Fry, who gave the following information to them: To promise was made that the draft will be postponed, but it will not take place on Wednes-day in districts where recruiting is going on brisk-ly. The statements contained in Governor Curtin's Attorney General Speed, General Delafield, and Colonel Foster, who will make a report. The 25 per cent. of which New York was relieved is now regarded as only temporary, but, if permanent, Pennsylvania will receive the same favor. The Washngton authorities contend that Pennsylvania quota is right as it stands, and that the New York uota is right without 25 per cent. diate and rapid recruiting alone can save s from a draft.

MISSOURI. PERSIDENT LINCOLN'S ACTIONS ENDORSED BY THE STATE CONVENTION. ST. Louis, Feb. 13.—The State Convention to day unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the action of the President in the late peace conference, and pledging the loyal people of Missouri to sustain the Government to the last extremity in prosecuting the war till peace shall be established or conquere apon the basis of the instructions contained in Mr Lincoln's note to Secretary Seward. THE MARKETS. Flour flat. Wheat quiet; prime \$1.90. Corriull at \$1.15@1.22. Oats lower at 99c. Whisky

NEBBASKA. THE INDIAN TROUBLES—SKIRMISHES AND PIGHTS WITH THE INDIANS. OMAHA CITY, N. T., Feb. 12 .- The telegraph is igain working to Denver City. Indians in small bands are at different points all along the road from Fort Kearney westward. The train to-day has gone up the North Platte river. Joionel Collins, with his command, has had a series of engagements with the Indians between Jules burg and Loraine, which lasted for six days. The Indians are estimated to number two thou while our soldiers number only about two hundred not sufficient to follow and chastise the Indians

The Weather. HALIPAX, N. S., Feb. 13, A. M .- A furious northeast gale commenced this morning, and still continues. At 12 o'clock about six inches of snow had fallen. Another Repentant Rebel.—The St. Louis Republican says: "Andrew J. Donelson, who will be remembered as a prominent citizen of Tennessee, and who was a candidate for the Vice Presidency on the ticket with Millard Fillmore in 1857 recently came within the Federal lines at Nastville, took the amnesty cath, and has since been privileged to go where he pleased in that State without let or hindrance from the Federal authorities. During his term in Diric he did not enter into either the civil or military service of the rebels, and did not compromise himself in support of the cause of sneession further than circumstances compelled. He passed Cairo a few days ago, bound to Bolivar, Mississippi, where he owns two or three plantations. Nothing remains of them, we believe, but the land, the negroes, stock, and improvements having all been awapt away by the ravages of war,"

THE ST. ALBAN'S RAIDERS' TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COURT.

bel Schemes. MORTERAL, Feb. 13.-In the St. Albans case today several witnesses testified that the prisoners were in the Confederate service. Their commission vas sworn to as genuine. One of the witnesses testified that a majority of the prisoners had been at Chicago, where fitty or sixty. Confederate soldiers had collected to release the risoners at Camp Douglas.

This expedition falling, two others were organized, one of which was the St. Albans raid. This vitness said they were instructed to report to C. C. Olay, the Confederate Commissioner in Canada. The court then adjourned. Heavy Bank Robbery at Providence, R. PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 13.—The Traders' Bank of this city was entered by burglars some time be-tween Saturday night and Monday morning, and a

orging to the bank were stolen. It is stated that Burning of a United States Laboratory ASTORIA, L. I., Feb. 13.—The U. S. Laborator at this place was burned this morning. The los

arge amount of Government bonds, some \$15,000

elonging to different parties, and \$6,000 in gold be-

NEW YORK CITY.

(Correspondence of The Press. ] New York, Feb. 13, 1865. THE BALL SEASON,
to far as balls of a public nature are concerned, has
not been so brilliant as those of past years. In numper they show a marked decrease. The bal masqu has, however, grown in favor among social circles and we find it to some degree transplanting the more rigid Palpable ball. The Arion Masque this year has been remarkably successful, and everything seems to point to an abandonment of the old conventional affair, so far as it is feasible. The indication suggests our progress under the rules of European fachion. A few years ago our ladies neverdreamed of adhering rigidly to the "etiquette of dress." yet now there is a certain morning carriage habit for them, and a certain afternoon carriage habit, which differ essentially from the street habit This propriety of dress bids fair to become a despotism, and one naturally sighs Alas! (although Kinglake has told us that no one ever says alas! except in print) as he sees the fairest of the fair go by in her phaston, bolt upright, and clothed with marvellous precision, gotten up for the occasion like one of Madame Tussaud's wax works represen ing the "Frightful Example" of our best society.

FASHTONS we represent, unfortunately, only the third-hand. We take from the English what the English have taken from the French. The present promenade dress is absolutely touching. What impenetrable mysteries of Back Hair! What sinuous cataclysms of curls (false)! What mere shreds and figments of bonnets! What hair-lip style of looping the dress! What destructive style of balmoral shoes, covering the most ultimate of monad-ic feet!

The above is the best that a correspondent car (whatever a correspondent might) do. As for flour dering among the perplexities of "guipure," of "melon pouffs," of "Faust-shaped bonnets," the thing were impossible; the case is not a supposable one. A correspondent among "filutions" and "tulle skirts," is what a correspondentess would be amid the dismal horrors of sines, cosines, and in-Let us remark the fact that, twelve months ago,

English ladies visiting these shores were the cynosure of eyes impertmently curious if they ventured upon Broadway or Fifth avenue; and simply be ause their style of dress was almost the archetype of that style which now obtains so extensively amo our own Pearls above Price, and wins the perturbabl hearts of the young sprigs of our pay-Nobility.

LITERARY MATTERS.

The science of new publications is being forgotten; we are now at the ebb-tide of the season. Nevertheless, there is a desultory scrimmage kept up between aggressive authors and an outraged and used-up public. Most of the volumes now put forth from the press are at the expense of authors, pub lishers not caring to risk their capital in venture put forth by untried aspirants for fame. There are at least, two of our most popular firms, indeed, who in reality publish scarcely more than one-tenth the works which are ostensibly published by them merely lending their names and selling the volume The Appletons have just issued a volume b 'Samuel Ward," entitled "Lyrical Recreations.

Samuel Ward's name is not in the Directory as On dit, that an author of repute, traveller, po and novelist, has thrown himself into the arms of the artists, and is to devote a portion of his time and activities to painting.

DRAFT MATTERS.

There is something of a "rampage" evident among our supervisors, incident to the recent and continuing arrests made by Oolonel Baker, the War Department detective. Said supervisors. like Mrs. M., who always declared that she "would no forsake Mr. Micawber," are protesting their inno cence in the matter of false enlistments before any one inculpated them. To add to the snare, Supervisor Blunt, of patriotic and alleged "\$50,000 gift" renown, has been denounced in the Legislature for "having stolen Governor Fenton's thunder," and receiving public thanks which belonged to that official according to all proprieties.

The Common Council has passed an ordinance to prevent the enlistment in this city of men designated for other countles or States, or the seduction from the city of men to serve as substitutes in other

than \$5,000, and imprisonment for not more than one ear or less than six months. BANK STATEMENT.

Statement of the condition of the New York canks for the week ending February 13, 1865: Loans Decrease \$120,000 Circulation Decrease 40,000

THE EVENING STOOK BOARD.

10 P. M.—Gold, 207½; sales after call at 208½; closing at 207½. Stocks strong; ten-forty coupons, 102½; New York Central, 107½; Erie, 77½; Hudson Railroad, 109½; Reading, 115½; Michigan Southern, 71½; Pittsburg and Cleveland, 84; Rock Island & Chicago, 97½; Ohicago and Northwestern, 25½; de preferred, 65½; Fort Wayne and Chicago, 96; Cumberland, 61; Mariposa, 12½. MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

Arrived—Ship Corea, from Foo Chow. Below—Ship Albert, Hamburg. Spoken 21st, lat. 23 30, long. 61 06, ship O. C. Duncan, Queenstown for New York.

Negro Troops in the Rebel Army. The project of filling up the ranks of the rebe armies with slaves is meeting with a great deal of favor even among the most prominent men of the Confederacy. Benjamin, in his speech before the ensample of the ideas and arguments of those favo able to the new policy. He said:

ensample of the ideas and arguments of those favorable to the new policy. He said:

I will now call your attention to some figures, which I wish you to seriously ponder. In 1860, the South had 1,664,000 arms bearing men. How many men have the Yankees sent against us? In 1861, 664,000; in 1862, 740,000; in 1863, 700,000; in 1863, 700,000; in 1864, they called out 1 500,000. Here you have the figures that they brought out 3,000,000 men, against 1,664,000 Confederates, who lived at the beginning of the war to draw the sword in their country's service. Our resources of white population have greatly diminished; but you had 680,000 black men of the same ages; and could Divine prophecy have told us of the fierceness of the enemy's death-grapple at our throats—could we have known what we now know, that Lincoln has confessed that without the 200,000 negroes which he stole from us he would be compelled to give up the contest, should we have entertained any doubt upon the subject?

I feel that the time is rapidly coming on when the people will wonder that they ever doubted. Let us say to every negro who wishes to go into the ranks on condition of being made free: "Go and right; you are free." If we press them they will go against us. We know that every one who could right for his freedom has had no chance. The only side that has had the advantage of this element is the Yankee—a people that can beat us to the end of the year in making bargains. Let us imitate them in this; I would imitate them in nothing else. My own negroes have been to me and said: "Master, set us free, and we will fight for you; we had rather fight for you than for the Yankee." But suppose it should not be so, there is no harm in trying. With all my early attachments and prejudices, I would give up all. It can only be done by the States separately. The Cost of Peace in Europe. Those who are alarmed atithe expense of carry-

ing on the war against rebellion in this country, may find comfort in the following extract from the Paris Siècle. While we are temporarily compelled to expend our money, in order that a permanent and prosperous condition of affairs may be re-established, the mere maintenance of a factitious peace among the jealous nations of Europe causes a constant and enormous outlay. The Siècle says: stant and enormous outlay. The Sizele says:

"In spite of the assurances which are given to us on the maintenance of peace, it is difficult to close one's eyes upon the feelings which animate the governments one toward another. Distrust is the rule of conduct. Not one of them thinks of attacking his neighbor, but all arm themselves for defence. The misfortune is, that defensive armaments cost as much as offensive armaments, and as the expenses which result from these warlike precautions weigh heavily upon the peoples, I would not be surprised to find out that these should desire war through a love for peace. The peace that we enjoy, this armed peace, costing annually four or five thousand millions of france to Europe, resembles war so much that a good war which would lead to a solid peace, to a disarmed peace, would certainly be preferable. Europe presents the spectacle of a slok man whom physicians would recommend to expect his cure from chance: 'You are slok, be patient; you suffor, wait; and no other prescriptions. Iff politicians were to proceed scientifically, the remedy would seen be found. Europe is sick, they would say, and she is sick because her constitution is vittated by the diet to which she has been subjected so many years; let us change this diet. But politicians are prudent men; they proceed slowly and wisely; they do not want to kill the patient; they much prefer to let him die!"

What They Say in Richmond. Democritus, surnamed "The Laughing Philosopher," might take some lessons in ironical mirthfulness from the Richmond papers at this time. The editors find in the slightest victory and the greatest defeat of the Confederate armies a like advantage editors find in the slightest victory and the greatest defeat of the Confederate armies a like advantage to their cause, and declare that even the capture of Fort Fisher was a blessing in disguise!

At this moment they are occupied mainly in discussing the various peace embassies, and are resolute in urging a prosecution of the war, unless Southern independence is recognized. The Examiner says: "Better go down fighting, better be subjugated and conquered, than live to recollect that we brought ruin upon our heads by deceptive reconstruction." The Scatinel says: "Let us keep clearly in view that independence, to maintain which we drew the sword, and listen to no suggestion of its compromise as the price of peace." The Whig says: "In the South, peace means separation and independence." The Disputch has an article showing that "the independence of the Confederacy is necessary to the prosperity of the middle and lower classes." It declares with commendable audacity that, "if slavery is removed the poor whites are ruyaed!" The Excitate! is most blood-thirsty. It oppyses compromise. Its voice is still for war. Denotating submission, it exclaims with irresistible mov.k dignity—The past at least is secure!" A poor fune who has invested his fortune in a lottery and of awn a blank, exclaims "The past is secure!" A prom-ruined seedy rascal, pawning his last shirt for a collars, to spend in grog, exclaims "The past is secure!" A rim-ruined seedy rascal, pawning his last shirt for a collars, to spend in grog, exclaims "The past is secure!" A property for tune, high prospect, and honorable fame, is involved in the past of the Consequence.

ize. It affords such a retrospect as the oriminal when the rops is instended to the cap drawn over his eyes. Yet are the cap drawn over his eyes. Yet are circumstances, wretches here been known a jeet and leap into eternity with a lis on a jeet and leap into eternity with a lis on a Perin ps it is not of much consequent Richmonal editors say, for it is questionable they represent the opinions of the Confederation they represent the opinions of the Confederation they represent the opinions of the Confederation of the their campaigns with great vitor thousand miles from the scene of action deliberate aim at the enemy. The argument deliberate aim at the enemy. The argument lows in blue—the men who have to do the low to the for it. When such an argument is by the Confederacy we shall begin to think without absolute subjugation in 10.1 in Meantime, without thinking that the without thinking that the will lest this generation, and that it will net unanother year.—Johnstown (Pa.) Triouse.

"The Press" Belief Fand SUBSCRIPTIONS IN AID OF THE SUPPRESS

The following contributions in aid of the by the late confingration have been receive office since the report of yesterday. The many residents of our city who will proble the list of contributions to the charitable. The sufferers have been temporarily relies, this is not enough. Quite a number of the sons, husbands, and fathers in the army the sons.

Miss S. Wister.... Thomas Potter
Henry & Bower
J. A. Tilge
Miss Hannah Walker
Mrs. Gebhard Haires

School ...... Field & Cogley.. Sterling & Frank... Cash... Mrs. De Benneville C. T. W..... J. W. Wilson

. H. Yarnall. A. H. Yarnan.
B. D. Yarnan.
B. D. Yarnan.
Mrs. James C. Fisher, two
okothing, and
Mrs. H. K.
John Gilbert.
Royal & Royer. Royal & Royer.

W. H. C.
John Pearce.
John Beckenbach, from the Employees of the Ninth ward Gas Works.

Three little boys—G. W. J., 10 years.

A. R. J. 8 years.

S. H., one bundle clothing and.

Amount previously reported.

Public Entertainments FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SUFFRERS.—We the pleasure of announcing that Mr. A. Casabusiness manager for Miss Lucille Western win the city last evening, and has already may rangements for the substantial benefit of the ers by the late disastrous configuration, as a superior of the substantial benefit of the substantial be seen by his card in another column. Missl. Western has tendered her valuable services is needy, and is to appear on Saturday afternoon at the Academy of Music, in "East Lynne; a Elopement." Mrs. Garrettson's entire one from the Walnut-street Theatre, have volume and their services are placed at the disposal Western by that popular manageress. It understood that the directors of the Academ

not make any charge for the rent of the his THE BENEFIT FOR THE SUPPERERS by the fire, to be given at the Walnut street Theatre afternoon, should be liberally patronized by all feel any sympathy fer the houseless, the wider the orphan. The entire proceeds, without a duction, will be applied to the noble object of a lng the families rendered destitute by the event which has sent a thrill of horror through community. Mrs. Garrettson has generously: the use of the theatre, Mr. Frank Drew will form one of his best characters, and every p connected with the establishment will gratule ald in making the occasion worthy of the or Let there be a crowded house, and let these cannot attend personally at least buy a ticket Mrs. John Draw has voluntarily tendere ervices and theatre for the benefit of the sub by the coal-oil fire. Wed: for the desired object. The attractions as "Arch" on this occasion will be very great. entire receipts will be contributed to the fund. NATIONAL CIRCUS.—The renowned equest James Melville, made his first appearances circus last evening. He is a great hor

Dan Rice's engagement will close on Saturda; ning next. ONE of the erratic New York amusement wa thus announces a new attraction on the part of Strakosch:

Stop a minute.

I have forgotten something.

I have forgotten to say that chief among groups to come is a very wonderful young who has been brought over from Europe by Strakosch. Her name is Helene De Katowshe pisys on the volineedle, an instrument usually requires a giant's strength and three to "handle" properly. Midlie. Helene plays I vinely.

Max has brought her from the eternal snor Russia for us. This was good for her, it is goo. Russia for us. This was good for her, it is good us.

We must all go Monday week to Niblo's Sato welcome this wonderful maiden.

She is the syren who fiddled, not exactly a Rome was burning, but while Victor Hugo was posing "Les Miserable." Yes, that sublime they say, was written under the influence of the Helene's outrancing melody.

Wherever "Les Miserables" drags in intertherefore, we shall have to ascribe the dulies three moments when Helene's fingers grew and her music slacked off.

In addition to Mdile. Helene, Strakosch brought over a wonderful and original phammed Wikhii.

They are both to go on a concert tour amorginalives, beginning, as I have said, with the

THE recent performance of the "Stabat Mil by the Handel and Haydn Society, was such a cess musically and in patronage that it dee to be repeated. Many people were unable to seats. If nothing better can be effected, exthis valuable Society repeat the "Stabat Matis third concert?"

LARGE SALE OF BOOTS AND SHOES,-The: attention of purchasers is requested to the larger sortment of boots, shoes, brogans, army goods embracing samples of 1.100 packages of first seasonable goods, of city and Eastern max ture, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, or months' credit, commencing this morning, co'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., suctioneers. 232 and 234 Market street. 👉 \$58,000 BORDS NORTH BRANCH CANAL

row noon, at the Exchange, will be \$58,000 but the North Branch Canal Company. CITY ITEMS. OPENING OF WENDEROTH, TAYLOR, & BE NEW GALLERY OF PAINTING AND PHOTOGES

-We have the pleasure of announcing the new rooms, No. 914 Chestnut street, are now. The old friends of the establishment, and the generally, are respectfully invited to visit this gallery, where will be found not only every. that is beautiful in our line of art, but every fort and elegance of arrangement for the gratt WENDEROTH, TAYLOR, & BROWN.
914 Chestnut stre NOTICE-CHANGE,-Owing to changes p

taking place, it is our intention to realize at on our elegant stock of Mon and Boys' Cloand Furnishing Goods. We therefore offer the entire stock of our ! amounting to consisting of winter, spring, and summer class at a large reduction from present prices. order in our best styles at the same libers! 5 ment in price. WANAMAKER & BROWN

Our fine stock of place goods will be III fe9-5t S. E. corner Sixth and Market A BIG PILE OF BAGGAGE.—The Eastern Ril took to Portland, Maine, a few days ago, a mile a boy with seventeen heavy trunks, and ever guessed that some big thing or other was gold the Southern Confederacy, via Halifax. On Section 1988 ing the baggage it turned out that the owners were harmless travellers who had become lighted with the elegant garments made a Brown Stone Clothing Hall of Rockhill & they got seventeen trunks full of them.

FIRST-CLASS CLOTHING AT CHAS. STOKES AT First-class Clothing at Chas. Stokes & Co \* One Price, One Price, Ready-made and made to order, Ready-made and made to order, Under the "Continental."

Under the "Continental." SKATING, SKATING !- ON PHILADELPHI! THIRTY-PIRST AND WALRUT STREETS PIRST DAY OF THE SEASON.—The great Sunday, the 12th, has all been removed, of the patent snow ploughs. The ice 12 planed and is in splendid condition. Bay 101 day and night. Park open until 16 0 closs

THE BEAUTY OF THE HAIR, In HE pristing and natural color, may be preserved to 5 5 age. Its premature decay and lo se may Even after the Hair has begun to perish po the natural functions may be re stored, and be healthful and luxurient again, by consults.

Astley, who has recently cor ne to our difference of the store of the

healthful and luxuriant again, by come Astley, who has recently cor no to our of opened offices at 1838 Chastan is street, for the ological treatment of the Sulp and Hair. Office hours for ladies for m 9 A. M. to 17. Office hours for gentless on from 2 to 6 P. M. WILMER ATRINSOR & CO., No. 611 street (2d floor), are as onts for advertising in leading newspapers y , the United States on file at the office. FURS AT COST.—Squirrel Muffs \$3 to \$15.

\$12 to \$15. Mby k Muffs \$10 to \$20, wolfd

30. Closing ov t balance of our furs at one
do not intend to carry any over.

[613-6t]

CHARLES OARFORD & H. WEED SROTH, TAYLOR, & BROWN'S NO. 214 Chestres LERY, No. 914 Chestnut street, will be until 8% P. M. for the present. DIL LANDS FOR SALE.-Companie Ranking see advertisoment in another column