DAILY POST.

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ORPHANS' FAIR,
OPEN EVERY EVENING AT
CONCERT HALL, FIFTH STREET.
d-e20 ADMISSION 10 CENTS.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 27.

CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD INTELLIGENCE

Christmas in the City.

The weather on Thursday was not such as we are accustomed to seeing at the holiday season, and among the superstitious would have been regarded as indicating a "fat grave-yard" for the coming year, but for the saving clause of Christmas falling on Thursday, which acts as an antidote to other unfavorable omens. The streets were damp and muddy and the walking disagreeable, while the sky was overcast and cloudy, with occasional rain; in fact the sun only shone out brightly once—about the time the people generally were enjoying their Christmas turkey and accompaniments.

But the elements seemed not to affect the human tide which coursed through the streets for some days prior to Thursday—as all the principal thoroughfares were densely crowded day and night. In the morning the churches were all filled and liberal collections were made for the poor. Such stores as remained open were liberally patronized during the day, chiefly by the country people, who came in to see the sights (the town folks having made their purchases previously) and their proprietors realized handsomely—especially the confectioners, who were kept constantly employed, with their whole force. There seemed to be no intermission in the moving of the crowd along Fifth street and it was a matter of speculation to many at what hour the great public dine on Christmas.

As a matter of course the persons who realized the largest amount of money out of the festival were the proprietors of places of amusement, who doubtless wished the holidays were more frequent. The Theatre, Trimble's Varieties and Masonic Hall, where the Holman Opera Troupe hold forth, were full to their utmost capacity day and evening—while the Orphans' Fair, at Concert Hall, and the other church festivals, at Lafayette and Neville Halls, were also largely attended. The pantomimist, Harry Leslie, created great excitement and attracted a large crowd by walking across Penn street, from the Varieties to the St. Clair Hotel, on a rope fifty feet from the ground. In the evening the rush at the Theatre was astonishing and no more could have possibly been crowded in the boxes or parquette. Ladies stood up in the lobbies and some, when the doors were opened, lost their bonnets, muffs, &c., in making their way into the building, while a few fainted in the heat and contusion, and were taken home, their enjoyment spoiled for one evening. So it was everywhere; no place of amusement but what was packed so as to make comfort impossible.

Notwithstanding the immense crowd thronging the streets and the great rush at times there was little disorder and we did not see or hear of a single fight on Fifth street, and men in a state of intoxication were rarely seen. All seemed good-humored and forgiving and disposed to do all in their power to aid each other in the enjoyment of a merry Christmas.

The young folks were radiant, overjoyed with the profusion of toys bestowed upon them (perhaps with more than accustomed liberality) and added much to the general hilarity, while more expensive gifts gladdened the heart of many an adult. The poor were not neglected, and not only they but the families of many absent volunteers were provided with the means of taking part in the general merriment. In fact all seemed to enter with zest into the spirit of the day and there were few indeed, in this great city, who did not enjoy and appreciate the holiday.

The Pennsylvanians at Fredericksburg.

Gen. Birney has addressed a letter to Gov. Curtin, highly complimenting the Pennsylvanians of his brigade who participated in the late battle at Fredericksburg. He says:

It gives me pleasure to say to you that among the distinguished regiments of this old division, in the battle of Fredericksburg, were the seven from Pennsylvania, our patriotic old State.

The Fifty-seventh, Col. Campbell; Sixty-third, Major Danks; One Hundred and Fifth, Col. McKnight; Ninety-ninth, Col. Liedy, were identified with the glory of the command. But the Sixty-eighth, Col. Tippen; One Hundred and Fourteenth, Col. Collis; One Hundred and Forty-first, Col. Midiel, new accessions, did much gallant service, and withstood the enemy's charge with enthusiasm, driving him to his breastworks and cover.

It was with peculiar delight, as a Pennsylvanian, that I led so many Pennsylvania regiments to the support of the veteran "Reserves," and as that division was slowly and sullenly retiring before the overpowering foe, that we relieved it from the pursuit and repulsed the enemy with terrible slaughter.

All of these regiments are fully entitled to have officially awarded to them, from the Executive power, the right to add "Fredericksburg" to the names already crowning their banners. May I ask you, amid your many duties, to have this compliment promptly paid them.

Drowned.

On last Tuesday evening, a girl of bad character named Nellie Walker, well-known along the Ohio river between Wheeling and Parkersburg, met with a terrible death at Marietta. On the evening in question she was crossing the bridge, over the Muskingum, at the mouth of that stream, when, for some reason or other, she stepped outside of the railing of the footwalk upon the rough ends of some projecting boards. The ends of these boards being rotten, they gave way, and she fell headlong into the Ohio and was drowned.

Acting Colonel.

Capt. Gallope, of the Eighth Reserves, is now, according to a private letter, received yesterday, acting Colonel of the regiment, now much reduced by sickness and losses in battle. Capt. G. is an excellent soldier, and will doubtless acquit himself well in his new position.

Not in Session.

The Courts were not in session yesterday having, on Wednesday, adjourned over till Monday next. They meet this morning for the transaction of the usual Saturday's business.

Round House Burned.

On Tuesday morning the engine house of the Central Ohio Railroad Co. at Bellair, took fire by accident from a fire built near by and was entirely destroyed, together with a locomotive, which was badly damaged. There were three in the building, two of which were removed by the watchman, who was seriously burned in so doing.

Album Photographs.

Some of the card photographs now offered for sale are very fine, and so varied are the subjects (being taken originally from paintings and engravings of acknowledged merit) that any taste can be gratified. The largest collection we have seen is at Pittock's, opposite the Post-office. He has a very large assortment, worthy of a careful examination. They are sold, too, at a price that all can afford to pay. Call and see them.

At Home.

Capt. Ben. Morgan, of the Forty Seventh, who has shown himself a gallant officer, is home at present, on a short furlough, for the holidays.

(Communicated.)

"The Russian Pebble Imposture."

Editor of Post—SIR: Perceiving in your edition of the 25th inst. an article headed "Russian Pebbles," wherein you say: "It seems to us a matter of small importance where they are found or where they are ground, so that they answer the purpose and make a good lens." I certainly agree with you, but where an attempt is made to POIST an article upon the public, which in NO WAY RESEMBLES THE PEBBLE LENS, but, on the contrary, in the hands of ignorant men, is injurious and hurtful to the sight. Setting aside THE IMPOSITION PRACTISED, I say it becomes the duty of every honest tradesmn aware of the fact, to *expose* it to the public. This I have done, and conceive the public will sustain me in the exposure, and until the assertion is withdrawn of the existence of such an article, I shall continue to reiterate that there is *no such* LENS KNOWN, either to SCIENCE or THE TRADE as the RUSSIAN PEBBLE, either in this country or Europe.

Yours &c.,
GEO. E. SHAW,
Practical Optician and manufacturer of philosophical Instruments.

Last Night of the Holman Troupe.

This evening the last performance of this popular troupe will take place, and will certainly be sufficient to attract an immense house. The opera of La Sommambula given last night was a great success. Miss Sallie's really wonderful voice was displayed to great advantage in the rich melodies of the opera. The audience seemed impatient to appland each song and recitation, and their enthusiasm seemed to have reached the climax at the termination of the opera, for we have rarely heard a more unanimous call on any artiste that that greeted the fair and talented Sallie after the curtain fell.

This afternoon they give an extra performance, for ladies, schools, and families—the juveniles to be admitted at ten cents, and an entire change of performance.—This evening they have a great bill and two new pieces, being the last night.

Boots and shoes of all kinds at McClelland's Masonic Hall Auction.

Price of Carbon Oil.

The following are the rates for carbon oil, at the Ardesco Oil Co., *for to-day only:*

By the car load, 70 cents per gallon.
In smaller quantities 75 " " "
This is free of charge for packages.

Christmas Presents.

If you intend making a present, call on Bown & Tetley, 136 Wood street, and see the latest styles of skates for ladies and gentlemen. They have a full supply of those most in fashion at the skating ponds in New York.

GROVER & BAKER'S Sewing Machines, for family manufacturing purposes, are the best in use.
A. F. CHATONAY, General Agent,
18 Fifth street, Pittsburgh Pa.

CELEBRATED EXTRACTS FOR THE HANDKERCHIEF.

Ashland Flowers	Mignonette
Alisma	Musk
Amaryllis	Meadow Flowers
Bouquet de Californie	Lilac
Bouquet d'Arabie	Lily of the Valley
Bouquet de Carolina	New mown Hay
Bergamotte,	Orange Flowers
Cassie	Patchouly
Camelia	Pink
Clematite	Popphnack
Cedrat	Portugal
Citronelle Rosat	Prairie Flowers
Crystal Palace	Rose
Geranium	Rough and Ready
Gillieflower	Spring Flowers
Garden Flowers	Sweet Briar
Heliotrope	Sweet Pea
Honey	Sweet Lavender
Honey suckle	Sweet Lettuce
Hawthorn	Sweet Clover
Hyacinth.	Tuberos
Jasmin	Tea rose
Jockey Club,	Violette
Jenny Lind	Verbena
Jonquille.	Vetivert
Mousseline	Vanilla
Millefleurs	West End
Magnolia	White Lily
Marechale	Winter Blossom

BAZIN'S HEDYOSMIA, a highly concentrated Persian Essence, the most elegant perfume for impparting to the handkerchief a very agreeable and lasting odor.

ESSENCE BOUQUET—TREBLE EXTRACT UPPER TEN.—A large assortment of Toilet Soaps, Shaving Creams, Preparations for the Hair, Cosmetics, Toilet Waters, Dentifrices, and perfumery of all kinds, constantly on hand.
For sale by CHAS. H. RUPER,
dec20 Corner Penn and St Clair sts.

JOSEPH MEYER.....ANTHONY MEYER
JOSEPH MEYER & SON
MANUFACTURERS OF
FANCY AND PLAIN
FURNITURE & CHAIRS
WAREHOUSE, 135 SMITHFIELD STREET.
(Between Sixth street and Virgin alley.)
no9 PITTSBURGH.

COUNTING HOUSE STATIONERY.
DIARIES FOR 1863,
all sizes.
PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUMS,
new lot.
PENCILS TIPPED WITH INDIA RUBBER,
So arranged that it is always clean and ready for use.
SLOCOMB'S PATENT INKSTAND
is acknowledged to be the best air-tight ink ever offered to the public.
POCKET BOOKS FOR POSTAGE CURRENCY.
For sale by
W. S. HAVEN,
CORNER WOOD & THIRD STS.
oc20

MERCHANTS AND DEALERS should call without delay and replenish their stocks with Holiday Goods. We have a very attractive supply of Notions, Fancy Goods, &c., comprising many new and desirable articles. The trade will be supplied on very favorable terms.
MACRUM & GLYDE,
dec20 78 Market st., bet. 4th and Diamond.

CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS,
A large and well assorted stock of
Religious Pictures,
Also Portraits, Photograph and Picture Frames can be had at BEAHT'S,
No 129 Smithfield street, bet. 5th & 6th two doors from Virgin alley. dec19:tia-1.

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S TOILET articles, a beautiful assortment, very suitable for Christmas Presents. Also, a choice stock of Portemonnaies, Purses, Recticules, Buckles, Needle Books, Jet and Coral Breastpins, Necklaces, Bracelets, &c., &c., at
MACRUM & GLYDE,
dec20 78 Market st., between 4th & Diamond

FOR BOYS.
GO TO DIFFENBACHER'S AND buy a pair of those well made Boots for Boys, suitable for Christmas presents,
D. S. DIFFENBACHER.
dec20 No. 15 Fifth street.

OFFICE QUARTERMASTER U. S. ARMY, Pittsburgh Pa., Dec. 19, 1862.
PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office for the delivery at Memphis, Tennessee, of Two Hundred Thousand
200,000 Bushels of Coal.
A. MONTGOMERY,
dec22:td Major and Quartermaster, U. S Army.

Patriotic Meeting.

Pursuant to public call, the Democratic citizens of the Sixth Ward, of the City of Pittsburgh, met at the Eagle Hotel in said Ward, on Friday evening, 26th instant, when the following nominees for the respective offices were selected to be supported at the ensuing election to be held on Tuesday the 6th of January next, viz: Alderman, James C. Cummins, Esq.; Select Council, Wm. C. Hall; Common Council, Wm. Linn, Thomas Rourke, James Blackmore, F. Frauenheim; Judge of Elections, Joseph Riter; Inspector, Stephen McIlwaine; Assessor, Henry Ree, jr.; School Directors, Alex. McIlwaine, John Fullwood; Constable, Florence Sullivan.

Delegates to County Convention to be voted for on Saturday the 27th instant, at the Ward School House in said Ward, between the hours of 3 and 5 o'clock, p. m.

ARCHIBALD BRYANT, Chairman.
HENRY REE, Secretary.

Committee of Vigilance—J. R. Hunter, Wm. McLaughlin, P. O'Keefe, Solomon Mumma, Peter McCoy, with power to add to their number.

The Steamers.

Three of the steam fire engine companies, the Duquesne, Neptune and Niagara, have held meetings and passed resolutions requesting Councils to pass the ordinance recently introduced limiting the number of steamers to six. The ordinance is, we understand, also favored by the Vigilant and Eagle companies, while the most interested party, the Allegheny, are bitterly opposed to it. Of course, if the number of engines is not increased beyond six, the appropriation will not be reduced below $1,550—while it will necessarily be smaller if more are allowed. The question will come up again at the regular meeting of Councils on Monday evening, for decision, and another stirring debate is expected.

The Post Office.

By the last official report it appears that there are but seventy-three post offices in the United States which return a surplus of emoluments and commissions above the compensation of $2,000 allowed to postmasters and the incidental expenses of the offices. Of these but six reported larger sums than the Pittsburgh office, viz: New York, $88,464 42; Chicago, $20,774 77; Boston, $16,104 51; St. Louis, $15,829 78; Detroit, $14,371 62; Philadelphia, $10,764 30; Pittsburgh, $10,602 45.

Hospital Fund Contributions.

The Subsistence Committee acknowledge contributions for the Hospital from the following persons and Societies: Misses Patterson's, Miss M. Park, Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. Darlington, Mrs. J. Dilworth, Mrs. Estep, Mrs. McGee, Mrs. McKee, Miss M. Semple, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Boisel, Miss Lapsly; 2 boxes and 2 kegs unknown donor; 2 boxes from Aid Society, of New Castle, 1 box and 1 bbl; Ladies Aid Society, Greenfield, Mercer Co. 2 boxes; Ladies of Centerville, Butler Co. 1 box; Ladies of Centers Township, Washington Co. 1 box; Ladies Aid Society of Hickory, Washington Co. 1 box; Ladies of West Elizabeth, Allegheny Co. 1 box and bbl. Homewood Relief Circle, 2 boxes; 5th ward Public School, 2 boxes; 8th ward Public School, 2 boxes; Lawrenceville Soldiers' Aid Society, 2 boxes; Ladies of Rostraver, Westmoreland Co. 1 box; Dr. Murdock, Miss Sanderson, Mrs. Wallingford, 1 box; Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, Monongahela City, 1 do; Aid Society of New Castle, 1 do; Soldiers' Aid Society of Worth Tp., Butler Co. 1 do, Cumberland Presbyterian Church 1 do, Mrs. John Foster.

Capt. Fulton's Body.

The remains of Capt. Hugh Fulton, late of the 63d regiment, who died of wounds received in the late battle before Fredericksburg, arrived here yesterday and will be interred on Sunday afternoon, at two o'clock, probably with military honors. Capt. Fulton was a gallant officer and his death is a severe loss.

A Female Soldier.

On Wednesday last, at Wheeling, a young woman, found serving in the cavalry under the name of Harry Fitzallen, was held for examination as a suspected spy. She was, after serving in a Kentucky and other regiments, her sex being detected in each, again detected at Charleston and next sent to Wheeling under arrest.

To be Executed.

Gov. Curtin has signed the death warrant of Eli F. Sheets, convicted in Beaver county of the murder of John Ansley. The day fixed for the execution is Friday, April 10th.

Commitments.

John Williams was yesterday committed to jail for the larceny of a quantity o clothing from John O'Connor. Cornelius Burns was also sent up for riot, on oath of Matthew Keep.

Editorial Change.

Wm. F. Clark, Jr., of the Mercer *Dispatch*, has purchased from Alex. W. Myers, the office of the Meadville *Republican*, and will continue the publication of the latter sheet.

Monongahela Presbytery.

This body meets in the First United Presbyterian Church, of this city, on Tuesday next.

Bold Theft.

On Thursday evening, the residence of Mrs. Margaret Arbuckle, corner of West Common and Gay alley, Allegheny, was entered by some person who stole from the hall two overcoats and a lady's cloth sack. The larceny was committed early in the evening, probably while the family was at supper.

Short Lived.

The Wheeling *Observer*, after an existence of but a few weeks, has been suspended, owing to the high price of paper and want of sufficient patronage.

Miss Charlotte Thompson.

This lady took a benefit last evening, when she played to a circle crowded with the beauty and fashion of the city. It was her benefit and the principal part chosen by her was Victorine, in the "Working Girls' Dream," in which, and the Duchess in "Faint Heart never won Fair Lady," she fully sustained the high reputation she has gained here. It was decidedly an ovation and Miss Thompson may feel proud of the admiration she elicited.—To-night she appears for the only time, in the double characters of Edith and Zeldia, in the sensation drama of the "Old Towers of Charlswood." The piece drew well last season and will probably do as well to-night. None should miss the opportunity of seeing this brilliant "star."

Illustrated Papers.

Pittock, opposite the Post Office, has received his usual supply of illustrated, Eastern and foreign weeklies, and our readers can supply themselves with a great variety of late reading matter by calling on him.

UNDERSHIRTS, drawers and socks, at McClelland's Auction, 55 Fifth street.

Men's, boys' and youths' boots and shoes, at McClelland's Auction.

Holiday Presents.

All in want of Books suitable for holiday presents, or Photograph albums, will find a splendid assortment at the great Gift Book Store, No. 116 Wood street. A valuable gift worth fifty cents to one hundred dollars, is given with each sold.

Second Edition

THE VERY LATEST TELEGRAPH.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Gallantry of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

FOREIGN NEWS.

From Washington.

PLAN TO RAISE MONEY.

THE McDOWELL AND PORTER INVESTIGATIONS.

LATEST FROM VIRGINIA.

Another Raid into Kentucky.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 26.—Lieut. Col. Spiezel, of the 11th Pennsylvania cavalry, Col. Spear's dashing regiment, had a warm engagement with the enemy at Pointer's Bridge, on the Blackwater, yesterday, four miles above Franklin. He drove the enemy's pickets on this side of the river, capturing four of their pickets, one cavalry man and his horse and three infantry and their arms. Col. Steizell's advance with their carbiniers, under the gallant Lieut. John S. Ropes, first engaged the enemy at very short range. Finally discovering the enemy in superior numbers above and below us on the river, with our very small forces of only four small squadrons in peril of being flanked, Steizell very wisely concluded to retire, which he did in safety.

The following is from the Newbern (N. C.) Progress, of Dec. 18th:

The funeral of Col. Gray, of the 96th New York regiment, was attended, on Wednesday afternoon, by the 8th Massachusetts regiment and 3d New York Artillery doing escort duty. Col. Gray was killed in the battle of Kinston. He had been in the seven days' fight before Richmond.

The Free Labor Association of Craven county is rapidly gaining strength. E. W. Carpenter, of this city, is President. The Free Labor Nomination for Congress has been tendered to Charles Henry Foster, who declines, having already applied to the authorities to raise a second regiment of North Carolina Union Volunteers.

The schooner Alice D. Webb, released by order of Governor Stanly, has been retaken by special authority from the Navy Department.

HALIFAX, Dec. 26.—The royal mail steamship Europa arrived at this port at 10½ o'clock last evening. She will sail again at daylight in the morning for Boston. Her advices are from Liverpool to the 13th via Queenstown, 14th.

The delay in the transmission of news by telegraph has been caused by the bad condition of the line east of Calais, Me.

The steamship Teutonia had arrived out.

The political news is unimportant.

The Atlantic Telegraph Co. had had a very satisfactory and encouraging meeting.

The London Shipping Gazette says that the British war steamer Adriane has been ordered to leave Halifax, and after visiting New York, join Admiral Milnes squadron in Bermuda. This movement looks like the concentration of the disposable force of Admiral Milnes squadron in the localities of the recently reported outrages on British shipping by American cruisers. The Gazette thinks that Admiral Wilkes will hardly venture upon further molestation or violation of neutral territory.

The London Star reports the holding of a most enthusiastic meeting at Lambeth to express sympathy with the anti slavery policy in America. During the present year forty six American Ships have been registered in Liverpool, under British names. A general meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company was held at London on the 12th. Hon. James Stuart Mordley, presided.

He stated the terms on which it was proposed to raise £600,000 of new capital, and announced that within three days 35,000 pounds had, in response to the circulars issued by the directors, been subscribed.

FRANCE.—There were rumors in Paris of unfavorable news having been received from Mexico. Also that there were urgent calls for reinforcements which will be sent under the reserve at Martinique.

The archbishop of Paris has gone to Rome and it is rumored in the name of the Emperor of France, and to explain to the Pope the Emperor's views with the concessions necessary to be made on the part of the Pontifical Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The Secretary of Treasury in compliance with the request of the Committee on Ways and Means has prepared and sent to them a bill embodying his views. The first sections of the bill give authority to raise three hundred millions of dollars for the service of the current year, and six hundred millions for the service of the next fiscal year, and to raise these sums in any of the modes heretofore sanctioned by this Congress as the public exigencies will require. The notes includes the issue of six per cent. bonds, seventy thirty bonds and seven per cent. bonds or bonds bearing less rates of interest, and also the issue of small notes bearing three sixty-five per cent. interest, and legal tender notes bearing no interest.—The Secretary, in a letter to the Committee, expresses a strong desire to have the limits as to the modes of provision and amounts to be provided in each mode defined as precisely as possible by Congress. The remaining sections of the bill authorize the formation of banking associations to issue notes furnished by us alike in form, and secured alike by United States bonds, but payable on demand primarily by the issuing association. The bill in its main features is the same as that introduced by representative Hooper, during last session. In his letter the Secretary expressed a profound sense of the importance of this measure, to the negotiation of loans to the collection of the Internal Revenue and the the security of the people against the evils of an enormous and irredeemable paper money circulation.

A telegram from headquarters Army of the Potomac represents all quiet to-night, and nothing has happened within the last twenty-four hours worth communicating.

By a recent military order the chiefs of the respective bureads in the War Department will designate the officers to be assigned as adjutant general, quartermaster, commissary of subsistence and inspector general for each army corps. Aids de camp, authorized for corps commanders, to be appointed by the President, with consent of Senate, on recommendation of the corps commanders.

Hon. Wm. Whiting, of Boston, has been retained by the government as solicitor and special counsel of the War Department.

The seventy-fifth section of the excise law which provides that staves, hoops and heading shall not be regarded as manufactures within the meaning of the act applies, according to the decision of the Commissioner, only to those articles in the rough or when prepared and sold as staves, hoops or heading. Hogsheads, barrels or similar packages taken to pieces for greater convenience in packing are subject to a duty of three per cent. advalorum as manufactures not otherwise provided for.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is prepared to furnish revenue stamps of every kind and denomination. Stamps which were ordered on or before the 24th inst. will be forwarded during the present week.

Acting Assistant Paymaster E. K. Windship has been ordered to the steamer Massachusetts.

McDowell Court, Dec. 16th.—Sigel, in his cross-examination having desired to give some explanation of his previous testimony, Gen. McDowell objected, and the Court went into secret session. Upon re-opening the Court decided that Sigel might make any corrections of what he had already said, but that other explanations must be deferred till the close of the cross-examination. He returned negative answers to the following questions: Whether he did or did not know the strength of Rickett's division which had been assigned in a general order? He (Sigel) had admitted to have seen the duty of overtaking Longstreet at or near Thoroughfare Gap. Whether he knew or did not know that the Rhode Island cavalry had been sent up from New Baltimore on the West side of Button Ridge to attack the enemy's flank, while he should be marching through Thoroughfare Gap? Whether he knew or did not know that besides Rickett's division two brigades of cavalry under Generals Bayard and Buford had been sent to aid in the movement? Being asked if he thought 11,000 or 12,000 men, of which this expedition under Rickett's consisted, were a sufficient provision to hold the enemy in check, he replied that it was, if the troops had been moved at the right time and to the right points.

Porter Court Martial.—Porter presented through his counsel a written protest against the reception of certain evidence on the part of government, which he had deemed inadmissible, and the Court was cleared a few moments for the purpose of deliberating thereon. On re-opening the Court, Judge Advocate rendered a decision sustaining the course of the government. The first witness sworn was Lieut. Col. F. T. Locke, Assistant Adjutant General and Chief of Porter's staff; he was closely questioned in regard to an interview of McDowell with Porter, in which the former expressed his disapprobation of the position selected by Porter to give battle to the enemy. He believed Porter to have obeyed all orders and to have pushed on from Warrenton to Bristow with all possible speed. Capt. Martin, 3d Mass. battery, at that time commanding the division of artillery of Maj. Gen. Morrell, of Porters corps, underwent a similar investigation and verified the statements of the preceeding witness. Major General Morrell was next examined in relation to his movements whilst serving under Gen. Porter, but did not in any manner blame his commander.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—A letter from Suffolk, Va., dated 23d inst., states that the election for members of Congress, took place the day before, agreeably to the proclamation of General Dix. Contrary to the laws of Virginia, ballots were cast instead of voting *viva voce*. In order to give the people at Smithfield an opportunity to show their attachment to the Union, two ballot boxes were sent down to them in charge of Lieut. Col. Onderdonk, commanding two hundred of the First New York mounted rifles and two howitzers.

Suspecting that the enemy would be anxious to visit the polls, Col. Onderdonk sent the boxes direct to Smithfield, in charge of a small squad, and proceeded with the remainder of his command to Windsor. Learning that the enemy in considerable force had left the place but a short time before he proceeded cautiously toward Isle of Wight, and when about three miles out came up with the enemy sent his compliments in the shape of shell from his howitzers, and they responded handsomely with a six-pounder. A short skirmish revealed one regiment of infantry, two pieces of artillery and some cavalry. Lieut. Col. Onderdonk, thinking it would be safe to look voters nearer Suffolk, slowly retired. The rebels attempted to surround him, and at one time were only 150 yards in his rear. He suddenly wheeled his command about, and fired a volley, which emptied twenty of their saddles in quick time. Two prisoners and one horse was taken. It is thought it will be a long time before the election returns will come from Smithfield.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 26.—Morgan's command, about 3,000 cavalry, entered Glasgow on Wednesday. Three companies of the 2d Michigan cavalry opposed their entrance, but fell back on Munfordsville, having lost one Captain and two privates. The rebels lost two Captains, five privates and seven prisoners. The rebels were then reinforced and remained in possession of Glasgow on Thursday.

Cols. Gray and Shank's attacked the rebels at Bearwalow, Hart county, near Cave City, the rebels previously having damaged the Railroad near Glasgow Junction.

At last accounts the federals drove off the rebels, killing one and taking sixteen prisoners, but sustaining no loss.

The train of ammunition cars which left here this morning was fired into near Nolin and returned. No Nashville passenger train left here this morning.

The telegraphic communication between here and Nashville was interrupted this afternoon.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—An investigation into the frauds on the government show that out of the sum of $1,000,000 which was paid in this city alone, from the special appropriation of $20,000,000, for recruiting, organizing and drilling volunteers, nearly one half has been paid on fraudulent accounts. Nearly a thousand persons have been engaged in the matter, but they are not all criminally implicated.

ST. LOUIS, December 26.—The Halleck Guards left the city this morning for Gray's Summit, Franklin county, on special duty. It is said they are ordered to that place to prevent troubles from negro insurrection, as there was talk of such a movement being on foot in Franklin county, but inquiries have failed to elicit any reliable foundation for such reports. There are but few negroes in the county, not enough to get up an insurrection on any considerable scale.

New Railway Project.

By the last of this month the rails will be laid from Tyrone, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, to Bellefonte, the capital of Centre county, and the cars are already running from Tyrone to Port Matilda. This work is on the Tyrone and Lock Haven railroad, which traverses the Bald Eagle Valley and connects the Pennsylvania Central railroad at Tyrone with the Philadelphia and Erie at Lock Haven. Bellefonte is about half the distance between the two points. By the completion of this work a direct road will be opened from Pittsburgh to Elmira, Williamsport, Cattawissa, Easton, and all the North-western part of Pennsylvania.—The Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, which is now in the course of construction to Binghampton, on the New York and Erie Railroad, will connect Pittsburgh with Albany and Boston, via the Bald Eagle Valley line. Of this route the Williamsport and Elmira line constitutes the essential part, and thus the reader will appreciate the rumor which has recently claimed credence in the New York money market, to the effect that the Pennsylvania railroad was considering a proposition to lease the Elmira Road. With that line in its possession, the Pennsylvania company would have a direct road from Pittsburgh to Albany and Boston, avoiding both Philadelphia and New York cities.

STEAM FROM NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL.
THE STEAMSHIP
GREAT EASTERN,
WALTER PATON commander, will be dispatched from
NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL,
—ON—
SATURDAY, January 3d,
First Cabin.....$110 to $155, each berth, according to the size and location of accommodation of the state rooms; all having the same privileges in the Saloons and in regard to meals and attendance.
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The Holidays are coming, and nothing can be more appropriate, economical or acceptable for a CHRISTMAS or NEW YEAR'S GIFT than an improved
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SEWING MACHINES,
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being an attachment for sewing Braid or Cord upon any kind of fabric, in the most elaborate designs without any previous basting.
The elegance, speed and simplicity of this Machine, the beauty and strength of stitch, and adaptibility to the thickest or thinest fabrics render it the most SUBSTANTIAL and POPULAR Sewing Machine now offered to the public.
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THIS (Saturday) Morning, Dec. 27, at 10 o'clock, at the Auction Room, 84 Fifth street, will be sold a large assortment of Boots, Shoes, Rubbers, Hosiery, Gloves, Notions, Fancy Goods, Cutlery, Jewelry, Watches, Clocks, Silver Plated Ware, Pocket Books, Wallets, Carpet Bags, Valises, Trunks, Blankets, Quilts, Shawls, Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Caps, Furs, Boots