Pittsburgh Gazette.

SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 17, 1861.

CITY AFFAIRS.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. R. Shaw, Optician, 55 Fifth street,—corrected daily:

	IN SUN	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	00	46
12 " M.	50	58
6 " P. M.	—	42
Barometer,	29 13-10	

Republican City Ticket.

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

The National Armory and Foundry--Public Meeting.

A public meeting of merchants and others was held at the Board of Trade Rooms, yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of taking some action in reference to securing the establishment of the National Armory and Foundry at Pittsburgh.

On motion of Mr. J. R. Hunter, Hon. Geo. Wilson, Mayor, was called to the Chair, and Messrs. J. Cust Blair, Wm. M. Hartsell, H. H. Smith and Wm. Anderson were chosen Secretaries.

Hon. Wm. Wilkins, Chairman of the Armory Committee, submitted a report of the doings of the Committee since its organization, and paid a high compliment to the Secretary, Mr. George H. Thurston, by whom the report was read as follows:

MR. CHAIRMAN—Your Committee appointed June 5th, to prepare a memorial to the Government of the United States, exhibiting the advantages of Pittsburgh as a site for a National Armory and Foundry, and for the purpose of laying the same before Congress, would

REPORT,

That, a few days subsequent to their appointment, they organized for the prosecution of the duty assigned them, by choosing Hon. William Wilkins, Chairman, and George H. Thurston, Secretary, and creating from the whole Committee the following Sub-Committees:

On General Arrangement—Messrs. Wilkins, Howard and Thurston.

Mechanical Statistics—Messrs. Jones, Kennedy and Cooper.

Finance—Messrs. Cooper and Brunot.

General Statistics and Map—Messrs. Hunter and Thurston.

Throughout the month of June the Committee held frequent meetings in pursuance of the object for which they were appointed; and for the receiving and considerations of the various reports made by individual members or in their capacities of sub-committees. These meetings resulted in the publication on the 1st of July, of a memorial, accompanied by a map, of which 1,000 copies were printed in pamphlet form.

The memorial was, when published, furnished to the editors of the city papers, and by them laid before the public, in the columns of their respective sheets.

On the 5th of July, one month after their appointment, Congress having then organized for a special session, the Committee commenced a correspondence with our Representatives at Washington, as to the propriety of laying their memorial before Congress during that session. On the 11th of July a telegraphic dispatch was received by the Committee from Hon. J. K. Moorhead, advising them to lose no time in coming to Washington. In accordance with that suggestion, they made their arrangements and started the following day. Seven of the Committee met at Washington and had an interview with the President relative to the location of a National Armory. They also met with the committee which had been appointed by Congress to report upon the propriety of establishing an Armory west of the Allegheny Mountains, but found it unprepared to entertain the views of any local Committee upon the subject, and could consequently proceed no further, then, in that direction, in the performance of their duty, beyond such progress as might result from correspondence with individuals relative to the peculiar fitness of Pittsburgh for the location of the contemplated Foundry.

While at Washington, the Committee placed a large number of copies of their printed memorial in the hands of the members of both houses of Congress, besides causing copies to be circulated in various other quarters, where they considered they would be beneficial.

In the furthering of the duty for which they were appointed, the Committee have expended $100; of which sum $10 was expended for the publication of the memorial, map, postage, stationery and telegraph; and the remaining $90 in traveling expenses. This sum was a portion of a fund of $400, collected by Messrs. Cooper and Brunot from 87 firms and individuals, who, at the solicitation of those two members of the Committee, contributed to the expenses of the effort to obtain the location at Pittsburgh of a National Armory and Foundry.

The expenditure, so far, of the undersigned has been extremely light, owing to the fact that the expenses of a majority of those members of the Committee who visited Washington in July last, were paid by themselves, they having private as well as public business to attend to there, and the stay made at that city brief, there being, as already recited, nothing to be accomplished by a prolonged stay. The expenditure will, however, necessarily be largely increased if the object of securing the location at Pittsburgh of the Governmental Workshops in question is to be followed up with vigor its importance to this community demands.

The committees appointed for a similar object from several important western cities, and from many large towns, will undoubtedly be present at Washington during a large portion of the present session of Congress, vigilantly urging the claims of their respective localities, and with more earnestness than before, if we are to judge from the memorials already issued by them; rendering it necessary that a committee from this city should also be promptly upon the ground, prepared to remain and expose all such claims on the score of superior mineral and manufacturing eligibility, as may tend to inform the minds of members of Congress as to the actual condition of the real facts as existing at Pittsburgh, and those which may be asserted as pertaining to other localities.

It may also be necessary to some other pamphlets than that already published, or presented through the press, arguments sustaining the superiority of our own city. Many incidental expenses will also undoubtedly arise, the whole character cannot be specified until they occur, rendering the outlay, so far, a poor criterion upon which to estimate the cost of our efforts.

In view, therefore, of the apparent necessity that the committee will have to be well supplied with funds, however economically they may be disbursed; we would recommend that a Finance Committee be appointed, whose duty it shall be to obtain a sufficient subscription to enable the Armory Committee to conduct successfully the efforts and arguments of all contesting points, and lay before Congress, in a manner creditable to the wealth and importance of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny and the adjoining boroughs, their claims for the location within their bounds of the National Armory and Foundry.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. H. THURSTON, Sec'y Armory Com.

Judge Wilkins, before any action was taken on the report, addressed a few timely remarks to the gentlemen present. All that had been done was merely preliminary, and if any good result was to be attained, the people—the business men—must raise sufficient funds to place the advantages of Pittsburgh in a proper light before Congress. Having the best resources at hand, let the merchants, mechanics and artizans band together and secure the prize. He considered the establishment of a National Armory and Foundry here as paramount to any other local question, and one which should receive the hearty and cordial support of every citizen. The speaker would do all in his power to secure the end sought to be attained, but the work must be done by those younger and more vigorous. A Presidential contest, or an election for Governor, was not to be compared, in interest, to the importance of this contest.

Mr. Robinson then offered the following, in order to carry out the recommendations contained in the report:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed by the Chair to designate a delegation of gentlemen to proceed to Washington to advance the claims of this city to the establishment of the National Armory and Foundry.

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to raise such funds as may be needed for the incidental expenditures of the effort to obtain the location of a National Armory and Foundry at Pittsburgh, and bear the expenses of such members of a Committee as may proceed to Washington to enforce our claims.

Judge Shannon seconded the resolutions in a very able speech, in which, while pointing out the advantages of Pittsburgh as a site for the National Armory, he at the same time recounted the relative disadvantages of such points as Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Rock Island, Springfield, Cleveland, Buffalo, etc. His arguments were very forcible, and we might produce them here were it not that our citizens are fully convinced of the truth of all he said.

Mr. R. H. Kerr, after making a few remarks relative to the importance of our city as a site for the proposed works, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Allegheny county can furnish more indicements for the location of the contemplated Western Armory and Foundry, than any other place in the deep valley in the West; we, therefore, challenge competition, as regards location, *fuel, artisans, machinery, cheap labor* and materials. We would, then, most respectfully invite the Committee of Congress, having the matter in charge, to examine closely and critically for themselves as they make their report, not doubting, should they take into consideration the great advantages we possess over all others, but what they will report in favor of the Pittsburgh district, and we pledge our sacred honors, nay, our lives, we will never be found in arms against the American Government, and all those who are or may be, meet a felon's death.

Mr. F. B. Brunot, previous to the passage of the above, called the attention of the meeting to some papers just placed in his hands, containing the accounts of a meeting held at Chicago, at which the speakers had used precisely similar arguments to those advanced by our own speakers. Chicago was represented as the only place in the west suitable for the National Armory, being in the centre of immense coal fields, and nearer to the great iron producing districts of the west than any other place. He wished to say, merely, that *action*, as well as *speaking*, was required. If our citizens hoped to succeed, they *must act*. Let them send a Committee of their best men—men who are able to attend to the business—and hold them responsible for the result. He had heard it said that, while their competitors admitted the advantages of Pittsburgh, they did not fear its opposition, for the very reason that Pittsburghers are dead to their interests, or did not know their advantages, and hence would make no serious opposition in the contest.

Mr. Josiah King advocated the importance of selecting *good men* for the purpose of laying this matter before Congress. Without this, little could be accomplished.

At the request of Judge Wilkins, Mr. Kerr withdrew his resolution, inasmuch as its spirit was embodied in the report.

The question upon the adoption of the resolutions, as offered by Gen. Robinson, was then called, and they were adopted unanimously.

The Committees appointed in pursuance of the resolutions are as follows:

To Designate Gentlemen to Visit Washington—Messrs. Wm. Robinson, Wm. Wilkins, Thos. M. Howe, Isaac Jones and Josiah King.

Committee on Finance—Messrs. James M. Cooper, James A. Hutchison, Joseph R. Hunter, F. B. Brunot and Joseph Dilworth.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Davenport, the Forger.

A few days since we noticed the arrest of a man named George F. Davenport, on a charge of obtaining money by means of forged checks, passed upon parties in Cleveland. He had assumed the uniform of a captain in the regular army, and had he not been seized by officer Hague he would no doubt have victimized some of our citizens. We learn by the Cleveland *Herald* that Davenport has been safely lodged in jail, and that he is likely to remain in limbo for some time, as he has swindled several parties there. Wason, Everett & Co., bankers, cashed for him a forged draft on New York for $185. The Banking House of S. W. Crittenden & Co., cashed a draft of the doubtable Captain of $122, a few days previous to Wason, Everett & Co. doing so. Not only this: he came a watch trade over N. E. Crittenden for about $40.

SNAKE KILLED.—T. J Bigham, Esq., while walking near his residence in Lower St. Clair township, yesterday, discovered a snake, four feet long, sunning itself on the road. Mr. Bigham attacked his snakeship, and killed him. Snakes, in this vicinity, are rarely met with in December, although they have frequently been discovered by members of the Legislature at Harrisburg, during the winter months! Mr. Bigham will be on the look-out for them this winter!

THE most extensive and splendid recherche assortment of French, China and Genuine Bohemian Glass-ware, Parion Marble and China Figure Statuary, &c., are offered at public sale in this city, for several years, will be sold at the old Auction House, corner Wood street and Virgin Alley this (Sunday) afternoon, at 2 o'clock. All received in consignment from French and German importers, and to be sold without regard to prices.

FIRST NIGHT OF THE NEW DRAMA.—Last evening the new drama entitled the "South-ern Rebellion" was presented to a fashionable audience at the Pittsburgh Theatre. The panoramas, tableaux and new scenery are really grand, and the acting throughout was excellent. The "Southern Rebellion" will be repeated this evening, when another full house may be looked for.

GRAND CONCERT.—We have just learned that a great musical treat is in store for our public. The celebrated cantatrice, Madame Matilda Cravelli, from the Italian Opera, London, assisted by a talented troupe of artistes will give a Grand Concert, at Concert Hall, either on Friday or Saturday evening next.

J. H. PHILIPS, Dsq., (father of Lieut. Philips, who was buried on Sunday,) has been quite ill of typhoid fever for several days past, supposed to have been contracted while attending to his son. We are pleased to say that he is recovering.

LARCENY OF PICTURES.—A soldier named J. Johnston was arrested last evening and locked up, on a charge of stealing $20 worth of pictures from the showcase of E. T. Boyd, ambrotypist.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Church Dedication at Sewickley

The new Presbyterian Church at Sewickley, recently completed for the congregation of which Rev. James Allison is pastor, was dedicated to the service of God, on Sabbath, in the presence of immense audiences. The morning services were conducted by Rev. M. Newlins, D. D.; in the afternoon, sermon by Rev. S. J. Wilson, D. D.; and in the evening by Rev. Wm. M. Paxton, D. D. These discourses were appropriate to the occasion, and were listened to with marked attention throughout.

The new building is perhaps the finest rural church edifice in Western Pennsylvania, and has ample accommodations for seating seven hundred persons. The style is Rustic Gothic, and the material rough-hewn grey sandstone. The church is cruciform, with an extreme length of a hundred feet. The dimensions of the nave are forty-two by forty-nine feet; of the transept fifty by sixty-four feet. The height of the ceiling is thirty-six feet, of the spire one hundred feet, and there are four gables fifty-five feet high. The front window is sixteen by twenty-seven feet. The church is situated on a plot of ground two acres in extent, and both ground and buildings cost $14,000.

The inside work is very beautiful, the ceiling, pulpit, pews, doors, etc., being constructing of pine, oak, ash and other durable wood, and finished with varnish. No paint is used, and the grain of the wood presents a highly ornamental appearance. The windows are all of stained glass, of most elaborate finish and the whole edifice has been furnished in the most excellent style and taste. The congregation intend to procure an organ at any early day, so that they will lack nothing common to the most elegantly furnished churches of the city. The congregation and their pastor have cause to congratulate themselves upon the completion of so costly and comfortable a sanctuary.

Death of a Soldier.

Harvey L. Roonce, of Co. K, Black's Regiment, died at the Brigade Hospital on Sunday evening, the 8th inst. This case was rather peculiar, and the man's death was the result of imprudent eating. He had been for several weeks in the regimental hospital, suffering with remittent fever, but recovered, and, in an advanced state of convalescence, was discharged from the hospital. The man's appetite was stronger than his judgment, and he overloaded his stomach with pies, cakes, &c., which brought on a diarrhœa, that it was found impossible, in the stage of his system to check. After remaining about a week in the regimental hospital, the second time, he was removed to the one where he expired, as above indicated. Mr. R. was a resident of Venango county, aged 21 years, and leaves a wife and one child to mourn his early death. Total number of deaths, since leaving home, twenty-nine.

THE ARMY GOODS FROM FAWN TOWNSHIP.—We have received a letter from Mr. N. Miller, of Fawn township, complaining of mistakes in the list of donations of army goods from that section, and asking that we republish it in a corrected shape. We have only to say that we published the list as we received it from the agent, and hence we must not be held responsible for errors. If parties feel aggrieved, they must go to the agent for reparation.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, FOR JANUARY, 1862.—W. A. Gildenfenny, 45 Fifth street, has received the number of the Atlantic for January, just published. The table of contents shows the subjects chosen by the writers are generally of the greatest interest at the present time. We may instance "Fremont's Hundred Days in Missouri," as one of absorbing interest.

ALLEGED FORGERY.—J. W. Moon, charged with forging a check, and for whom a process was issued by the District of Quarter Sessions, was arrested on Saturday and lodged in jail. The accused is a young man, and resides in the First Ward, Allegheny.

OBTAINING MONEY BY FALSE PRETENCE.—August Monsheim, was committed to jail today by justice Stevenson, of Birmingham, to answer a charge of obtaining money by false pretence, on oath of John Graff.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVIIITH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1861.

HOUSE.—The Speaker presented the memorial of the legislative assembly of Colorado, asking for the establishment of a branch mint in that Territory. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Conway, of Kansas, rising to a question of privilege, alluded to a dialogue between himself and Mr. Fouke on Thursday. The former had included the battle of Belmont as in the series of defeats to our arms.

Mr. Fouke had ineffectually asked Mr. Harding, who had the floor, to yield it to him that he might, in his own language, nail the falsehood to the counter.

Mr. Conway had explained that he obtained his information from the newspaper. Mr. Conway, as he did not at that time hear the offensive remark with distinctness, now desired to know whether Mr. Fouke intended to make the charge of falsehood personally applicable to him.

Mr. Fouke, of Illinois, replied that he never heard of any newspaper paragraph to that effect, excepting in the Chicago *Tribune*, which was afterwards contradicted. He then made a brief statement of the battle of Belmont, to show that it was unkind in Mr. Conway to insist on characterising it as a defeat. He would permit the gentleman to make the application of the language he had heretofore uttered, as he, Mr. Conway, was the only judge in the matter.

Mr. Conway, in reply said, as Mr. Fouke had refused to avail himself of his generosity, he submitted to the candid judgment of the House, whether such conduct did not clearly manifest a deliberate purpose to bring on a personal collision without cause, and whether such conduct was not unbecoming to a member of this House; but rather of a blackguard and a scoundrel. [Sensation.]

Mr. Richardson, of Ill., timely called the Speaker to order, saying this was not the place to settle such difficulties. Cries of order, order.

Mr. Fouke wanted to say one word in reply.

Mr. Stevens, of Pa., and others objected; they had enough of such things.

The Speaker informed Mr. Fouke that no debate was in order.

Mr. Fouke, amid cries of order, was understood to say that Mr. Conway was a disgrace to the nation and humanity.

Here the matter ended in the House.

Among the bills introduced and referred was one by Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, donating lands to the several States for founding Agricultural Colleges.

The House passed a bill to strike from the pension rolls the names of all persons who have taken up arms against the government, or in any manner aided the rebellion.

Mr. Granger, of Michigan, introduced a bill for the relief of Union soldiers, now prisoners in Richmond, and elsewhere in the rebel States. A letter was read, at his instance, from the prisoners, showing their destitution, etc.

Mr. Pendleton, of Ky., stated that the Quartermaster's Department had promptly met their necessities, by sending to the South two thousand full suits of clothing.

The bill was referred to the committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Vallandigham, of Nevada, introduced a bill to establish a branch mint in the territory of Nevada. Referred to the committee on Commerce.

Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, introduced the following:

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Navy has reported to this House that Captain Charles Wilkes, in command of the San Jacinto, an armed public vessel of war, did on the 8th of November, 1861, on the high seas, in the Bay of the Trent, a British mail steamer, and forcibly remove therefrom James M. Mason and John Slidell, disloyal citizens, leading conspirators, rebel enemies and dangerous men, who, with their suites, were on their way to Europe to promote the cause of the insurrection, claiming to be Ambassadors from the so-called Confederate States; *and whereas*, the Secretary of the Navy has further reported to this House that the prompt and decisive action of Capt. Wilkes on this occasion merited and received the emphatic approval of the Department, and moreover, in a public letter, has thanked Capt. Wilkes for the act; *and whereas*, this House, on the first day of the session, did propose to tender the thanks of Congress to Capt. Wilkes, for his brave, adroit and patriotic conduct in the arrest and detention of the traitors James M. Mason and John Slidell; *and whereas*, further, on the same day, this House did request the President to demand the said James M. Mason and John Slidell in the cells of convicted felons, until certain military officers of the United States, confined and held by the so-called Confederate States, should be treated as prisoners of war; therefore, be it

Resolved, As the sense of this House, that it is the duty of the President to more firmly maintain the stand thus taken approving and adopting the act of Capt. Wilkes, in spite of any menace or demand of the British government, and that this House pledges its full support to him in upholding now the honor, and vindicating the courage of the government and the people of the United States against a foreign power.

Mr. Vallandigham moved the previous question. They had heard the first growl of the British lion. It remained to be seen who would cower.

The House refused to second the demand for the previous question.

Mr. Fenton, of Mo., moved that it be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The motion was agreed to, yeas 109, against 16 nays.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the raising of a volunteer force for the better defense of Kentucky.

Mr. Lovejoy, of Ill., hoped that it would not pass. According to official returns we have a standing army of between 600,000 and 700,000 men, which is amply sufficient for the war. We have more soldiers now than can be used, therefore, the raising of 20,000 volunteers for 12 months, instead of for the war, should not be authorized. He did not understand that the military authorities had asked for this increase; besides he was opposed to the mode of raising men and officering them.

Mr. Richardson trusted that the bill would pass. The volunteers proposed to be raised in Kentucky were of the best kind, and familiar with the State. The base of operations was at Louisville, and 20,000 men were necessary to guard the base and the line on which our army is to advance.

Messrs. Wickliffe and Dunlap favored the bill, and Mr. Stevens, of Pa., opposed it, as a matter of economy.

Messrs. Bingham, Maynard and Merrill, of Vt., severally spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Blair, of Mo., closed the debate. In reply to Mr. Lovejoy he said: We have the best reason to believe that we have not men enough in the field, for we have not been able to conquer the enemy anywhere as yet, and we have not met him, excepting when he outnumbered us. Hence, we have not been able to drive back the foe one foot.

Mr. Lovejoy replied that the enemy will not meet us, unless when he is superior in numbers.

Mr. Blair.—Then why should not our army overrun the enemy?

Mr. Lovejoy.—Because we have no generals.

Mr. Blair advocated the passage of the bill, which was passed.

Mr. Allen, of Ohio, introduced a joint resolution that, the Senate concurring, when the House adjourn on Thursday next, it be till the 6th of January. Adopted; yeas 60, nays 56.

The House then adjourned.

SENATE.—Mr. Kellog, of New York, presented the petition of the New York Chamber of Commerce, asking that the New York Assay office have the privilege of coining. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Grimes, of Iowa, presented the petition of citizens of Iowa for a change in the law which excludes Jewish Chaplains from the army. Also a petition, that in consequence of the rebellion, that slavery be absolutely and unconditionally abolished.

Mr. Sumner, of Massachusetts, presented several petitions asking that the slaves of rebels be emancipated. Also a petition from the Mayor of Boston and others, asking a repeal of the law in relation to Jewish Chaplains. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Chandler, of Michigan, presented a petition for an exchange of prisoners.

Mr. Ten Eyck offered a resolution that the present war is for the Union according to the Constitution, and the object was to save the former and enforce the latter. It was so in the beginning, and should be to the last. That measures, extreme and radical, and disruptive in themselves, involving in a common fate loyal and disloyal, should not be resorted to, and that in suppressing treason the Government cannot prove a traitor to the organic law. Laid over.

Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, offered a resolution that the Committee on Military be requested to inquire into the expediency of providing a uniform manner in dealing with the slaves of rebels, and those made prisoners or escaping from their masters.

Mr. Lane, of Ind., offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to provide by law so that the aiders and abettors of treason may be prevented from bringing suits for the collection of debts in U. S. Courts. Agreed to.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., offered a resolution that the Committee on Patents be instructed to enquire if any additional legislation is necessary to secure for persons of African descent the right to take out patents. Agreed to.

Mr. Wilkinson, of Minn., offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Jesse D. Bright, Senator from Indiana, did, on the 1st of March last, write a letter to Jefferson Davis, (the letter was here read, introducing a Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Davis as having an improvement in firearms,) and whereas, such letter is an evidence of disloyalty, therefore,

Resolved, That the said Jesse D. Bright be expelled from the Senate of the United States.

Mr. Cowan, of Pa., moved the reference of the subject to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Bright, of Ind., said that perhaps it was not improper for him to say a word as to the truth of the charges which had been made against him through a licentious press. It had been charged that he had absented himself from the Senate from fear of such a resolution of expulsion being offered. It was not so. He had been confined to his room. He had no objection to the resolution. He believed that in a service of seventeen years he had done nothing inconsistent with his duty as an American Senator, or citizen, or gentleman. He courted an investigation into all his acts, private and public, and asked to have a letter read in answer to the one already brought to the notice of the Senate. The letter alluded to was then read. It was addressed to Mr. Fitch, his colleague, saying that he was opposed to the Abolitionists, but had always been for the preservation and integrity of the Union. He was, however, opposed to the coercive policy of the Government.

The resolution was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Sumner, of Mass., gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to satisfy the claims of French spoliations.

A communication was received from the U. S. Marshal for the District of Columbia, in reply to the resolution in regard to the slaves confined in the jail at Washington. He said that slaves had been so confined in consequence of an old and uniform custom here, which he had supposed was according to law, but he had not made an investigation of the subject.

A communication was received from the President transmitting the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry in the case of Col. Miles. Referred to the Special Committee.

Mr. Trumbull, of Ill., called up the resolution asking the Secretary of State if persons had been arrested in the loyal States, and by what authority.

Mr. Dixon, of Conn., opposed the resolution. He thought it was best not to go into an investigation of such questions in times like these, when the very safety of the Union is threatened. The time will passed by when mild means. He would make no discrimination between the property of rebels. A great deal had been said about the opinions of conservative men. He had occasion to know something about those opinions and knew that they were for using any means to suppress the rebellion.

Mr. Trumbull said he was as eager as any one to crush the rebellion, but would not waste the power of the Government in arresting persons in the loyal States. It would be better to strike with the power of 600,000 men, and crush the rebellion to the earth. It seemed to him to be the very essence of despotism, if men can be arrested by telegraph without power of reply for trial. What, then, becomes of Constitutional liberty? Are we willing to trust the liberties of our citizens in the hands of any one man, no matter who? The people are engaged in the defence of Constitutional liberty, and the Constitution as our forefathers made it. That Constitution is broad enough, without any violation of it. He thought no harm could come out of the resolution. If the reply of the Secretary showed that the arrests had been made, and there was no authority for them but that they were necessary, would it not be better to make a law to effect a like result?

After a lengthy debate, Mr. Trumbull's resolution was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Adjourned.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The bill introduced to-day by Senator Wilson for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia, provides that all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent, are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor, and subjection, and labor proceeding from such cause shall not hereafter exist in the said district; that all persons holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act may, within 90 days of the passage thereof, but not thereafter, present to the Commissioners hereafter mentioned, their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages and personal description of such persons, the manner in which the information acquired such claim, and any facts touching the value thereof, that the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the legal validity of the claims therein presented, and who shall appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid; provided, however, that the entire sum so appraised and approbrated shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to $300 for each person shown to have been held by lawful claim; that the said commissioners shall, within nine months from the passage of this act, make a full and final report of their proceedings, findings and appraisements, and shall deliver the same to the Secretary of the Treasury, which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects except as hereafter provided, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with little exception, cause the amounts apportioned to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be the lawful holders thereof, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation. Be it further enacted that for the purpose of carrying into effect this act, there is hereby appropriated from the Treasury of United States a sum not exceeding $1,000,000.

A few days ago the House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the Secretary of War to furnish information concerning the disaster at Ball's Bluff, but the General-in-Chief considers that it would be injurious to the public service to transmit any reply at present in satisfaction of the request.

It appears from official documents that the number of seamen registered in the several ports of the Union during the year ending with September last, was 4,517, of whom 147 were naturalized.

The War Department, in reply to a resolution of the House, says that Colonel Lynd is believed to be the only officer who was in any way involved in the suspicion of complicity in the offence of surrendering Fort Fillmore to an inferior force of Texans, and that he has for that act been dismissed from the service.

WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 16.—The latest news from England has occasioned no marked excitement among public men, the indignant tone of the British press having been anticipated; hence the absence of expressions of surprise. As, pending the disputes between the United States and Great Britain heretofore, the angry public voice has subsided to wait the result of diplomatic formalities, so will it be again. The particular claim by the British Government, growing out of the removal of Slidell and Mason from the Trent, having yet to be presented, with the arguments in its support, are a question of controversy, and it is not unreasonable to assume that our Government will have at least equal advantage and skill in the discussion. When the British Government shall have made a formal demand for the restitution of the rebel Ministers, the time will have arrived for such a response as will show that, although we are engaged with the insurgents, there is still integrity in the Government to furnish such a reply as will not be at variance with our heretofore amply sustained character of national independence. The diplomatic corps seem to be more concerned in the important question at issue than our civil functionaries. The question generally asked is what will be the result of the controversy, rather than the expression of individual opinion on this subject. As to the Administration, there is reason to believe that neither the President nor any member of the Cabinet will be diverted in the least degree from their present course of conducting the war.

The Wall street panic, telegraphed here to-day, excites much amusement in Administration circles. The falling of stocks in Wall street, on newspaper reports of Cabinet Councils in London, is considered rather a matter of speculation than of wisdom. It is thought that stocks will rise to-morrow in New York.

The Administration is understood to be expecting a war with the Navajoes, but it has not begun to think a war possible with either England or France.

Franklin Chase, U. S. Consul at Tampico, informs the Secretary of State that the city is thronged with loyal United States citizens, who are fugitives from Texas, and are in great distress. He has relieved some of them as far as his limited private means would allow. As Congress, however, makes no provision for the relief of destitute citizens in foreign countries, unless they are seamen, the cases of the fugitives mentioned by Mr. Chase appeal strongly to the sympathies of the charitable at home.

A communication was received to-day by the Senate from Ward H. Lamon, Marshal of the District of Columbia, in answer to the resolution of that body requiring him to show by what authority he received and retains slaves in the jail of this District. The reply of Col. Lamon is in substance that the practice is acquiesced in by him on account of the universal custom, based upon some valid law into which he has made no investigation.

The following is a copy of a letter received by Col. Matheson, of the 32d State Volunteers, from R. A. Fish, Captain of Co. E, 1st California regiment. Capt. Fish is now a prisoner in the hands of the rebels at Charleston. The will be a matter of interest to know our soldiers are faring in that section, while it shows the necessity of providing for an exchange of prisoners:

Charleston, Dec. 1st.—Dear Colonel: The imprisonment is telling on us all. To-day we saw the last of Surgeon Griswold, of the 38th New York, Scott Life Guards. When disease takes one now we have no vitality to shake it off. If our Governor does not do something soon a higher count will settle our question. You know my cheerful spirits, but I am not the same. I worked hard to get up the 1st California regiment, and love it dearly. It seems hard that my efforts are to be blotted out, and my existence to be unknown, save to a few weeping relatives.

The subject of the difficulty between Representatives Fouke and Conway is now in the hands of their respective friends.

Six companies of Col. Avery's cavalry, under command of Lieut. Col. Owens, proceeded to Fairfax Court House to-day, and went through the village in different directions. There were no indications of the enemy in that vicinity excepting a few rebel pickets, one of whom was killed.

The steamer Volunteer, belonging to Caleb S. Wright, of Philadelphia, was attacked by a rebel battery, five miles this side of Mathias Point, several days ago. Twenty-seven shots were fired at her, one of which struck the awning and another went through the timber and lodged inside. She arrived here last night.

Nothing of especial interest transpired in the Kerrigan Court-martial case.

St. Louis Items.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16.—All claims against the Department of the West, which originated prior to October 14th, must be filed before examining Commissioners, now in session in this city, prior to the 10th of January, or they will not be paid by the War Department:

All the commissioned city officers, and all the county officers, except nine, have taken the oath of allegiance prescribed by the Convention. None of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and but one State officer, Col. Mosely, Auditor, have filed their oaths.

The Secessionists here openly avow their joy at the prospect of a war with England, while the Unionists seem generally to hope that the Administration will formally adhere to the already proclaimed position, and not deliver up the rebel embassadors.

John Hagan, who was arrested on Saturday for embezzlement, in a card, published this evening, says that his arrest was caused by a disagreement between him and the auditing officer of the General Post Office, which might have been prevented by prompter examination of his accounts.

Southern News.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The Peoria *Transcript* has received late Southern papers by a gentleman who left New Orleans ten days ago, coming through Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Bowling Green (Ky.) *Courier* says that Parson Brownlow was arrested for treason by the Confederated States, by the Commissioner at Knoxville, on the 6th inst., and committed to Jail.

The Knoxville *Register* says: A rumor of an order from the rebel War Department for Brownlow's safe conduct North, had created intense excitement.

The Raleigh N. C., *Standard*, of the 4th, learns from a reliable source that a Federal regiment had taken possession of Portsmouth, Va., and that there are ten Yankee steamers in Pamlico Sound.

CAIRO, Dec. 16.—It is reported that the rebels at Columbus have received a large number of heavy anchors and cables for the purpose of obstructing the navigation of the river at that place. Great preparations are being made there in expectation of an early attack.

The Battle near Cheat Mountain.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 16.—Dispatches from Phillippi say that our force at the battle of Allegheny Camp numbered 1,800. They came in sight of the enemy drawn in line of battle, in front of their intrenchments, charged upon them and drove them back. Hot firing was kept up during the afternoon on both sides, and several brilliant charges were made by our men. Gen. Milroy will renew the attack in the morning, but during the night the rebels silently left their camp, burning everything they could not carry with them. Our loss is twenty killed and thirty wounded. The rebel loss is one hundred and fifty killed, including one field officer. By this action Gen. Reynolds' front is cleared of the enemy, there being no organized rebel force within forty miles. Our advanced post detachment, sent out from Philippi on Saturday, returned last night with ten rebel guerrillas, including the notorious Jake Kurn.

Union Society in Arkansas Broken Up and Scattered.

ROLLA, Mo., Dec. 15.—Several citizens from Arkansas have reached here the past week and enlisted in the Arkansas Company, under Capt. Wm. Fry, late member of the Legislature. These men state that there was a Union society in Israel, Fulton, Independence and Zavley counties, numbering 2,500 men, which could have made an organized stand in two weeks more, but it was betrayed by a prominent member, and broken up and scattered. Many of these Union men have been arrested and taken to Little Rock. Some have been hung, and a large number are now in the woods, trying to effect their escape from the State.

Gen. Prentiss' Command.

ST. JOSEPH, Dec. 15.—Forty of General Prentiss' command returned here last night, most of them sick with the measles. They report that the Federals had several skirmishes with the rebels on their march, killing a few of them. When at the river, opposite Lexington, they were fired upon by the rebels there, and Gen. Prentiss dispersed them with shell from three 12 pounders, but there being no ferry or means crossing the river, our forces were compelled to return to Richmond for forage and prisoners. It was Prentiss' intention, however, to cross the river at a point above Lexington, and the forces from Sedalia and Kansas City would join him. The rebels are reported to be 2,000 strong.

Order from Governor Curtin.

HARRISBURG, Dec. 16.—The following important General Order was issued to-day:

General Order, No. 12.—All regiments or companies heretofore authorised to be raised within the State of Pennsylvania, if not filled by the 16th of January, A. D., 1862, will be consolidated: By order of A. G. Curtin, Governor, and Commander-in-Chief.

CRAIG BIDDLE, A. D. C.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The following is the Bank Statement for the week ending on Saturday: Decrease of loans, $2,146,251; decrease of specie, $2,883,132; decrease of circulation, $235,966; decrease of deposits, $4,259,242.

The Pirate Sumter Again.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—The Agnes has arrived here and reports speaking the English brig Mary Morton, which reported that the Sumter and Freeponts had a severe engagement, and that one of them, he did not know which, had to put into Martinique to repair damages.

Foreign Arrivals.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The steamship Glasgow arrived at this port this evening. Her advices have been anticipated.

The United States gun-boat Dacotah has been signalled below.

The Effect of the English News.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—The news from England by the Europe, creates a profound sensation in political circles. It is not credited that her Majesty's Government has determined to demand the release of the rebel emissaries, Mason and Slidell. If, however, such be the case, the feeling seems to be that our Government shall be sustained in its efforts to maintain the National honor and National integrity.

The *Tribune* and *Times* will suggest the propriety of submitting the question for arbitration by some impartial neutral power.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Dec. 16.—The English news is received on the whole with indifference. It had a slightly unfavorable effect on the tobacco sales. The secessionists are rather elated in the hope that England will assist in opening the Southern ports, while the Unionists either discredited the news or believed that the next steamer would show an essential modification of the present attitude of England. The latter believe that our government will do nothing but what is strictly right, and they repudiate submission to anything wrong, whatever the consequences.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—The effect of the English news in Baltimore has been to call forth warm Union sympathy with the position of the President, whilst the Secessionists are rejoicing at the prospect of securing the aid of England to overthrow the Union. Nearly all the Irish population in Baltimore have been Secessionists, but they are now rallying for the Union against England.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 16.—The news from England produced a decided sensation in this locality. The general sentiment is that the rights and dignity of our Government must be maintained, regardless of English bluster.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 16.—There seems to be but one feeling here as regards the English news; that is, the hope that the Administration, if right, will maintain the position taken, with firmness, let the issues be what they may. No one is frightened but the wheat buyers.

The Fire at Charleston.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The following are the complete dispatches published by the Norfolk *Day Book* on Friday last:

Branchville, S. C., Ten Miles from Charleston, Dec. 12.—Passengers who have just arrived here, report a destructive fire last night at Charleston. The fire commenced in Charleston last night, December 11th, at 9 o'clock, in Ruzel & Co.'s sash factory, at the foot of Hazel street, and communicated to the opposite side of Hazel street to Cameron &