Pittsburgh Gazette.

VOLUME LXXXIII. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1868. NUMBER 303.

FIRST EDITION.

TWELVE O'CLOCK M.

FROM EUROPE.

The War Cloud in Turkey and Greece—Hostilities Not Yet Commenced—Rumors of Negotiations for a Settlement of Difficulties—Cortez Elections in Spain Progressing Quietly—Minister Johnson and the Alabama Claims.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

TURKEY.

LONDON, December 19.—Dispatches from Constantinople report that the Turkish Commander, Omer Pasha, has been forbidden by his Government to invade Grecian territory, unless armed bands of Greeks pass the Thessalian frontier.

PARIS, December 19.—The *Moniteur* has the following details of the Erosis affair: The Erosis answered Hobert Pasha's signal with a shot, and sought immediate refuge in the port of Syria, where she was blockaded by vessels of the Turkish fleet. Hobert Pasha announced his willingness to abandon the blockade on condition that the Erosis should be escorted to Athens by a Grecian frigate, and there await the result of judicial proceedings for the outrage committed.

The following dispatch has just been received, bearing date of Constantinople, Dec. 19th: The Greek Ambassador in this city to-day demanded of the guaranteeing powers the protection of Greek subjects in Constantinople. The French Ambasador, on the part of his government, declined to move in the matter. The Porte demands the banishment of all Greeks from Bulgaria and Belgrade.

It is said the Russian Government has sent a note to the French Government in relation to the questions at issue between Greece and Turkey. Telegrams from St. Petersburg say Russia and other Great Powers agree that both the Porte and Greece should delay action for five days in order that negotiations for a settlement of the question may be attempted.

The public newspaper says the Envoys of Turkey and Greece have not left their respective posts at Athens and Constantinople.

The *Patrie* says the naval commanders have been instructed, if they can help it, to avoid a struggle with the Turkish vessels, which would at present only weaken the Grecian cause. The same journal says the Athenians are exultant over the prospective war with Turkey, while deputations from Naupalia, Patras, Corfu and Corinth protest against the action of the government as ruinous to Greece. The Athenians expect a revolt by the Greeks in the Turkish provinces of Thessaly and Macedonia.

The latest advices from Athens state that the government of Greece has not yet taken steps of a defensive character.

The *Moniteur* says the Powers who signed the treaty of 1856 continue to urge conciliation on both the Greek and Turkish Governments.

The *Patrie* asserts that the Porte will submit to the Great Powers documentary proofs that Greece intended to incite insurrection in the Turkish Islands and then take possession of them.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 18.—The Greeks in this city ask the privilege of remaining here in case of hostilities between the two countries, agreeing to preserve a strict neutrality. A corps has been organized and is ready to proceed to Greece at short notice. Turkey continues tranquil.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, December 19.—The *Times* in commenting on the speech recently delivered by Reverdy Johnson at the Birbeck Institution, says: "The sum of Mr. Johnson's policy is, that trifles must not prevent the preservation of peaceful relations between England and America." The *Times* hints that the American obstacles to the treaty should, therefore, be withdrawn.

LONDON, December 19.—Mr. Laird publishes his correspondence with Reverdy Johnson to-day. Mr. Laird made the first friendly advances in acts before the Liverpool banquet. Mr. Laird invited Johnson to visit him to hear the former's wishes for a lasting peace. Mr. Johnson could not accept the invitation for lack of time, closing his note as follows: "Notwithstanding you sympathized with my Southern brethren during the war, I shall have much pleasure in making your acquaintance, and hear your sincere wishes for peace."

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The latest news from the east is more pacific. The Government at Athens, which has hitherto been swept along by the popular eagerness for war with the Turks, is now disposed to listen to the protests of European powers. This disposition, strengthened by the rapidly growing sentiment in favor of peace, may avert war, if the Sublime Porte will grant time for further negotiation. It is understood the western powers sustain the Sultan's ultimatum to Greece, while the Russian interest of the Greeks will seek to modify the terms.

A rumor which prevailed in Paris yesterday that the Russian government had sent an unfavorable note to France on the eastern question, proves to have been a canard, invented to depress the market.

The foreboding allusion to the eastern question, made by Lord Stanley on the 13th of November, in his speech to his constituents at Lynn, is regarded as one of the secondary causes of the crisis in the East.

SPAIN.

MADRID, December 19.—It has been decided that the Cadiz insurgents are to be tried by a Council of War, but that in no case will the extreme penalty, death, be inflicted.

The elections for members of the Cortez are proceeding in incorporated cities. There has been no disorder. A large majority of those elected are favorable to the formation of monarchial form of government. The Government authorizes the statement that the treaty of peace with Chili may be considered an accomplished fact.

MADRID, December 20.—A riot broke out at Toros, in the Province of Zamora, caused by the hostility of some of the people to the organization of the National Guard in the town. It was quickly suppressed by the authorities.

The *Correspondencia* asserts that the Carlists have formed a deep and widespread conspiracy for the possession of the Government and that they only await the breaking out of the strife between the Liberal parties of the country to develope their designs.

FRANCE.

PARIS, December 20.—Ex-Queen Isabella of Spain has made a visit to the Emperor at the Tuilleries.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

[THIRD SESSION.]

SENATE: Georgia Reconstruction—Reapportionment of Congressional Representation—Rent of Libby Prison—Duty on Fire Arms—Motion to Take Up Copper Tariff Bill Lost—Proceeds of Sale of Confederate Steamers. HOUSE Not in Session.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1868.

SENATE.

Mr. POMEROY introduced a bill to provide for the re-assembling of the Constitutional Convention of Georgia, and instructing it to amend the Constitution so as to place beyond all possible doubt the right of every citizen of the State, black or white, to hold office.

The bill requires the re-assembling of the Constitutional Convention within thirty days after its passage, and provides that the amendment shall become part of the Constitution upon its approval by Congress. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. HARLAN offered a resolution requesting the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the re-apportionment of Representatives in Congress, in accordance with section second of the Fourteenth Amendment. Adopted.

Mr. HOWE offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to inform the Senate whether any rent had been paid for Libby prison at Richmond, and to whom and by what authority.

Mr. SPRAGUE offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of allowing the importation free of duty of fire arms to be again exported after receiving American improvement.

Mr. CHANDLER moved to take up the House bill fixing the duty on copper, &c.

After discussion the motion to take up the bill was lost—22 yeas to 25 nays.

Mr. NYE presented the credentials of Mr. Gilbert, Senator elect from Florida. Laid on the table.

Mr. MORRILL, Me., offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate whether any instructions had been given to proceedings instituted to prevent payment to Laird & Co., builders of the Alabama, of the proceeds of the steamer Wren, built by them for the Confederate Government, and now in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer at New York, and to secure the payment of the proceeds of said steamer to owners of vessels destroyed by the Alabama. Adopted.

Adjourned.

THE INDIAN WAR.

The Recent Battle With Black Kettle's Band—Information from General Sheridan.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

ST. LOUIS, December 19.—A letter from General Sheridan, dated Depot on the Canadian River, December 3d, was received at General Sherman's headquarters to-day. It gives information derived from Black Kettle's sister by General Sheridan, in substance as follows: The Indians were encamped, first, Black Kettle and other Chiefs of Cheyennes and a small party of Sioux, in all thirty-seven lodges; eight miles down the Washita were all the Arapahoes and seventy additional lodges of Cheyennes, also Kiowas; then Apaches and Camanches. While thus encamped war parties were sent out composed of Cheyennes, Kiowas and Arapahoes. They went north in the direction of Fort Larned, and there was still out another party composed of Cheyennes and Arapahoes, the returned trail of which led General Custar into Black Kettle's village. This party brought back three scalps one of which was that of an expressman killed and horribly mutilated between Forts Dodge and Larned, just before Sheridan left the former fort. The mail he was carrying was found in Black Kettle's camp. Another party was mixed, and went in the direction of Fort Lyon, and are still out. About the time the first of these parties started, Black Kettle and one sub-Chief from each band went to Fort Cobb and brought back provisions given them at that Fort, and while they were gone, or about the time of their return, the last war party referred to was sent out. The women are of the opinion that they will all sue for peace at Fort Cobb, as the result of the battle with Custar. They would have gone to Sheridan's camp had not the opening at Cobb been held out to them.

Gen. Sheridan then says: I shall start for Fort Scott as soon as the trains from Dodge arrive. Had it not been for the misfortune of the Kansas regiment getting lost and the heavy snow which rendered their horses unfit for duty, we would have closed up this job before this time. As it is I think the fight is pretty well knocked out of them. Thirteen Cheyenne, two Sioux and one Arapahoe chief were killed. The Government makes a great mistake in giving these Indians any considerable amount of food, under the supposition of necessity. The whole country is literally covered with game, and there are more buffalo than will last the Indians for twenty years, and the turkeys are so numerous that flocks of from one to two thousand have been seen. The country is also full of grouse, quails and rabbits; herds of antelope and deer are everywhere and even ran through Gen. Custar's train while on his march. The reservation laid off for the Cheyennes and Arapahoes is full of game and the most luxurious grouse. Black Kettle's sister reports three white women in the lodges below Black Kettle's camp.

Another letter from Gen. Sheridan says the mules belonging to Clark's, train, photographs and other articles taken from the houses robbed on the Saline and Solomon rivers, in Kansas, last fall, were found in the Indian camp. The Indian women prisoners say most of the depredations along the line of the Arkansas were committed by the Cheyennes and Arapahoes.

Victims of Recent Steamboat Disasters Discovered.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

CINCINNATI, December 20.—The wreck of the steamer United States is at the dock in this city. Two bodies were discovered in it this afternoon, both scarcely recognizable. One was that of a man with an eagle tattooed in blue on the left arm. The sex of the other body could not be ascertained. Twelve victims of the same disaster were buried here yesterday.

On the wreck of the J. N. McCulloch, near Madison, Ind., the body of a colored deck-hand, named Jackson, was found on Wednesday. On Friday, the body of Chas. Gibson, of Pittsburgh, sweep, fifteen year old, was found on the same steamer.

SECOND EDITION.

FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

THE CAPITAL.

Nominations—Appointments—Character of the Indians Encountered by Custar's Troops—Appropriations by Congress—Return of Gen. Grant and Secretary Schofield.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1868.

NOMINATIONS.

The President nominated to the Senate, to-day, E. C. Magrue for Collector of Internal Revenue for Second District of Ohio, Robert D. Andrews, Commissioner of Branch Mint at Denver City, and Thomas W. Stillwell, of Indiana, Minister resident in Venezuela.

APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments have been made: *Gauger*—Hubert McClewan, Third Ohio District. *Storekeepers*—Henry K. Atkinson, Twenty-fourth Pennsylvania District; Levi Templeton, Seventh Ohio District; Joseph C. Kelly, Second Iowa District.

WASHINGTON, December 20, 1868.

THE RECENT FIGHT WITH INDIANS.

Governor Evans, of Colorado, is here and says the large number of horses found by General Custar in the Indian camp at the recent battle is evidence that guilty and not innocent Indians were attacked, and that the hostile bands of Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Camanche and Apache tribes have run off in that direction thousands of horses and mules taken from the frontier settlers of Colorado and Kansas, emigrant trains and the Government during the last four years they have been warring on the whites. Gov. Evans is confident Gen. Sheridan will have propositions for peace from those Indians themselves, and that after their punishment the peace will be valuable.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The following are the appropriations made during the second session of the Fortieth Congress, as recently compiled: Deficiencies for execution of reconstruction laws and quartermasters' department for the year ending June 30th, 1868, $12,939,196. 21; Military Academy for the year ending June 30th, 1869, $275,512; Postoffice Department, $21,069,000; consular and diplomatic expenses, $1,212,434; army expenses, $33,032,093; naval expenses, $17,356,350; legislative, executive and judicial, $17,906,317.09; sundry civil expenses, $8,174,379.66; pensions, $30,350,000; deficiencies for the year ending June 30th, 1868, $4,163,026.64: Indian Department for the year ending June 30th, 1869, $3,847,528.45; miscellaneous, $10,274,448.08; total, $160,551,885,85.

RETURNED.

Gen. Grant and staff, Secretary Schofield and other military gentlemen returned to Washington this morning from Chicago.

CHICAGO.

Violent Wind Storm—Great Damage to Property.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

CHICAGO, December 20.—The wind commenced blowing last evening about ten o'clock with great violence and has continued without any seeming abatement up to this hour, seven o'clock P. M. Considerable damage has resulted therefrom, the more serious of which is the destruction of a new brick building in course of erection, covering lots Nos. 71 and 73 Adams street, just west of State. The building was fifty feet front and two hundred feet deep. The walls, which were of brick, had reached the fourth story, and each story was a single room. It was to be occupied by Coon & Tweedwell as a carriage factory, and when completed would have been one of the largest and finest in the country. The owners of the building are Ogden & Tweedwell. With the exception of the rear section, thirty to forty feet long, the building is completely demolished. What remains standing is so cracked and otherwise damaged as to render it necessary to complete the work of destruction by the builders, unless the heavy wind that still prevails should anticipate them. A small frame building on the east and a small brick structure on the west were completely crushed to the ground by the falling walls, and in the latter an old lady and a child were severely though not dangerously injured. The loss on Ogden & Fleetwood's building will probably reach ten thousand dollars, which will fall on the builders.

CUBAN INSURRECTION.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

HAVANA, December 19.—Generals Espinar and Latorre, with three hundred and fifty soldiers, arrived to-day in the steamer from Spain. General Espenar will relieve Valmazda, and General Latorre will command the Eastern department.

A Spaniard, who had been taken prisoner by the insurrectionists, made his escape from Bayamo. He reports that a Spanish Major and Captain, belonging to the garrison who had refused to capitulate, had been executed. Other officers had been put in irons, and the soldiers had been set to work cleaning the streets of the town, which was destitute of provisions.

Bayamo was defended by but few men, nearly all the revolutionists being in the field. The insurrectionists continue in the neighborhood of Manzanillo.

Rumors have reached here of an engagement between the troops and insurgents in the vicinities of Halquin, Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo.

Building Improvements in St. Louis.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

ST. LOUIS, December 20.—The *Democrat* and *Times* publish statistics of the building in St. Louis during the present year. The *Democrat* says two thousand and eleven buildings have been erected, of which 1,514 are dwellings, 408 stores, 54 manufactories, 20 school houses and 11 churches; of these 133 are stone fronts, 1,642 brick and 236 wood. The estimated cost of these buildings is $15,060,000. The *Times* devotes over thirteen columns to the statement and description of the various improvements, and says the number of buildings erected will exceed 2,500, and that their value is from $28,000,000 to $30,000,000.

Newspaper Suspension.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

RICHMOND, December 19.—Hunnicutt's paper, the *New Nation*, which stopped its daily issue some weeks since, wholly suspended to-day. The editor reproaches the Republican managers here with having presribed him, and announces himself as a candidate for Congess from this District in opposition to the regular nominee.

NEW YORK CITY.

[By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

NEW YORK, December 19, 1868.

Chief Justice Robertson, of the Superior Court of New York, died last evening.

The steamer St. Laurent, from Brest on the 8th, arrived to-day.

Governor elect Hoffman has declined the escort by the 7th regiment to Albany on the occasion of his inauguration, on account of the fact that the trip will put the regiment to great expense and cause the introduction in Common Council of an appropriation to meet such expense.

At the order of Judge Nelson the motion to quash proceedings in the Fullerton case was indefinitely postponed by Judge Benedict in the United States Circuit Court to-day.

The Third Army Corps Union will hold a social re-union at Delmonico's Wednesday evening. General Sickles will preside and Generals Heintzleman and Hooker are expected to be present.

NEW YORK, December 20.—The Congressional Committee to investigate the election frauds in this city have arrived and will commence sessions to-morrow.

Commercial travelers are holding meetings here with the object of framing a petition to Congress to take action relative the license laws of various cities and States.

The skeletons of a number of the martyrs of the Wallabout prison ships were discovered in excavating a drain at the Navy Yard yesterday and arrangement, made for interment.

A memorial in opposition to the bill which passed the United States House of Representatives increasing the duty on copper has received the signatures of leading mercantile firms.

The bank of Candor, Tioga county, was broken open and robbed on Thursday night of $34,000.

The *Herald's* Havana letter of the 12th says: It is a fact that a gigantic insurrection exists in that Island; that it is supported or countenanced by the great mass of the native population, the exceptions being insignificant in point of numbers; that it has had many encounters with the Spanish troops, in which its supporters inflicted quite as much if not more damage than they suffered; and that the best informed among the disinterested and unprejudiced are already beginning to calculate on the ultimate success which shall leave Cubans free and independent.

Peruvian Fleet Difficulty at New Orleans.

(By Telegraph to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 19.—The steamer Havana or Maranon is again in trouble, the Collector having threatened her seizure on the ground of violation of the law in not exhibiting proper papers when they were called for, and that the changing of her flag was irregular. The facts are as follows: The vessel was purchased in New York by the Peruvian government, her owners contracting to deliver her at Southwest Pass, or wherever the Peruvian monitors might be. On her arrival at Southwest Pass the transfer was made, the Peruvian flag hoisted and her former Captain retained as sailing master, when the American register was sent to New York for cancellation. Senor Garcia has been notified by her former owner that the register cancelled was not intended to bring the vessel to this city; but while lying at South West Pass repairs to her machinery became necessary and she came here under the Peruvian flag, and has since been the victim of continued misfortunes. Having been the cause of a misunderstanding between Minister Garcia and Collector Fuller, yesterday officers boarded her and demanded to see her papers. The Captain replied that the vessel belonged to the Peruvian Navy, but he had no papers to exhibit, and referred the officers to Minister Garcia. The latter has received no official communication in reference to the matter, though he notified the Custom authorities that the Havana belonged to his Government, and expressed his readiness to answer any charge against her.

The whole trouble originated in her coming here for repairs. Had she remained at South West Pass no notice would have been taken of her. Collector Fuller states charges have been made against the vessel of violation of law, among others that powder had been landed from her in the night, and that the law compelled him to seize her unless her papers were regular. He, however, has referred the matter to the authorities at Washington and will take no further steps unless on advice from there. The vessel's manifest states she cleared for South West Pass.

To-night Secretary McCullough telegraphed to Collector Fuller to be governed by section sixty of the act of 1799, and informed him that Secretary Seward had charge of the question of non-compliance with the law by the Peruvians. It is stated Collector Fuller has ordered the revenue cutter Wilderness to intercept the Maranon should she attempt to go to sea without authority from the Custom House.

Twenty-eight of the officers and crew for the Peruvian fleet arrived last night. The monitors are still lying at the mouth of the river.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

—There were thirty-three deaths in Memphis during last week.

—The Tennessee Legislature adjourns today until after the holidays.

—Jasper C. Griffin, a well known banker and cotton merchant of Memphis, died suddenly Sunday morning.

—At Lewiston, Me., on Saturday, Garrison's block of stores and offices were burned. Loss $15,000; insured.

—The steamer Era No. 1 was sunk in Red river on the 17th inst., with eighty-eight bales of cotton on board. No lives were lost.

—A Havana letter says it is rumored and generally believed that the Havana lottery is to be suppressed by the home government.

—The bridge at Elmore, Ohio, on the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad was burned yesterday. Connections will be broken until Tuesday.

—The State Senate of South Carolina has revoked the sentence of suspension against Senator Leslie, of Barnwell county, and re-admitted him to his seat.

—At Nashville Sarah Boyd, an old Irish woman, whose husband left her a short time since, was found dead yesterday in her bed. She died of starvation.

—L. F. Goens committed suicide at Louisville, on Friday night last, by shooting himself through the head. His wife's jealousy is supposed to be the cause.

—Judge Nelson, of the United States Supreme Court has issued a temporary injunction to the Shore Railroad, restraining the bridging of the Connecticut river.

—An unsuccessful attempt was made on the night of the 18th, at Thompsonville, Mass., to throw the New York and Boston midnight express train from the track.

—In Charlotte, N. C., on Friday last, a dispute arose in the Mayor's office between a negro and Josiah Gleason, a prominent merchant, when the former drew a pistol and killed Gleason. The affair created intense excitement.

For the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Scientific Lectures.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Another term of lectures is now just passing away, and we are as far from scientific discourses as we were last year. It seems incredible that a city like Pittsburgh, with its vast population, cannot boast of such necessary aids to knowledge. A manufacturing town should certainly be the very one to encourage, by every means, the spread of science, for is not science the cause of all manufacturing improvements, and by its aids are we not taught to invent or to simplify mechanical adaptations? The new processes of making steel, iron, and the very manufactures Pittsburgh boasts of, are due to its discoveries. Why should we here be dependant upon the work of other countries for our newest and best applied modes of making the articles by which we live. Why should not Pittsburgh boast of such men as Farady, Lyndall or Blackwell? Surely where the need is the greater the means should be found. It seems strange that science should be scouted where it is very necessary. This locality is noted for its wealthy citizens, many of whom have nobly risen from the ranks of the artizan to occupy places in the lap of wealth and luxury. Is not science a stepping stone to wealth—for by its teachings we can more easily accomplish our manufactures, and if labor be saved will not wealth accrue. Ideas are very progressive, and although a few years ago science met with a great many enemies, especially among ministers of religion, who, when the great science of geology was first promulgated to astonish the world with its marvellous truths, and give a real explanation of nature, condemned all who believed in it as infidels, or even worse. Now geology is taught in most of our theological colleges, and I can vouch, and prove if necessary, that a full, clear and true knowledge of theology cannot be obtained without an understanding of geology. Space forbids entering on this subject. This assertion may astonish some of our antiquated divines, but the man of theory and true practi al ideas can easily discern its truth and cause. It is only of late years that the people of the west have turned their attention to science, and have before that time depended upon the discoveries of the learned of Great Britain and Europe, for even thier scholastic requirements. The time is however changing, and will eventually change. Of what (with few exceptions) great discoveries can the United States boast of in comparison with the grand and noble truths of Farady or any other great men of science of the East; discoveries from which we reap benefits? Is it right, or is it honest to rely upon other men's knowledge without endeavoring to add to it? We cannot expect a scientific man to spring from nothing. The knowledge of science is not a natural gift, like oratory; it requires study and close attention before even a smattering of it can be obtained, and how careful and with what eagerness does a scientific man still further search for secrets. The first application to science is like a draught of enchanting water, making more thirsty than before.

The Western University, with its noble array of learned professors, offers good and extraordinary inducements in the study of science; but are its classes well attended, are its inducements eagerly sought after? Something should be done; surely parents are not the same as the ignorant laborer, who, being requested to send his son to school, astonished the missionary by stating that he had lived fifty years without being able to read and write and had done well, and guessed his son could do the same. It should be made the duty of the father to give his children the highest education his means will allow, for education, if rightly used, is equally of as much value as wealth. Twenty years from now the world will be considerably changed, and men will have to possess more knowledge than at present is thought requisite, otherwise they will be unable to keep up with an enlightened age.

How proud, and yet how humble, the man of science feels. Education is the true basis of superiority, and if aristocracy is to exist in this republican country (and it already absurdly exists,) let it consist of the learned, for then true aristocracy will exist. Science teaches, independent of its own blessed treasures, a great many points. It has a tendency to remove that false pride we almost naturally possess, the self-imagination that we have no peer; for researches in science, or a true study of nature, show us how small we are, and the deeper we dig into its mysteries the more humble we become, and illustrates wonderfully how meagre and insignificant are man's ideas in comparison with his Creator's.

Let us trust that if it be too late this season for a course of scientific lectures, some kind friend will take the initiative before next term, and endeavor to remove the incubus. It only requires energy and a little capital, and I feel assured that with a little perseverance and patience a scientific lecture will be sought gladly by all classes of society. PERCIVAL BECKETT, M. E.

Reduction of the State Debt.

Governor Geary has issued a proclamation communicating the welcome intelligence of the extinction of two millions, four hundred and fourteen thousand, eight hundred and sixteen dollars and sixty-four cents of the State debt. This reduction has been effected in the space of fourteen months, ending November 30, 1868, and is a triumphant vindication of our State financial system under Republican administration. As affairs are now managed, the people of the State may look forward confidently to the extinction of the whole State debt before many years. In view of the fact that this favorable condition of the State finances has been brought about without any increase of the burdens of taxation, it is highly creditable to the State administration and will meet with the emphatic sanction of the people.

THE New York *Tribune*, speaking of the proposed abolition of the franking privilege, says: "A poor man who wants to write to his son in the far west must pay postage on his letter; but any scamp who can make a fac simile of a Congressman's stamp can mail a car load of useless rubbish every day in the week without paying a cent. Something might be gained by abolishing the use of frank stamps, but the only true way is to abolish franking."

A RESIGNATION.—Mr. H. Notingham has resigned his position as Superintendent of the Lake Shore Railroad. Mr. N. has been connected with the road for the past fifteen or sixteen years, and his resignation is universally regretted. It is stated that he will accept a prominent position on the Union Pacific road.

Christmas Proverbs.

"Christmas comes but once a year."

This is a glorious hearty old proverb, full of generosity and permission to go to full lengths enjoyment. If the children scream more loudly than usual with delight—if the boys and girls dance and frolic more wildly—if Jack takes an extra glass, or *paterfamilias* purchases a present which is a little too extravagant—never mind it for once—"Christmas comes but once a year!" Forget and forgive good folks, and we will forget and forgive in turn:

"So tap the wine and draw the beer,
Christmas comes but once a year."

"Christmas is talked of so long, that it comes at last."

This is an old Norman French proverb. *On a tant crie Noel que enfin il est venu.* It is another cheerful proverb, full of the spirit of the season, meaning that, whatever trouble or darkness may intervene, light and joy will come at last. It is the same as "It's a long lane that has no turning," or "a fast day is the eve of a feast day." Perhaps it may have the suspicion of an old superstition, that, if we only hammer and weary away at anything long enough, we bring it to pass. So, then,

"Talk of it ere summer's past,
Christmas is sure to come at last."

"After Christmas comes Lent."

This is German; *Nach Weihnachten kommt Fasten.* This is a warning and solemn proverb, something like "it is dark under the lamp." However, as the Danes say, *Amboldt er ikke ræd for en god Forhammer*, the anvil does not fear a good sledge-hammer, and he who has had a glorious feast-tide finds so much rational pleasure in a season of sobriety and quieter joy.

"The bow cannot always bent;
Pass Christmas comes the sober Lent."

"A green Christmas makes a fat churchyard."

A Danish proverb: *En grøn Juul giver en fed Kirkegaarn.* This is merely the old sanitary and weather theory, that unseasonable weather is unhealthy. When it is warm in winter, imprudent people expose themselves to the damp, unhealthy air, or become impatient of too much warm covering and are caught in "a cold snap to their sorrow." In the old times, when most people dwelt in badly warmed, badly constructed houses, such changes in the weather were of much greater significance than at present.

"An old bit of a truthful rule—
A Christmas green a churchyard fell."

Closely allied to this, but without its terrible warning, we have the German proverb:

"Ist dann weiter um Weihnacht gelind,
So freut sich Mann, Weib und Kind."

Which in English means:

"Is the weather at Christmas mild?
It is joy to man and wife and child."

"Christmas is a good time to bleed horses in."

This was an old superstition, and was closely followed. The horses were run up and down until in a sweat, and then bled. As Tusser sings:

"Ere Christmas be passed let horses to be let blood,
For many a purpose it doth them much good."

"A green Christmas, a white Easter."
"*Gruene Weinacht, weisse Ostern.*"

German, of course. The same has another form:

"Weihnacht im Kee,
Ostern im Schnee."

"If Christmas be in clover,
Easter with snow 'll be heaped over."

And the same people say: "Ist dat Wetter um Weihnacht gelind, so wahrt die Kæite gewohnlich lange bis Fruehjahr hinein."

"When the weather is mild at Christmas, cold weather lasts into spring." All of which proverbs receive important modifications, when applied to this our North American climate.

Among other saws and proverbs, which may be cited in brief, are:

"Merry Christmas, happy New Year,
Your pockets full of money and your barrels full of beer."

"A Christmas box with five nails in it."

Herrick's little poems and rhymes on Christmas have become proverbial. They may be found in his "Charms and Ceremonies." So, too, is Tusser's hearty exhortation, with which I conclude:

"At Christmas be merry and thankful withal,
And feast thy poor neighbors, the great with the small."

—*Christmas Philadelphia Press.*

A Clear Case of Confidence.

A day or two ago, says the Cleveland *Leader*, a young tadderdemalion entered one of our prominent wholesale houses and accosted the kook-keeper with "I say, Mister, won't yer please lend me a quarter? I want to start in business as a news boy, and I'll pay yer back the money, sure!" The benevolent young man quizzed the little urchin for a few minutes out of curiosity, and he told his story with such apparent honesty that he created a favorable impression upon the book-keeper, and he gave him a quarter to set him up in business. With many thanks and the most extravagant assurances that he would repay him the following day, the lad bounded out of the store. In less than an hour four or five more little ragamuffins came in, each begging for a quarter to embark in the sale of newspapers. The success of confidence boy number one had been doubtless related to them, and they had thought to try the same game. As may be imagined, however, our book-keeper mildly but firmly refused to furnish them the capital. It is needless to say that the enterprising pioneer in the scheme has not been seen since.

A MISTAKE.—Col. J. J. Lawrence, formerly Superintendent of the Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad, has been appointed Superintendent of the Middle Division, Pennsylvania Central.—*Erie Republican.*

A mistake. Mr. Lawrence has been appointed General Superintendent of the Allegheny Valley Railroad; and in this connection we may say he is a native of Harrisburg, and one of the most useful men in his profession. The Middle Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad will remain under the Superintendency of Mr. S. A. Black, whose services to this road are of a character to render him invaluable in its operation. So says the Harrisburg *State Guard.*

—A contract for building a railroad bridge across the Mississippi river at Keokuk has been closed with the Keystone Bridge Company of Pittsburg, for one million dollars. The bridge is to be of iron, like the one at Dubuque, and is to be commenced in the spring and finished within the year.

—Dr. Usher Parsons, an eminent and venerable physician of Providence, Rhode Island, died on Saturday, aged eighty-eight years. He was surgeon of the flag-ship Lawrence in the battle of Lake Erie, and the last surviving commissioned officer of the Perry fleet.

—An informal meeting of the Buffalo Board of Trade was held on Saturday to consider what measures were necessary to secure the enlargement of the Erie Canal and the reduction of tolls. Important action will be taken in a few days.