Pittsburgh Gazette.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1861.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, 65 Fifth street,—corrected daily:

		IN SUN	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock,	A. M.	00	60
12 "	M.	84	69
6 "	P. M.		54
Barometer,			29 5–10

Republican City Ticket.

FOR MAYOR—B. C. SAWYER, JR.
FOR CONTROLLER—JOHN McCARGO.
FOR TREASURER—WM. EICHBAUM.

The Explosion at Newton Hamilton.—We have been able, says the Harrisburg *Telegraph* of yesterday, to gather some additional particulars respecting the recent explosion of a locomotive on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, at Newton Hamilton. The accident is of so rare occurrence, that anything in relation to it will be read with interest. It appears that the train was standing on the siding at Newton Hamilton station, when from some cause or other, as yet unexplained, the boiler exploded with a tremendous report, shattering the locomotive to pieces and partially wrecking one or two of the foremost cars. The engineer, Daniel Fisher, and the fireman, Benjamin Graham, were both on the engine at the time, and were blown high in the air, their mangled bodies falling some seventy feet from the wreck. Both must have been instantly killed. The wreck covered the track to such an extent that when the express going west came up it could not pass. After some delay, however, the track was cleared, and the express, with the passengers of the other train on board, started for Altoona, where they awaited the arrival of the mail train, which got in on time. Both trains were then united, and the whole reached Pittsburgh without further accident or detention. The accident was a most serious one, and it is fortunate that the passengers escaped.

Pittsburgh Female College.

The winter term of the College opened yesterday, under the most flattering auspices. The attendance was very large, and the prospects are of the most encouraging kind, giving promise of a large increase over the average attendance of the corresponding term in past years. We have from the first been the fast friends of the institution, and feel great pleasure in recording its constant progress, notwithstanding the almost constant reverses in business matters, and the closing up of so many other schools. Those to whom its interests are confided are untiring in their efforts, and we can scarcely wonder at its signal success. The literary entertainment given by the young ladies on last Thursday evening, is spoken of in the very highest terms by those who were present. We wish the College the largest possible measure of success.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE SOLDIERS.—Government is making the kindest provisions for the comfort of the soldiers in the winter campaign. The entire army is now being supplied with warm woolen mittens. Orders have been given for half a million pairs, the greater part of which are now being made in this State. One factory in Philadelphia is turning out five thousand pairs every twenty-four hours, the mill running day and night. The mittens leave the fore finger like the thumb, at liberty, so that the soldier has as much the use of his hand as though he were gloved. The material is "sheep's gray" yarn, and the mittens are thick, warm and useful. As fast as made they are shipped to the seat of war, and the first instalment are on the hands of the volunteer.

THEATRE.—The "House that Jack Built," which has drawn such crowds the past two nights, will be repeated this evening. Previous to the pantomime we are to have the "Six Degrees of Crime," in which the indefatigable manager personates the leading character.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Godey's Lady's Book, for January.

Mr. John P. Hunt has laid on our table the number of Godey for January, which we commend to our lady readers as a specimen of this well-known and well-approved monthly. In the prospectus for the new year, Godey claims "*eight specialties*," namely, original music; colored cottages, with diagrams; drawing lessons; children's department; original health department; chemistry for the young; horticultural department, and double extension fashion plates. Doubtless the due appreciation of these, together with the attractive contributions of the numerous corps of popular writers engaged in its literary department, have given the LADY'S BOOK a sure hold of the ground it occupies amongst the most widely circulated magazines in the country. There are two beautiful steel engravings in the number before us, and in this respect alone, Godey has a great speciality to boast of, having presented to its readers, in 1861, no less than thirteen such engravings on steel, and promising as many and as good, if not more and better, for 1862.—We notice that the terms of subscription offered, hold out inducements that will probably procure many new subscribers. The yearly subscription is only $2 50 for which The Lady's Book for 1862 will be regularly supplied by Mr. John P. Hunt, Masonic Hall, Fifth street, or by Mr. Henry Miner, (Successor of Hunt and Miner,) Fifth street.

JUVENILE BATTLES.—The boys residing on the line between the Seventh Ward and Pitt township, have been at war for some time past, and bloody skirmishes frequently occur. On Sunday the opposing forces met, and a spirited engagement ensued. Stones, clubs and clods were freely exchanged, but (as the "specials" say) nobody was hurt! Mayor Wilson caused upon the ground, which caused a Bull Run panic, and ended the battle. Two of the little rebels have since been taken prisoners, and scouts are out after others. At last accounts, all was quiet along the line.

EXCITEMENT AT THE MANSION HOUSE.—Great consternation was created among the lodgers at the Mansion House, about five o'clock this morning, by the cry of fire. In the way of getting folks out of bed, the fire bell was nothing to compare with breakfast bell was nothing to compare with this alarm. Every body was up in a jiffy, and ready for a hasty exit; but as the fire, which had caught in an upper room, was speedily extinguished, and all was quiet again.

PETROLEUM VS. GAS.—The people of Hollidaysburg, who are compelled to pay $3,50 per thousand feet for gas, are abandoning its use and substituting rock oil. In this city gas is furnished at $1,50 per thousand feet, and it is said that if the Hollidaysburg company does not come down a peg the number of consumers will soon be so small as to render the concern non-paying.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.—Mr. John P. Hunt has received the number of this profusely illustrated paper for the week ending December 14. The price is 6 cents—for which quite a number of pictured pages, crowded with attractive scenes, reflecting the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war," will be secured for the readers' delectation.

DEATHS IN THE ROUNDHEAD REGIMENT.—The following persons are said to have died during the month of November, in Colonel Leasure's Roundhead Regiment, now at Port Royal:—James Smith, Edward Corwin, Matthew F. Crowl, John W. Simmons, James Boyd J. F. McMillan (Orderly Sergeant,) James Fyle;—Stewart, Solomon Smith and Wm. Ramsey.

AN IMPROVEMENT.—The Philadelphia *Ledger*, in alluding to the stock market, says: "Allegheny county sixes were held higher, which is about the only change noticeable in quotations." The figures given in the quotations are $5@56.

Chief Justice Lowrie on Election Frauds.

We reported, during the sitting of the Supreme Court in this city, the proceedings in the contested election case in the Nineteenth Ward of Philadelphia, involving the right to seats in the Common Council. The opinion was delivered by Chief Justice Lowrie—Judges Woodward and Thompson dissenting. The Court, while admitting that the proof of the returns from Col. McLean's regiment being forgeries overwhelming, decides that there is no power to interfere in the case at this stage of the proceedings—the proper tribunal being the Common Council Chamber, where the qualification of members can be examined. The Court then says:

"If in this way we suffer a gross fraud to pass through our hands without remedy, it is not because we have any mercy for the fraud, but because we cannot frustrate it by any decree of ours without an act of usurpation. Another tribunal is appointed to administer the remedy, and we believe that, on proper application, it will administer it rightly, according to the evidence it may have; and if we had doubts of this, we should still not be justified in interfering. Sad, indeed, very sad, has been our recent experience of election frauds; but we cannot believe that our partizanship has become so reckless, and our electthirst for power and office so intensely selfish, that any official body will sanction so base and frightful a fraud upon the public as this now appears, or that any man deemed worthy of an office would accept it under such circumstances."

In another part of the opinion, the Chief Justice uses the following significant language, which, emanating from so high a source, should arrest the attention of all who hold sacred the purity of the ballot box:

"Our elections have become so intensely selfish that opposing parties treat each other as enemies, and thus many on each side come to think that tricks and lies, fraud, forgery and perjury are legitimate strategy, and even honest men are led to claim the fruits of it, and candidates are very apt to be selected not because of their honesty or their competency for office, but of their capacity to lead in an election combat, and of their readiness to reward their assistance at the expense of the public. When elections are conducted in any large degree on such principles they become a forum of civil war, repeated annually by appointment of law. For a while it is a question which party shall assemble the most voters honestly or dishonestly, by fair argument or by lying charlatanism; but soon it becomes a question which party can force the *election returns* to count the highest numbers, and then forgery and perjury lend them assistance. This is a frightful stand point to occupy for a look into the future. We shall not attempt to report its revelations."

A GOOD BILL.—A good bill is offered at the Theatre to-night, consisting of the new pantomime of the "House that Jack built," which was received with so much favor on Saturday evening last; and Schillers great tragedy of the "Robbers," in which Mr. Henderson personates the character of Charles De Moore. A full house may be expected.

DROWNED.—Benjamin King, formerly of this city, and employed as master of a Government wagon train, accidentally fell into the canal, at Washington, a few days since, and was drowned. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and was about forty years of age.

SOLDIERS SPECIAL NOTICE.—Do your duty to yourselves, protect your health, use Holloway's Pills and Ointment. For wounds, sores, bowel complaints and fevers, they are a perfect safeguard. Full directions how to use them with every box. Only 25 cents. 210

ANOTHER ORDER FOR MORTARS.—The Fort Pitt Works have received an order for an additional number of heavy thirteen-inch mortars which will be contracted as speedily as possible. Several thousand shells are also to be cast immediately.

RAILROAD APPOINTMENT.—John B. Jervis, Esq., has been appointed General Superintendent of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway Company—and circulars to that effect have been issued.

FIRE ON LIBERTY STREET.—The coal office of Messrs. McFarland & Co., on Liberty street, Fifth Ward, (a small frame tenement) was destroyed by fire this afternoon at one o'clock. The books were saved, slightly damaged.

NEW COUNTERFEITS.—A counterfeit two dollar bill on the Farmers' Bank of Schuylkill county was extensively circulated in Philadelphia on Friday evening.

GUNS TESTED.—A large number of rifled twelve pound guns, made in this city, were satisfactorily tested on Saturday. These guns also throw an elongated shell weighing twenty pounds.

WHERE TO GET THEM.—In these war times it becomes a matter of some importance to many to know where cheap goods of reliable quality can be purchased. To such of our readers as desire to know, we will say that Wm. H. McGee & Co., clothiers, corner of Federal street and the Diamond, Allegheny, have on hand a full stock of fall and winter goods, ready made or furnished to order, made in the latest and most fashionable styles, at prices that defy competition. One visit will be sufficient to verify this assertion.

WM. FORREST, Carpenter and Joiner, Jobbing Shop Virgin alley, between Smithfield street and Cherry alley. All kinds of House Repairing done on short notice and in workmanlike manner. Charges moderate. Leave your orders. All orders promptly attended to.

No. 4 FIFTH STREET, Brant's Gun Shop, is the place to go for anything in the Gun or Pistol line. Repairing of all kinds done to order, and warranted. Charges moderate. Give him a call.

DOCTOR C. BEALS, Water Cure and Homœopathic Physician; also agent for Rainbow's celebrated Truss for Ruptures. Corner of Penn and Wayne streets.

MILITARY NOTICES.

ALL PERSONS OR COMMITTEES engaged in soliciting or collecting Blankets, Clothing, Hospital stores or other goods for the volunteers in the army, are requested to forward their lists as speedily as possible to the undersigned Committee, at the CUSTOM HOUSE, corner of Fifth and Smithfield streets, Pittsburgh.

A full or list of the articles should accompany each box or package.

E. H. IRISH,
JACOB GLOSSER,
JAS. PARK, Jr.

no13:mtf

WANTED—To complete the Company: Twenty men, also 4 Shoeing-Smiths, 1 Saddler, 1 Wagon-maker. The Company is now in Camp Lemon, Maryland. The enrolled members are to report at Headquarters, R. PATTERSON'S STABLE, corner of Diamond street and Cherry alley, immediately for orders. Any person having any good books would confer a favor by leaving them at 135 Third street; as the boys are building a library, and want something to amuse and instruct them on cold nights.

no13:mtf J. THOMPSON, Capt.

NEW BOOKS.

NEW AND VALUABLE LAW TREATISE.—A Treatise on the Legal and Equitable Rights of Married Women, with an Appendix of the recent American Statutes, and the decisions under them. By William H. Cord, Esq.

de10 KAY & CO., 65 Wood street.

MCCLELLAN'S CAVALRY TACTICS.—Regulations and Instructions for the Field Service of the United States Cavalry in time of War. By Major General George B. McClellan. In 1 vol., 12mo.

KAY & CO., 65 Wood street.

AMUSEMENTS.

PITTSBURGH THEATRE.

THIS EVENING,

Performance will commence with the six act Drama entitled the

SIX DEGREES OF CRIME.

JULIO DONNILLY.....MR. HENDERSON.

To conclude with the laughable new Pantomime call ed the

HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.

CLOWN.....MR. MAFFIT.
FARMER JACK.....MR. LEWIS.

TIMOTHY TITCOMB'S NEW BOOK.

LESSONS IN LIFE.

A series of familiar Essays, by TIMOTHY TITCOMB, author of "Gold Foil," "Letters to Young People," "Bitter Sweet," 1 vol., 12mo. $1,00.

OUR COUNTRY AND THE CHURCH, by Rev. N. L. RICE, D. D., 1 vol., Flexible Covers. 38 cents.

For sale by R. S. DAVIS, 93 Wood street.

CRANBERRIES—50 bbls. a prime article, for sale by J. B. CANFIELD & CO.

APPLES—200 bbls. best varieties for sale by de3 J. B. CANFIELD & CO.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1861.

SENATE.—Mr. Dixon, of Ct., presented the resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Connecticut, asking the Senators and Representatives to use their efforts to secure the act for the increase of the revenue as imposes an income tax, or else to have the amount apportioned among the several States, so as to allow them to raise the amount in their own way. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Also, the resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Connecticut in favor of a system of decimal weights and measures. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Grimes, of Iowa, presented the petition of a citizen of Iowa, who has invented a rebel mowing machine, or double-acting bomb, to which he wishes to call the especial attention of the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Wilson, of Mass., introduced a bill relative to courts-martial in the army. Also, a bill to provide for the allotment of certificates among the volunteers. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., presented several petitions of citizens of Rhode Island and Vermont calling on Congress, under the war power, to legislate on the subject of the emancipation of the slaves belonging to the rebels.

Mr. Collamer, of Vt., presented several petitions of the same character.

The President of the Senate also presented several petitions from citizens of Wisconsin, of the same character. All were referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Sumner presented a resolution that all memorials and papers on the files of the Senate relating to the recognition of Liberia and Hayti, be taken from the files and referred to the committee on Foreign Affairs. Agreed to.

Mr. Clark, of N. H., offered a resolution requesting the Marshal of this District to inform the Senate by what authority he imprisoned slaves of the District in jail because they were refractory. He said he had visited the jail and found a number of slaves in the District confined for no reason but only because their masters and mistresses sent them there because refractory. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Pomeroy, of Kansas, introduced a bill granting pensions and land warrants to soldiers. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, introduced a joint resolution directing the Secretary of War to receive and equip certain mounted regiments. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Harris, of N. Y., introduced a bill for the protection of the public property from fire. Referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Hale's resolution directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the present Supreme Court and establishing another, was taken up.

Mr. Hale said that the present Supreme Court had failed in the purpose for which it had been established. He sincerely believed that if the rebels now in arms against the government should succeed, the Supreme Court would decide that the federal soldiers now in Virginia were trespassers and rioters.

Mr. Foster, of Ct., thought that Congress should legislate only for the great question before it. While he believed that the Supreme Court had lost the confidence of the country, he did not think the Judiciary would be benefitted by the demonstration of Senators. He did not believe this to be the time for radical legislation.

Mr. Browning, of Ill., thought that it was not in the power of Congress to repeal the Supreme Court: that power was not given in the Constitution, and we had no more power to do that than to repeal the Constitution.

Mr. Collamer, of Vt., moved as a substitute that all that portion of the President's Message relating to the Judiciary be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The discussion was continued at length by Mr. Hale.

Mr. Collamer's amendment as a substitute was agreed to, and the resolution as amended adopted.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Hale offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making alterations in the Constitution relative to the several Courts. Laid over.

On motion, various portions of the President's Message was referred to the Committees on Indian Affairs, Military Affairs, Naval Affairs, etc.

Mr. Dixon, of Ct., presented a bill to restore the rank of Navy to active service in the Navy.

On motion of Mr. Chandler, of Mich., the resolution of inquiry into the causes of the disasters at Bull Run and Ball's Bluff was taken up, the question being on the substitute offered by Mr. Grimes, that a committee be appointed to investigate the causes of all disasters that have happened to the Union forces.

Mr. Pomeroy thought that these investigations were of doubtful expediency, and might lead to impeachments.

Mr. Chandler said that the officers of the army were not liable to impeachment, but one of our number has fallen, and is nobody to blame? He thought that the facts ought to be known.

Mr. Grimes enumerated a great variety of causes which had been given for the disaster at Ball's Run. He said he wanted the true cause to be known. In regard to the disaster in Missouri, referred to by the Senator from Kansas, (Mr. Lane,) if Fremont was to blame, let it be known; but if not, let him be justified and let the country know it.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, said he did not attribute the blame to any particular officer, but he did know that troops were on hand to relieve Gen. Lyon and Col. Mulligan, and the people believed that there was a want of capacity or dereliction of duty some where.

Mr. Foster said if military officers thought it best not to investigate the subject now, under the present circumstances, he thought Congress had better not do it. If the military officers manage the army badly, Congress will only make a bad matter worse by interfering. He would let the military alone in time of war. An inquiry of this kind will only call men away from a high duty. At the proper time Congress might make the inquiry.

Mr. Fessenden, of Maine, thought that no harm could come of such an inquiry, and that good might result, without in any way putting obstacles in the path of military officers. We see many things which seem wrong, and he thought it better to make an inquiry now into their causes and have the matter settled promptly. The Senate was not under the control of the military; they were not the second but the first, and their requests to be obeyed; they should perform their duty and calmly investigate the subject.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, concurred with the Senator from Maine, but thought the inquiry should not be confined to the disasters of the war, but that there should be a general inquiry into the whole conduct of the war. Many orders had been given which might be inquired into. An officer is said to have refused to take any cotton from the rebels. If so, he was in the wrong. Another is said to have refused to receive slaves in his camp, and one high officer had been travelling over the country to pick up scraps of testimony not worth anything, and had the stuff published. The people were full of enthusiasm which was damaged by these jealousies of military officers.

On motion of Mr. Fessenden, it was resolved that the Committee on the District of Columbia be requested to report the number of fugitive slaves that have been confined in the city jail in Washington during the last one and a half years, by whom claimed, and whether any of these fugitives have been returned to their claimants, and by what authority and to whom, and also specifying what number, if any, have been returned since the recent order of Secretary Seward in reference to alleged fugitives, and to whom and by whom they have been delivered.

Mr. Grimes proposed to amend the substitute so as to appoint a joint committee consisting of three members of the Senate and four members of the House, to investigate the condition of the present war.

Mr. Hale, of N. H., thought the resolutions were not pointed enough, and moved to add especially the disaster of Ball's Bluff.

Mr. Wilson said he was glad to see the resolution take a wide r6ell. He thought it was time the diverse proclamations of officers should cease, and the government have a settled policy. We must remember, however, that we have not many men of large military experience, and great mistakes have been made, and will likely continue to be made, but he would fit to be understood by the military, that the people expected that no such mistakes should be made.

Mr. Latham asked for the yeas and nays.

The resolution was then agreed to; yeas, 33; nays, 8, viz: Messrs. Carlile, Latham and Rice; absent, Messrs. Bright, Collamer, Foote, Thompson, Wiley and Wilmot.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Dawes, of Mass., from the Committee on Elections, introduced a resolution, which was passed, authorizing the parties in the contested election case of Beach vs. Upton, in the Fairfax District, Virginia, to take testimony.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill donating lands to the several States for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts, in the establishment of colleges.

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following, which was passed:

WHEREAS, The exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion has already been practiced indirectly, and as such an exchange would not only increase the enlistment and vigor of our army but subserve the highest interests of humanity, and as such exchange does not involve the recognition of the rebels as a government; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, that the President of the United States be requested to inaugurate systematic measures for the exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion.

On motion, it was resolved that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of furnishing relief to the starving population of Ireland, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Wickliffe, of Ky., from the Committe on Military Affairs, reported a bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer force for the better defense of Kentucky.

Mr. Lovejoy, of Illinois, introduced the following joint resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to revoke the first section of the General Order dated Nov. 20, 1861, of Major General Halleck, commanding the Western Division. The section alluded to is substantially as follows: As it has been represented that information of the numbers and condition of our army has been conveyed to the enemy by means of fugitive slaves who have been allowed to enter the lines, therefore, in order to remedy the evils, no such persons shall hereafter be permitted to enter the lines of the army, and any now within them shall be excluded therefrom.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, moved to lay the resolution on the table. Not agreed to; yeas 63, nays 68.

Mr. Lovejoy then moved the previous question, whereupon Mr. Olin, of Ky., moved that the House adjourn. Lost by a large majority.

Mr. Lansing offered a substitute, which Mr. Lovejoy accepted, characterizing the order as inhuman and cruel, and respectfully requesting the President to direct Gen. Halleck to recall said order, and cause him to conform to the practice in other departments of the army. The consideration of the subject was postponed.

Mr. Blair, of Mo., introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the propriety of paying all officers and soldiers in actual service in the Western Department of Missouri, under Gen. Fremont or under any other Commanding General, where they have performed actual service, and that the Committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Roscoe Conkling, of N. Y., introduced a bill to subject certain persons to military trial and punishment. It covers the cases of all such as may enter into speculations for the purpose of defrauding the government, and who may, directly or indirectly, offer bribes for the advantages of furnishing military stores, munitions of war, etc. Military and Naval Court-Martials are authorized to try such cases, and those found guilty are to be punished with imprisonment of not less than two years.

Mr. Conkling said that the government has been cheated of large sums of money. There was a multitude of harpies which no army could number preying upon the vitals of the commonwealth. They should punish, with certain severity, this class of criminals. He repeated, that there was a class of desperate speculators who are defrauding the treasury to enormous amounts, in a variety of ingenious modes.

Mr. Dawes, of Mass., who is on the special committee to examine into government contracts, briefly spoke of the discoveries af fraud already made, saying that without legislation the country will become bankrupt. The bill was referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, introduced a bill to organize the medical department of the army. Referred to the committee on Military Affairs. Also, a bill repealing all acts and parts of acts authorizing the commitment of persons of color as runaways, or suspected or charged with being runaways, and being sold to pay expenses, &c., and providing a punishment for such practices.

Mr. Gurley's bill to confiscate the property of rebels, liberate their slaves, and colonize them, was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Hutchins, of Ohio, introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. Referred.

Mr. Webster, of Md., introduced a resolution, which was adopted, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the expediency of establishing a railroad from New York to Washington, via the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Many other bills and resolutions of minor importance were introduced and referred.

The Speaker presented the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

A motion for printing extra copies was referred to the Committee on Printing.

On motion of Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, it was resolved that the President be requested to furnish, if not incompatible with the public interest, copies of all proclamations or orders issued and published in the press, or otherwise made public by himself, or any head of department, or any military or naval officer of the United States, since the fourth of March last, relating to the pending contest with the so-called Confederate States.

On motion of Mr. Cox, it was resolved that the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to consider the subject of the tariff and taxation, with a view to equalize the burdens of the present war upon all citizens and upon all sections, and upon capital and labor, and for this purpose that the present tariff and direct tax will be so modified as to carry out the principles of just and equal taxation.

Mr. Upton, of Va., introduced a bill to facilitate judicial proceedings in the confiscation of captured property, and for the better regulation of the law of prizes.

The House then adjourned.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The Hon. C. B. Calvert, of Md., and Hon. B. H. Duell, of N. Y., waited upon the President, to-day, urging the appointment of Col. John C. Robinson as Brigadier-General. The latter commanded at Fort McHenry on the 10th of April, and now commands a brigade at Annapolis Junction.

As to-morrow and Wednesday will be devoted by Congress to proceedings, consequent on the death of Baker and Bingham, the House has postponed the consideration of the various slavery propositions until Thursday.

Mr. Stevens, of Pa., has modified his resolution in several important particulars, so as to include the declaration that there can be no solid and permanent Union so long as slavery exists, and that all slaves should be proclaimed free, full compensation made to those loyal masters who have been, and continue to be, supporters of the Union.

The bill introduced by Mr. Hutchins, of Ohio, to-day, proposes unconditionally to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

The notice for a caucus to-night at the Capitol, as read after the House adjourned, invited the attendance of the Republicans of both Houses on matters of importance, whereupon Mr. Vallandigham expresses his surprise at the continuance of King Caucus reign. He thought that the gentlemen intended to carry out their no-party professions.

A delegation of eighty Cherokees, Creeks and Seminoles have arrived here to examine and report to their people the true condition of political affairs. They had an interesting conference to-day with the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and have expressed their surprise at finding things so entirely different from the representations made to them by the rebel leaders.

Commanders E. R. Thompson and Overton Carr, and Lieut. Jas. A. Doyle, of the U. S. Navy, have, upon the recommendation of the Board, now in session in New York, been relieved on furlough pay.

Commander F. A. Neville, a native of Virginia, late of the receiving ship Ohio, has been dismissed from the Navy.

A well known gentleman of financial ability has prepared and will publish this week a pamphlet explanatory of the Secretary of the Treasury's proposed system of national finances.

Deserters from the Enemy's Camp.

HUTTONVILLE, Va., Dec. 9.—One sergeant and four privates, deserters from the enemy's camp towards Monterey, came in last night. They report that the rebels are in a suffering condition—that the roads are impassible, and the soldiers anxious to desert. They appear well pleased to be from under the paternal government of Jeff. Davis. They belonged to Hansborough's battalion, and are from Western Virginia.

Secretary of the Treasury's Report.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 9.—The Secretary of the Treasury sent into Congress his report. He enumerates the loans obtained, making an aggregate of $197,212,388. He estimates the revenue from all sources, for the fiscal year, ending July next, at $54,552,655, which is over $20,000,000 less than estimated by him in July last. To meet the demands caused by the vast increase in the army beyond the number which his estimates in July were predicated, he says of these additional appropriations, $47,985,506 61 were authorized by acts of the last session, and $143,139,927 76 are now asked for, making an aggregate increase, including $22,787,933 31, for indefinite appropriations and redemptions of temporary debt beyond the estimates of July, of $904,427 68. While recommending retrenchment and the prevention of abuses, the Secretary feels himself constrained to renew the suggestion heretofore submitted by him, that the property of rebels should be made to pay in part at least the cost of the rebellion.

Property, of great value, in the loyal States is held by proprietors who are actually or virtually engaged in that guilty attempt to break up the Union and overturn the Government, which has brought upon our country all the calamities we now endure. That property is justly forfeited to the people, and should be subjected, with due regard for all rights and interests concerned, to sequestration or confiscation, and the proceeds should be applied to the satisfaction of claims arising from the war. Property of rebels, in the rebel States, should be treated in like manner. Rights to services under State laws must of necessity form an exception to any rule of confiscation. Persons held by rebels under such laws to service as slaves, may, however, be justly liberated from their constraint, and made more valuable in employments through voluntary and compensated service, than if confiscated as subjects of property. He recommends increased duties on tea, coffee and sugar, to the rates proposed in July last. He says the problem of enabling the government to prosecute the war must engage the most careful attention of Congress. He says the circulation of notes by the banks is estimated at $200,000,000, of which $150,000,000 belong to the banks of the loyal States. The whole of this constitutes a loan without by the people to the banks, costing nothing beyond the cost of issue, and keeping a supply of specie for their redemption. He argues that Congress has constitutional power to control this credit circulation, and, at the same time, protect the people from the losses from unsound banks, and the depreciation of bank notes. The Secretary thinks it possible to combine with this protection a provision for circulation, safe to the community, and convenient for the government. Two plans for effecting this object are suggested: The first contemplates the gradual withdrawal from circulation of the notes of private corporations, and for the issue, in their stead, of United States notes, payable in coin on demand, in amounts sufficient for the useful needs of a representative currency. The second contemplates the preparation and delivery to institutions and associations, of notes prepared for circulation under national direction, and to be secured as to prompt convertibility into coin by the pledge of U. S. bonds, and other needful regulations. The first of these plans as partially adopted at the last session of Congress, in the provision authorising the Senate to issue United States notes, payable in coin, to an amount not exceeding $150,000,000. That provision may be so extended as to reach the entire circulation of the country, while a moderate tax gradually augmented on bank notes, will relieve the nation from the competition of local circulation. It has already been suggested that the substitution of a national for a State currency upon this plan, would be equivalent to a loan to the government without interest, except on the cost of preparation, issue and redemption, while the people would gain the additional advantage of a uniform currency, and relief from a considerable burden in the form of interest of debt. These advantages are doubtless considerable, and if a scheme can be devised by which such a circulation will be certainly and strictly confined to the real needs of the people, and kept constantly equivalent to specie by prompt and certain redemption in coin, it will hardly fail of legislative sanction. The plan, however, is not without serious inconveniences and hazards. The temptation, especially great in times of pressure and danger, to issue notes without adequate provision for redemption, the over present liability to be called on for redemption beyond means, however carefully provided and managed, the hazard of panics precipitating demands for coin concentrated on a few points, and a single fund, the risk of depreciated, depreciating and finally worthless paper money, the immeasurable evils of dishonored public faith and national bankruptcy. All these are possible consequences of the adoption of a system of government circulation. It may be said, and perhaps truly, that they are less deplorable than those of an irredeemable bank circulation. Without entering into that comparison, the Secretary contents himself with observing that, in his judgment, these possible disasters so far outweigh the probable benefits of the plan that he feels himself constrained to forbear recommending its adoption.

The second plan suggested remains for examination. Its principle features are: First, A circulation of notes bearing a common impression, and authenticated by a common authority. Second, The redemption of these notes by the associations and institutions to which they may be delivered for issue. Third, The security of that redemption by the pledge of United States stocks and an adequate provision of specie. In this plan, the people in their ordinary business would find the advantage of uniformity in the currency, of uniformity in security, of effectual safeguard, if effectual safeguard is possible against depreciation, and of protection from losses in discounts and exchanges, while in the operations of the government the people would find the further advantage of a large demand for government securities, of increased facilities for obtaining the loans required by the war, and of some alleviation of the burdens in industry, though a diminution in the rate of interest, or a participation in the profit of circulation, without risking the perils of a great money monopoly. A further and important advatage to the people may be reasonably expected in the increased security of the Union, springing from the common interest in its preservation, created by the distribution of its stocks to associations throughout the country as the basis of their circulation.

The Secretary gives estimates for the year ending 30th June, 1863, should the war continue so long, and the probable increase of the public debt, which, in brief, is as follows: On the 1st day of July, 1860, the public debt was $64,769,703 08. On the 1st day of July, 1861, the public debt was $90,867,828 08. On the 1st day of July, 1862, the public debt will be $517,372,802 98. On the 1st day of July, 1863, the public debt will be $897,372,802 98.

Important from the Upper Potomac.

FREDERICK, Dec. 9.—Col. Leonard, of the 23th Massachusetts regiment, arrived here this morning from Williamsport with important advices from the Upper Potomac. On Saturday afternoon a rebel force consisting of a battery of six pieces, about 400 infantry and 200 cavalry, made their appearance at Dam No. 5, on the Virginia side, and commenced throwing shot at the dam and houses on the Maryland shore, burning a barn and riddling all the houses within range. They continued the fire until dusk. The only Union forces there to oppose the rebels were a company of the Massachusetts 13th Regt., on picket duty, and an unarmed regiment from Illinois. As the Massachusett company were armed with the smooth bore musket, the fire was not effective at that distance. Early on Sunday morning the rebels resumed the fire with artillery and small arms, and emboldened by the slight resistance they met with on Saturday, they came down to the very brink of the river, and exposed themselves without fear. During the night Col. Leonard had dispatched, by canal boats, from Williamsport, another company of his regiment armed with Enfield rifles. This force was concealed as skirmishers along the Maryland shore. On the renewal of the attack on Sunday, the riflemen opened fire from their concealment, and in a short time the rebel artillerists were compelled to abandon their battery in hot haste, the infantry and cavalry leaving the ground about the same time. The rebel loss is believed to have been 15 or 20 killed, and many wounded. For want of a sufficient infantry force and a battery to protect their movements, Col. Leonard was compelled to let the rebel guns remain in position, and after night-fall the rebels returned and took them off. The rebel battery consisted of three parrot 10-pounders, one 12-pounder, carrying the Sawyer shell, and two smooth bore 6-pounders. Some of the rebel infantry were armed with improved long range rifles. This force came from Bath, the cavalry and infantry by the country roads, but the battery came by railroad from Martinsburg. They were probably en route to Winchester or Harper's Ferry, and stopped at that point to destroy the dam, and thus impede canal transportation.

This morning the rebels were in considerable force, and kept up a sputtering fire with their rifles upon our men whenever visible. One Federal soldier was struck twice and severely wounded, but this was the only casualty on our side during the whole affair.

At eleven o'clock last night a portion of the First Brigade here was put in readiness to start to Williamsport, but at a later hour the order was countermanded.

A battery of Parrot guns was forwarded to Harper's Ferry by railroad, at noon to-day, to be in readiness should the rebels again wish to test their skill in projectiles.

New York Items.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The steamship Congress, from Antwerp, arrived at this port this afternoon. Her advices have been anticipated.

The gun boat Tuscarora has arrived from Philadelphia. The gun boat Sawanee is below.

Farmon & Co.'s distillery, in Williamsburg, was partially destroyed this morning, by the explosion of one of the stills. One of the workmen, Francis League, was killed. Nearly $20,000 worth of rum was destroyed.

Kindenweller's German Concert Saloon, in the Bowery, was visited by the police on Sunday night, and all the musical singers, barkeepers and the proprietor were arrested.

Massachusetts Election.

BOSTON, Dec. 9.—Mayor Whightman was re-elected to-day by 1000 maj. over Tobey, the Republican candidate.

In Lowell, Mr. Hosford was elected Mayor over Graves, Republican.

P. M. Neal was elected Mayor of Lynn.

Mr. Gaston was re-elected Mayor of Roxbury.

J. J. Stone was elected Mayor of Charlestown, and P. E. Aldrich Mayor of Worcester.

George W. Jackman was re-elected Mayor of Newburyport by an almost unanimous vote.

New-York Bank Statement.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 9.—The Bank Statement for the week ending on Saturday shows a decrease of loans of $2,996,349; decrease of deposits, $2,685,761; an increase of specie of $910,072, and an increase of circulation of $288,554.

The Louisville Journal on the President's Message.

(From the Frankfort (Ky) Commonwealth, 6th)

The Louisville *Journal* of yesterday morning, contained an article on the President's message which must create a universal feeling of astonishment and regret in the mind of every well wisher of his country. The article is deformed by a vein of ridiculous vanity, coupled with an assumption of remarkable influence, which the writer fondly believes flows from the point of his pen whenever it comes in contact with paper. Aside from the wretched taste of criticism, it is exceedingly ill-timed, and unjust to the President.

The editor selects as the following paragraph from the President's message as a text for his remarks:

Also, obeying the dictates of prudence, as well as the obligations of law, instead of transcending, I have adhered to the act of Congress to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes. Its care upon the same subject shall be proposed, its propriety will be duly considered. The Union must be preserved, and hence all dispassible means must be employed. We should not be in haste to determine what radical and extreme measures, which may reach the loyal as well as the disloyal, are indispensable.

The editor expresses his opinions of the foregoing in the following lofty terms:

It is impossible to look upon this as anything more or less than the expression of an indirect and unmanly concurrence in the policy asserted recently by Col. Cochrane and approved by Secretary Cameron, to the mortification and shame of every loyal man of Kentucky. The passage is lacking in propriety as wofully as in statesmanship. The manner is as bad as the matter. Both are deeply unworthy.

We insist that there is nothing in the expression of the President to justify the inferences of the *Journal*. He indicates no policy (in the paragraph with which the *Journal* finds fault,) which has not long been the common law of nations, and which has governed the action of belligerent nations from time immemorial.

For some time past it has been the settled policy of the Secessionists