Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1861.

CITY AFFAIRS.

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

	IN SUN	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	00	45
12 " M.	90	60
6 " P. M.		50
Barometer,		29 5-10

Republican City Ticket.

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

Religion in the Army--Interesting Meeting.

A preliminary meeting was held last evening, in the Second Presbyterian Church, (Dr. Howard's,) for the purpose of awakening a more lively interest in behalf of the moral welfare of the army. The audience was quite large, and the addresses delivered upon the occasion were highly interesting.

Mr. J. C. Bliss, (student,) gave a narrative of his recent visit to the camps on the Potomac, in company with Rev. W. A. Passavant. He related many incidents, tending to illustrate the eagerness with which the soldiers listen to religious instruction, and the avidity with which they seize tracts, books, and papers of a moral character. There were some few regiments in which the spirit of Christianity was almost wanting, owing to the inefficiency and utter unfaithfulness of the chaplains. But in every instance where a devoted and zealous minister was found, there were many true believers, and all listened to the gospel with becoming solemnity. It was proposed, by means of the "Christian Commission," to have all unworthy chaplains removed, to furnish good men in their places. It was also proposed to supply the army with suitable reading, and to stir up the church to a sense of her duty in subscribing liberally for this purpose.

Dr. Howard read a note from Rev. W. A. Passavant, in which he regretted that he could not be present, owing to a previous engagement.

Dr. M. W. Jacobus was invited to address the audience, and responded in a very able manner. He thought that if the church would enter heartily upon the cultivation of the field presented to her, the terrible civil war might result in vast good—a glorious revival might be witnessed. He urged the duty of praying and laboring for the moral welfare of the entire army.

Rev. O. E. Gaston, of the First Baptist Church, followed in an interesting address upon the same subject. The propogation of religious truth among the army was entirely feasible, and the church owed it as a debt of gratitude to these brave men to give liberally for this purpose. By so doing, the camp, instead of blunting and debasing the morals of the soldiers, would be the means of advancing their eternal interests, and better fitting them for the duties of life when the war was over.

Dr. Baird, of New-York, was next called upon to address the audience. He illustrated the subject under discussion by citing the influence of religion upon the civil wars in Germany, and particularly in the part played by Augustus Adolphus, of Sweden. He also alluded to the career of Cromwell, as bearing upon the same point, and was still speaking when we left the church.

This meeting will doubtless be followed by others, and as the cause is worthy the highest efforts of the religious community, it is to be hoped that it may meet with a cordial and zealous support, and that much good may be thereby accomplished.

Arrival of Col. Wynkoop's Cavalry--Their Reception, etc.

Last evening, about 8 o'clock, eleven companies of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, under command of Col. George C. Wynkoop, reached this city on special trains from Harrisburg. This regiment consists of three battalions, (twelve full companies,) numbering in all one thousand two hundred men. They were all recruited in the eastern part of the State, are fully equipped, and taken all in all, present decidedly the best *physique* of any regiment which has yet passed through here. The remaining company will reach here perhaps to-day.

The officers are—Colonel, George C. Wynkoop; Lieut. Colonel, Wm. B. Sipes; Majors, John E. Wynkoop, James Seibert and —— Given; Adjutant, —— Mason; Surgeon, A. M. Speer; Assistant Surgeon, J. L. Shark; Quartermaster, —— Ricketts; Chaplain, Rev. Drake. The Surgeon is a young Pittsburgher, and we believe the only representative of our city in the regiment.

The regiment was received in a most hospitable manner by the Subsistence Committee, who had prepared for them a substantial repast at the City Hall. Ten tables were spread, the entire length of the hall, and at these eleven hundred hungry men were fed at one time! Some four hundred loaves of fresh bread were consumed, with hot coffee by the hundred gallons, and butter, crackers, sausages, &c., in proportion.

A large number of ladies was present, and through their care and attention the supper was tastily prepared and well served. The men ate like soldiers and behaved like gentlemen—and left the hall *full* of—praise for the ladies!

Supper being over, the companies marched to the levee, where they were quartered on the steamers chartered to convey them to "the dark and bloody ground." They are under orders to leave on Saturday, for Louisville.

THE PEOPLE'S GALLERY.—The pictures which are taken at this gallery, are of a very fine kind. In fact, some of the most life-like specimens of our most distinguished citizens can be seen at the rooms of JAQUAY & Co.'s, No. 93 Wood street, and 26 Fifth street. The finest Photographs and Ambrotypes are taken at prices ranging from $1 up to $10. Those desiring to make a nice present to their friends during the holidays, cannot do better than to go to the People's Gallery, and have a fine photograph taken. Mr. Jaquay is so pleasant and accommodating that you cannot help being pleased. Remember the place, 93 Wood street.

THE NOTORIOUS JONES FAMILY IN LIMBO.—Bill Jones, of Washington, Pa., notorious in connection with the White murder, and who lately served three years in the Penitentiary for poisoning young Archer, is again in jail on a charge of stealing a large lot of goods from Peter Garrett, distiller, of West Bethlehem, Madison Jones and Isaac Ballou, (brothers-in-law,) equally notorious, were also arrested and committed as accomplices. On Sunday the men made an attempt to break jail, by digging through the cell wall; but were detected and secured. These people have been a curse to the county for years.

PITTSBURGH THEATRE.—The stirring American drama of the "Patriot's Dream," was presented to the patrons of the theatre last evening, and was heartily appreciated by the select audience in attendance. The attack on the Massachusetts regiment, the murder of Col. Ellsworth, the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the signing of the Declaration of Independance, etc., etc., etc., invited the attention of the audience, and at times elicited prolonged applause. The "Patriot's Dream" will be repeated to-night, when another full house may be looked for.

FINE PRESENTS.—Those of our readers who contemplate making presents to their friends should not forget to call and examine the large and superb assortment of Embroideries, Lace Goods, Dress Goods, &c., now offered by J. M. Burchfield & Co., corner of Market and Fourth streets. They are daily receiving large additions to their present stock, and will continue to do so throughout the season, so that purchasers can at all times procure any article usually kept in a wholesale or retail Dry Goods establishment. Give them an early call.

SLAUGHTER OF SHEEP BY DOGS.—On the nights of the 22d, 23d, and 24th of November, the dogs fell upon sheep in Washington township, Greene county, and killed and wounded *one hundred and thirty-seven*. Of these, forty-two were the property of Samuel Braden and Adney Lacock, estimated worth $3 a head; fifty of Hiram Swart, estimated worth $4 a head; forty-five of Robert Brister, among which were some Spanish bucks, average worth $5 a head. Four dogs were found upon the field and immediately killed.

FROM YESTERDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

The Remains of Silver and Miller--The Battle at Cheat Mountain.

Capt. C. T. Ewing, of Company G, (Plumer Guards,) Second Virginia Regiment, arrived here on Wednesday night, with the remains of Sergeant Major Wm. H. Silver, of this city, and private John S. Miller, of the First Ward, Allegheny, both of whom died in the hospital at Elkwater, Va.—the former of spinal disease, and the latter of typhoid fever.

Capt. Ewing states that he was not in the late battle at Cheat Mountain, having been previously detailed on a general Court Martial. His company was in the engagement, however, under command of Lieut. Alfred Sickman, of Greenfield, Washington county, who fell mortally wounded in front of the enemy's battery. He had picked up the rifle of an Indiana soldier, who had just fallen, and fired from behind a log at a rebel officer, but without effect. He reloaded and raised to fire a second time, when a Minie bullet passed entirely through his breast, and he expired in a few minutes. The regiment changed its position and the body was not obtained. Sergt. Vierheller was with him when he expired.

Private Wm. Colville, of the Plumer Guards, whose friends reside in this city, was severely wounded in the engagement. A ball entered the corner of the mouth, between the cheek and the jaw, and lodged in the neck, under the skin, from whence it was extracted. The jaw was not broken, and Colville's escape was most remarkable.

Capt. Thomas Gibson, of the Woods Guards, Co. B, also attached to the Second Virginia Regiment, behaved with great gallantry and narrowly escaped with his life. His sword belt was shot through, and another ball passed through his cap. His coolness and courage were highly commended. Capt. Gibson is quite a young man, and son of our well-known fellow citizen, Col. James A. Gibson, late Collector of Customs.

The Second Virginia lost but five men killed, although they fought from eight o'clock in the morning until nearly dark. The Ninth Indiana fought side by side with the Second Virginia during the greater part of the day. The losses already reported on both sides, are confirmed by Capt. Ewing. The Federal force was twenty-two hundred, while the rebels had over four thousand. The Twenty-Fifth Ohio suffered most. The whole Federal loss was between thirty and forty killed; while the rebels lost between one and two hundred, beside thirty-two prisoners. The prisoners have been sent to Columbus, Ohio.

Pittsburgh and vicinity was well represented in the battle at Cheat Mountain, since there are no less than four companies in the Second Virginia Regiment, which were recruited here—namely: Wood Guards, Co. A, Capt. West; Woods Guards, Co. B, Capt. Gibson; Plumer Guards, Capt. Ewing, and Belmont Guards, Capt. Scott.

Capt. Ewing brings $3,500, sent by members of his company to their friends. He can be seen at No. 102 Fourth street, at the office of D. H. Hazen, Esq.

A Healthy Regiment.

The Twenty-Eighth Regiment, under command of Col. John W. Geary, of Westmoreland county, now in service near Point of Rocks, has lost but *four* men by disease since called to duty. Another remarkable fact connected with this body, is, that not a single man has been killed by the enemy, notwithstanding they have been in two or three very sharp engagements, and have always been in close proximity to the enemy's pickets. A member of this regiment writes as follows:

"Since our organization we have lost but seven men by death, and but four of these were the result of disease; two by the accidental discharge of firearms, and one was drowned by falling into the lock at Harper's Ferry, while on picket duty. No other regiment has been so orderly and actively engaged as this. We have made more hard marches than any other, and had our full share of skirmishes with the enemy, and in addition to all this, we have been located since July 28th in the most unhealthy climate, perhaps, in the United States. Close to our present encampment, there is a burial ground, where more than five hundred men are buried, who fell victims to disease while engaged on the public works near by. At this time there are but twenty-five men in the regiment who are unable for duty."

The above presents a striking contrast to the lists of mortality in other Pennsylvania regiments. What is the reason? Has Col. Geary better material than other commanders, or are his men better cared for? The Sanitary Commission might obtain some useful information by examining into the sanitary regulations of this regiment.

Gen. Negley's Brigade Facing the Enemy.

From a private letter written by Capt. Jas. A. Lowrie, Assistant Adjutant General, attached to Gen. Negley's staff, we learn that that brigade is now composed of the 78th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Sirwell; 79th Pennsylvania, Col. Hambright; 1st Wisconsin, Col. Starkweather, and 38th Indiana, Col. Scribner—nearly 3,900 men. The brigade is altogether the finest in the division—the best looking, best dressed, cleanest, and best behaved, and is not surpassed for proficiency in drill. The brigade, at the date of the letter, (December 14,) was at Camp Wood, Bacon Creek, Ky., having made the march in fine style, coming in solidly, without straggling. The rebel pickets occupy the other (South) side of Green river; ours occupy this bank, and have been firing upon each other, but no road the sun is forty months, or three years and a third, which is the shortest period of any known comet. It will not reach that point in its orbit which is nearest the sun till the sixth of February.

THE TELEGRAPH LINE from Pittsburgh to Franklin was, yesterday, opened to the public. The office is in the Saint Charles Hotel, whose popular landlord, Harry Shirls, in order to accommodate his numerous guests from the city region, kindly granted the proprietors of the line an office in his house rent free.

SOLDIER'S WIFE MISSING.—Felix Russell, a private in Col. Black's Regiment, is desirous of obtaining some information of his wife, Bridget Russell, who left Wheeling some time since and came to Pittsburgh, with two children, Felix and Maggie, since which time she has not been heard from.

RAILROAD OPENED.—The new railroad from Cresson to Ebensburg, was opened last week. Thirteen miles of the Clearfield and Tyrone road have also been opened—from Tyrone to Sandy Ridge. The road will be opened to Phillipsburg early in the spring, which will be its terminus until times get better.

INQUEST.—Coroner M'Clung held an inquest last evening upon the body of an unknown woman found drowned in the canal, at Duquesne Borough. The deceased was about twenty-two years of age, and was a stranger in the vicinity.

MURDER CASE.—The Grand Jury have found a true bill against the man Able, recently arrested for the murder of Cougan, in Fayette county. The case was postponed till the March term.

P. H. WILLIAMS, said to be an old Pittsburgh thief under another name, has been held to answer two charges of robbery in Philadelphia.

PROMOTED.—C. M'C. Hays, Esq., of this city, has been promoted to the position of Adjutant of the Second Virginia Regiment.

THE greatest bargains ever offered in this city in the way of fine Gold and Silver Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silver Ware and Fancy Goods, are now to be had at the Jewelry Store of J. M. Roberts, No. 16 Fifth street, as in consequence of the present depression in trade he is closing out his entire stock at cost, and many articles at much less than cost. Also, pays particular attention to the repairing of fine Watches, Clocks and Jewelry, in which he employs none but the best workmen. Charges moderate.

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.

Our Book Table.

Hunt's Merchants' Magazine and Commercial Review. Edited by J. SMITH HOMANS and WILLIAM B. DANA. New York: WM. B. DANA.

The December number of this valuable magazine opens with a paper on "Cotton and its Culture," by J. E. Bloomfield—in which the author, after adverting to the ever growing demand for "warp and weft cotton," which the resources of cotton production in the Southern States must fail to keep pace with, speaks with great satisfaction of the prospect that is held out, in the recent attempts to *cottonize flax*, by Mr. S. Randall's invention, of obtaining a substitute, or rather an auxiliary, to supply the deficiency of cotton. The number of spindles in Europe and America, according to a recent estimate, increased at the rate of 6,000,000 per annum, requiring 810,000 bales additional per annum—a quantity equal to the whole United States cotton crop of 1828—to supply them. Here is a view of the growing empire of the "Boccalent potentate," which may well amaze us—especially when we remember how he has been of late getting into jeopardy, and playing, like a *Sans Culotte*, at the game of revolution—a game in which Kings have but poor chances, it is generally supposed. According to Mr. Bloomfield, the cotton kingdom of the Gulf States has rare advantages of climate and situation. He says: "The superiority of our cotton—unique—combining *warp* as well as *weft*, has been repeatedly acknowledged. The *cause*, however, we do not see laid down in the books or by the press. A reference to Maury and Blodget's works will show the cause of this superiority very clearly. We have during the summer months, in our best cotton States, a fall of rain, averaging nearly twenty inches—while little or none falls in other cotton producing countries during that period;—and our cotton States have at the same time the heat of the Bahama Islands—an extraordinary fact. We are master of the position in raising cotton, particularly as compared with India. We have the advantage of the favoring Gulf stream, and less than one-fourth the distance to make short voyages to and from Liverpool, and generally with return cargoes of salt, iron, crockery and passengers, to reduce the cost. The other contents of this month's number are: Yolodo—Past, Present and Future; English Insurance; International Exhibition of Works of Industry and Art; Steam and the Telegraph in India and China; East India and China Mails; the Fundamental Laws of Mexico; the New York Chamber of Commerce. Besides these, we have the usual valuable Reports, Journals, Correspondence, &c., &c. Every intelligent merchant will appreciate the value of such a medium of intercourse with the leading minds of the same important class of the community to which he himself belongs—and the *Merchants' Magazine* will be a welcome visitor from month to month in his counting room.

Christmas Presents, and Where to Get Them.

Of the many articles adapted for Christmas presents, there are none likely to prove so acceptable to a friend, or for which you will be remembered so gratefully, as a good Sewing machine. Books, however expensive or interesting, are soon read and thrown aside, and the lesson of industry and economy which these articles which have but their novelty to recommend them; but with the sewing machine it is different. Like "a thing of beauty," it remains "a joy forever" in the house—its familiar click! click! click! proclaiming at once its own usefulness and the forethought and good taste of the person who presents it. And now that we have shown our readers how acceptable and really valuable a present a sewing machine would make for a friend, the inquiry will very naturally occur where is it to be had—where can we get the best? To this we unhesitatingly answer, at the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Agency, No. 27 Fifth street. The merit of this machine has been so long established, and its superiority to all its competitors such a fixed fact, that we have no hesitation whatever in recommending it to those of our friends who are not as yet supplied. The advantages of this machine are manifold. Its neatness of finish; the beauty, strength and durability of its sewing; its extreme simplicity and the impossibility almost of its getting out of order, with the extraordinary ease with which it is operated, and the incredible rapidity with which it does its work, all combine to render it the best sewing machine ever invented, and the machine above all others for family work. Messrs. Sumner & Co., agents for the sale of the machine here, have now on hand a splendid collection, embracing every style of stands, and at all prices. A finer lot of machines we have never examined, and the person who could not select from them, would be hard to please. Remember what we have said about the appropriateness of these machines for holiday presents, and instead of squandering your money on gew-gaw jewelry, drop in and buy one of them for your friend.

ANOTHER MURDER IN GREENE COUNTY.—On Sunday a difficulty occurred at Springfield, in Greene county, between two men named John Lemley and Hamlin, in the course of which the latter was stabbed with a knife by the former, from the effects of which he died in a few hours. Lemley was arrested and conveyed to Waynesburg, and confined in jail on Sunday evening. We have no further particulars.

THE BIG MORTARS.—Six of the immense mortars cast at the Fort Pitt Works, in this city, have been landed at Philadelphia, and shipped on board a vessel for the Brooklyn Navy Yard, at New York. These mortars are three feet and seven inches in diameter, and four feet six inches in length, and will throw a bomb-shell thirteen inches in diameter. Their weight is nearly two tons.

ENCKE'S COMET.—This well known periodical comet is now visible, with the aid of a telescope of moderate power, in the constellation Pegasus. Its average time of revolution is forty months, or three years and a third, which is the shortest period of any known comet. It will not reach that point in its orbit which is nearest the sun till the sixth of February.

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NEW COUNTERFEITS IN CIRCULATION.—On Tuesday counterfeit fives on the Citizens' Bank, Middletown, Del., were extensively circulated in Philadelphia. Altered notes on this bank of the denomination of three dollars have also been put into circulation.

SOLDIERS' MONEY.—Mr. George W. Ahl has just returned from Harper's Ferry with $1,700 for the families of the members of Capt. Ahl's Company H, 28th regiment. He can be found at Dr. H. Ahl's office, No. 144 Smithfield street.

Killed on the Railroad.

Michael Burgoon, a fireman on one of the freight engines on the Pennsylvania Railroad, was killed between Crosson and Galitzin, on Friday morning last, under the following circumstances: He had descended from the engine to recover a pick-axe which had accidentally fallen from the tender; and while in the act of doing so, the Fast Line West, the approach of which he had not noticed, came upon him; the cow-catcher striking and mutilating him in a shocking manner, causing instant death. Not the least singular and painful incident connected with the sad occurrence is the fact that a brother of the unfortunate man was fireman upon the very engine which caused his death. Burgoon was a married man and the father of six children.

GOOD ADVICE.—As this a time when money is spent freely, and generally without proper regard to return of value, we advise our readers who are in pursuit of presents, to visit the Dry Goods stores of our city, where they will find articles of beauty and of real intrinsic value also. We are persuaded that by inspecting the immense and varied stock of the Messrs. Barker & Co., 59 Market street, you will be convinced of this. Their prices are so low as to permit a large liberty in taste, at little expense. Go and see, and we are satisfied you will feel obliged to us for our advice.

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THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

From Port Royal, Fort Hatteras, Fortress Monroe, Bowling Green and Paducah.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 18.—*Via Baltimore*—The steamer Georgiana brought down from Baltimore, this morning, the Hon. Charles J. Faulkner, released on parole from Fort Warren, Boston, and en route for Richmond, where he is confident of being able to exchange himself for the Hon. Mr. Ely, Representative from New York, and taken prisoner at Bull Run. Mr. Faulkner spent the forenoon at Gen. McClellan's Headquarters, and was sent by a flag of truce to Crany Island at noon. Capt. Millwood, on his return, brought down Capt. J. B. Ricketts, of the 1st artillery, who was found and taken prisoner at Bull Run. He is released on parole, and will be exchanged, if possible, for Capt. J. A. Dolagnel.

The steamer S. R. Spaulding, Capt. S. Hawes, which left Port Royal last Sunday, arrived here at an early hour this morning. She stopped at Hatteras, leaving that place yesterday, and bringing a mail and passengers. Everything is quiet at Hatteras, and nothing happens to disturb the monotony except the unusual storms.

The schooner Charity, Capt. White, said to be owned by Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, arrived at Hatteras on the 15th inst. with an assorted cargo, including a large proportion of whisky. She took a collector to Hatteras, and on arriving, he procured a building from the Commissary, which he proposed using as a Custom House. Capt. White's papers were very irregular, however, and on the 17th, Capt. Warden, of the Stars and Stripes, seized the schooner as a prize, and has sent her to New York. The collector, captain and crew of the Charity arrived here in the Spaulding to-day. They are very indignant at their treatment.

Among the other passengers from Hatteras is Commissary John Clark. There is very little news of interest from Port Royal. The U. S. troops have fully occupied Beaufort. Large quantities of cotton continue to be gathered and brought to the coast.

Capt. Ricketts was serenaded by the band of the 2d artillery, on the wharf, before the boat started for Baltimore, and numbers availed themselves of an opportunity to get a look at the Captain. He is still very weak and suffering from the effect of his wounds.

By the flag of truce we have the Richmond *Examiner* of this morning. We extract the following news:

Nashville, Dec. 16—via New Orleans, Dec. 17.—The Bowling Green correspondent of the *Union and American* says that the Yankee advance, of from 5,000 to 6,000 men, are at Green river with some artillery, but have shown no disposition to cross the river, but they are repairing the bridge.

Paducah advices represent that Humphrey Marshall is steadily advancing toward Lexington, Ky., and meeting with little or no opposition.

A gentleman who left Paducah on the 19th inst., states that the Federals had only 6,000 troops there; 10,000 at Cairo and Bird's Point, and 700 at Smithland.

A dispatch from Frankfort, Ky., of the 9th, says that Gen. Crittenden was at Cumberland Gap on Saturday with a large force, and 5,000 were at Morristown, and would give him battle. It is feared that Crittenden will invade Kentucky from that point.

Gen. Floyd's army has been ordered to Bowling Green, Kentucky. The removal of this army to the far west, says the Richmond *Dispatch*, leaves a very large portion of Virginia exposed to the enemy. The effect on the temper of the people in the exposed counties will be extremely untoward.

The Richmond *Examiner*, of the 16th inst., says: We are assured that resolutions have been introduced into Congress offering sympathy to the people of Maryland, and urging such a policy in the conduct of the war as to open the way for her admission into the Confederacy.

On Saturday last, the hustings court entered an order directing all free negroes to be sold who do not pay their taxes by the January term of the court.

Confederate State bonds of the fifteen million issue are quoting at 98@98½.

Col. Geary's Regiment Attacked--The Rebels Routed.

POINT OF ROCKS, Dec. 19.—At 10 o'clock this morning, a rebel battery of three guns, flanked with about 200 infantry, suddenly commenced shelling the encampment of Col. Geary's regiment. About twenty of the shells, which were well aimed, fell amidst the encampment, the first within a few feet of Lieut. Col. De Korponay, commanding. The six companies in the camp were immediately well deployed and entrenched, and the battery of the Pennsylvania 28th regiment opened fire with two guns. The first shot, which was sighted by Capt. Knap, disabled one of the rebel guns, and the second, sighted by Lieut. Geary, fell in their centre. Our battery then advanced and poured a continuous fire into the rebels, silencing all their guns and driving back a fourth one, which was sent to reinforce them. The rebels were driven from their position in full retreat, with a loss of fourteen killed, as far as is known, and many wounded. Our side did not lose a man. The engagement lasted over half an hour. After the route of the rebels, the victors turned their guns on some houses situated near the old furnace, on the Virginia side, where about 150 rebels were secreted. They drove them out, killing a number of them. The guns were admirably served.

Gen. Pope Surprises the Rebels Near Chilhowe, Mo., and Captures 300.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19.—Dispatches received at headquarters, from Gen. Pope, state that after a forced march (yesterday) he got between the enemy, encamped six miles from Chilhowe, Johnson county, 2,200 strong in Clinton and Henry counties, but as soon as they heard of his approach they beat a rapid retreat towards Rose Hill, Johnson county, leaving all their baggage, arms, munitions, paper, &c., in our possession. Pope then threw forward ten companies of cavalry and a section of artillery in pursuit, following with the main body of the army at Johnson, Bates co. The rebels being so closely pursued, scattered in all directions, but mostly toward the South. Pope then forced a strong cavalry reconnoissance to within fifteen miles of Osceola, and intercepted and captured 150 fleeing rebels, all their baggage, horses, &c. Other squads of some ten to fifteen taken, make the aggregate number about 300. No fighting is reported to have occurred. Pope says that the whole country between Rose Hill on the west, and Grand river on the south, is clear of rebels. Price has only 8,000 troops at Osceola.

Important from Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19.—The names of about 300 Secessionists have been enrolled by the Provost Marshal, upon whom contributions will be levied under Gen. Halleck's general order No. 24, for the benefit of the Southwest refugees. About sixty of the most prominent of these will be called on to-morrow for the sums set opposite their names, ranging from $100 to $400, and the balance will be notified as exigencies require.

It is understood that Gen. Pope will send a strong force of cavalry to Lexington. The main body of his army is now en route for Sedalia.

A train of seventy wagons, with clothing and supplies for Price, was captured in addition to the articles previously reported.

Gen. Schoepff's Column Moving.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 19.—The *Commercial's* Frankfort dispatch says that advices from Somerset state that yesterday morning at daylight Gen. Shoepff, with all his force, marched out to attack the rebels. Zollicoffer is in position on Fishing creek. Shoepff's force consists of two Tennessee regiments, Hoskins' Kentucky regiment, and the 17th, 31st, 35th and 38th Ohio regiments, Standart's Ohio and Steivitt's Kentucky batteries, of ten guns, four of which are rifled, four smooth bore and two Parrot guns. Zollicoffer has no wagons on this side of the river, and but indifferent means of crossing. Gen. Shoepff was confident of whipping him, with some hope of capturing most of his men. The Tennesseans lead the column. It is probable that a battle took place yesterday or to-day.

Dispatches from England.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Capt. Geo. Cook has arrived here from Boston with dispatches from the American Minister at London to Secretary Seward. The contents of these, brought hither by the Queen's messenger to Lord Lyons, had not, up to one o'clock, been communicated to the Government.

The President has recognized Carl Friedrich Adae, of Cincinnati, Consul for Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg Strelitz, for the Western States of America.

Warlike Feeling at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Dec. 19.—The warlike feeling is high here, and throughout the Province.

XXXVIIITH CONGRESS---FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.—Mr. Sumner, of Mass., presented petitions, numerously signed, for the emancipation of the slaves, with compensation to the loyal masters.

Mr. Wade, of Ohio, presented a petition from the citizens of Ohio, asking that John C. Fremont be appointed Lieut. General.

Mr. Wiley, of Va., offered a resolution that the existing war was forced upon the country by the States in rebellion without provocation, and was designed to destroy the Union and Constitution, and that its purpose was to disavow and repudiate the fundamental principles of the Republican Government. He proceeded to speak at length on the resolution, contending that the rebellion was perfectly unjustifiable. In no country was life so secure, and civil and religious liberty more perfect. The country was in an unexampled prosperity and especially was the South favored, and consequently there could be no grievances as a cause for rebellion. As a Virginian and a slaveholder, he declared that the South always got what she demanded.

Mr. Wiley commended the proclamations of those Generals who declared that it was not their intention to interfere with loyal institutions, and expressed his gratification that the President in his Message had reiterated his fidelity to the Constitution. He declared that by no efforts of his should slavery be extended, though he believed it was necessary for the present that the African race should be kept in bondage.

He gave brief sketch of the rise of secession. It was the result of a long concocted conspiracy, as avowed by the leaders of the rebellion. He argued at some length against the doctrine of secession and contended that the real cause of secession was hostility to the democratic principles of a republican government. Without concluding his speech, Mr. Wiley gave way to a motion for an executive session.

The resolution from the House to adjourn to the 6th of January was taken up and Mr. Carlisle, of Va., moved to amend so as to adjourn on Monday next.

Mr. Bayard, of Del., said that as the resolution read only referred to the House he moved to amend so as to read that both houses adjourn from Monday next to the 2d of January.

Mr. Wade, of Ohio, opposed an adjournment, and moved to lay the subject on the table. Lost; yeas, 17, nays, 19.

Mr. Fessenden, of Me., moved to postpone the subject till to-morrow.

No quorum voting, Mr. Foster, of Conn., moved to adjourn. Carried.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Arnold, of Ill., it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to furnish the cost of the transportation of arms, ordinance and munitions of war, to that portion of the country west of the Allegheny since May last, and give as far as practicable a detailed statement of the places from which they were transported, and the cost, whether by rail or water.

A bill to amend the act of July last, which grants $100 bounty to soldiers at the expiration of two years, and to those sooner honorably discharged, by reason of wounds and disabilities, so as to extend its provisions to those who entered the service under the first proclamation of the President, and were similarly disqualified, was, after debate, tabled.

Mr. Stevens, of Pa., from the committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the construction, preservation and repairs of fortifications and works of defence. Referred to the committee of the whole on the State of the Union.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill providing for the construction of twenty iron-clad gunboats, to be built by contract or otherwise, as the Secretary of the Navy may deem best for the public interests.

Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, offered and advocated an amendment providding that the said gunboats shall be constructed at the public Navy Yard, as far as practicable, or by proposals, to be published in the papers of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Mr. Sedgewick, of N. Y., in explanation, said that the vessels are to be built on a plan entirely different from those already constructed.

Mr. Vallandigham's amendment was disagreed to. The bill passed.

Mr. Colfax, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported a bill to promote the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office, based on the recommendation of the Postmaster General in his last Annual Report. Passed.

On motion of Mr. Washburne, of Ill., the Committee on Elections were instructed to inquire and report whether any person holding office under the United States, and receiving compensation therefor, is at the same time holding a seat here, and receiving compensation as a member of Congress.

A resolution was passed directing an inquiry into the building of the Capitol and Treasury extensions, whether the contracts had been faithfully performed, and whether the work cannot be done at less expense to the government.

Mr. Colfax reported a bill abolishing the franking privilege. Its consideration was postponed until the Second Tuesday in January.

The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill was considered and passed.

On motion of Mr. Holman, of Ind., a resolution was adopted instructing the Select Committee on contracts to inquire whether the transportation of troops by railroad was by special contract or otherwise, etc., and calling on the Secretary of War to furnish all orders relative to the transportation of troops and munitions of war.

The House then adjourned.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—As the subject of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia is now agitated it may be of general interest to know that, according to the recent census, the number of slaves in Georgetown is 577; in Washington, 1,744, and in the remainder of the District, 834, making a total of 3,185. The number of free blacks in the District is 11,131. The total population is 61,122.

The Joint Committee to inquire into the conduct of the war consists of Senators Wade, Chandler and Johnson, of Tennessee, and Representatives Gooch, Covode, Julian and Odell.

The regents of the Smithsonian Institute, on the part of the House, are Representatives Colfax, McPheron and Cox.

The bill which was passed by the House today for improving the Dead Letter Office, provides for twenty-five additional clerks, at a salary of $800 each, in accordance with the recommendations of the Post-master General, to return all dead letters to their writers, and not valuable letters alone, as now. By the estimates of the Department, at the present postage, the receipts on these dead letters would exceed the cost of the required clerks $13,000 per year. But the bill as reported from the Post Office Committee increases the postage on returned valuable letters to treble and on all other dead letters returned to double the ordinary rates, still further increasing the surplus. The bill abolishing the franking privileges, reported by Mr. Colfax, from the Post Office Committee, and the consideration of which was postponed till the second Thursday in January, abolishes all laws authorizing letters or public documents to be sent free, but provides that all who are now entitled to the franking privilege may send them without prepayment, as soldiers letters are regulated at present, the postage to be paid by the recipient. Speeches are to be carried for one cent and public documents at two cents per pound, within 2,000 miles, making the postage on an agricultural Patent Office report five cents and on volumes the size of the *Congressional Globe*, ten cents. The estimated increase of revenue by this change is over $1,000,000.

It is believed that Lord Lyons has not yet made any official communication to the Secretary of State in the affair of the Trent. A number of private letters were received from England representing the excitement as intense, but the speculations on the subject were similar to those indulged in by the press of that country. It is believed here, in well informed circles, that whatever may be the demand or claims of her Majesty's government, the questions at issue may be adjusted honorably to both nations.

A new rebel battery on the Potomac, opposite Ran Point, consisting of three guns, one of which is a 64-pounder, opened fire last night. One of the shells carried away the corner of Clemens' house, and two fell into the camp of the New Jersey regiment, on the Maryland shore, neither of them exploding. The last shot was fired about 12 o'clock last night.

Gen. Butler arrived here last night.

Capt. Wilkes visited Congress to-day, and was cordially received by the members.

Fire at Lexington--Man Shot.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 19.—The Amphitheatre at the Fair Grounds, where a regiment of soldiers was encamped, was completely destroyed by fire last night. Loss $10,000 or $12,000. During the excitement a sentinel shot Joel Hickman, 1st Lieut. of Col. Cooper's cavalry, killing him instantly.

New York Items.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—At the bank meeting held to-day, all the impending questions of the account with the Treasury Department, were harmoniously adjusted.

Secretary Chase stated that the present balance with the associated banks would be sufficient for the wants of the Government till about the middle of January, before which time he had confident expectations that our military and naval operations will give brilliant and decisive results, and he did not doubt that the questions with Great Britain would have a pacific solution. He made no propositions for further financial arrangements at this time.

The *Evening Post* says that about $300,000 will be sent to Europe in the steamer Africa.

The rumor prevails that Secretary Chase has received a dispatch from Washington that justifies the belief that the Trent affair will be