The Compiler.

OUR FLAG!

The union of lakes—the union of lands—
The Union of States none would sever;
The union of hearts—the union of hands—
And the Flag of our Union forever!

E. S. STABLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

GETTYSBURG, PA:

MONDAY MORNING, DEC. 23, 1861.

Gen. McClellan's Threatened Resignation.

The story, originated by Thaddeus Stevens, that Gen. McClellan had threatened to resign unless the report of the Secretary of War was modified, appears to be without foundation. Mr. Stevens only said that he had heard the report distinctly asserted, without vouching for its truth. The Washington *Star* contradicts the whole story, and says it "grew out of the fact that it is well known here that Gen. McClellan, and, indeed, every other general officer now in the service on this line, whether regular or volunteer, is of opinion that for Congress to undertake to make the war one for the abolition of slavery, rather than, as originally designed, a war for the restoration of the Union as our fathers made it, will be to insure the eventual success of the rebellion of Jeff. Davis & Co."

Gen. Patterson.

General Patterson has demanded a Court of Inquiry. The necessary papers were forwarded to the authorities, on November 1st, but no response had been received. Recently the matter has again been agitated by the General, but, as before, without any definite results. It is stated that Gen. Scott would be affected by a Court of Inquiry called for the purpose of investigating the conduct of General Patterson in the Virginia campaign, and a Washington correspondent of one of the New York journals gives this as a reason for not instituting such an inquiry. The friends of Gen. Patterson on the other hand, allege that the demand for a court was preferred before General Scott left the country, and declare that an official report of the campaign must be obtained.

☞ The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, says that President Lincoln recently made the following declaration:

"'Emancipation would be equivalent to a John Brown raid, on a gigantic scale.—Our position is surrounded with a sufficient number of dangers already. Abolition would throw against us, irrevocably, the four States of Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia and Maryland, which it is costing the nation such efforts to regain. We have our hands full as it is, and if there is to be any such suicidal legislation, we might as well cut loose at once, and begin taking up the arteries to prevent our bleeding to death.' My informant has given me these words that fell from the President's lips, as nearly as he could remember them, and thinks they are exactly what he said. He spoke forcibly and energetically, deprecating as worse than useless, from whatever point of view it might be regarded, the fanatical disturbance which the ultras of Congress are endeavoring to create."

The remarks here attributed to the President are as "true as Gospel," whether he made them or not. We commend them to the serious consideration of the *Star* managers, who may be said to be fairly in the Abolition current. When these tricksters shout "hurrah for the Union!" they *mean* "hurrah for Abolition!" just as their fellow radicals in Congress do.

☞ We are to bequeath a thousand millions or more of debt, growing out of this rebellion, to our posterity; that, just now, seems inevitable. Shall we bequeath them the *cause* of it, too, so that they may have a like contest, while National credit shall be impaired by the debt we are creating?—*N. Y. Tribune.*

We trust not—we hope that when this war shall have ended in the restoration of the Union and the rights of the States unimpaired, that the Abolitionists who are the original *cause* of our National troubles will never be heard of again except as a warning to future generations.

☞ G. C. STAIR, Esq., Editor and Proprietor of the *York Advocate*, died of pulmonary consumption, in that place, on the 11th instant, in the 39th year of his age. We were youths together, and during the years of our intimate intercourse, the writer had frequent occasion to admire his many high-souled attributes. "His upright character, his genial social qualities, his capacious and active mind, his public spirit, and the silent powerful influence of his unobtrusive moral excellence, all characterized him as one of nature's noblemen." As a man, a citizen, and a Christian, none stood higher. In full truth we may say of him,

"None knew him but to love him—
None named him but to praise."

Rest, friend of old! rest!

☞ Gov. Curtin, in compliance with an act of Assembly, has appointed Hon. D. M. Smyser, of Montgomery, Wm. McClellan, Esq., of Franklin, and James M. Street, of Allegheny, a Board of Commissioners to revise the revenue laws of the State.

The Anderson Body Guard.—A Louisville paper, announcing the arrival there of the Anderson Body Guard, says:—"They are the finest looking body of men we have yet seen. They are the flower of young Pennsylvania, being all about five feet ten inches to six feet in height; strong and hearty; picked men; one man from each county of the State."

☞ The Democrats of Detroit, Michigan, at the recent election, elected their candidate for Mayor, by about 400 majority, and seven of the ten Democratic nominees for Aldermen. The Republican majority last fall in the city on Presidential electors was 514.

☞ Hon. GEORGE A. CRAWFORD (Democrat) has been elected Governor of Kansas. Mr. Crawford was formerly a clerk in the Post Office Department at Washington, and a Buchanan Elector in Pennsylvania in 1856.

☞ Mr. Hosford, Dem., was elected Mayor of Lowell, over Graves, Rep.

Abolitionists Rampant.

It seems, says the Police Gazette, as though we are never to get rid of the overlasting nigger, but that he is to be dished up to us morning, noon and night, in such form and shape as our tormenters think best adapted to their malignant purposes. The President is evidently just and conservative in his policy, which does not suit these fire eating Abolitionists, and they are determined, if possible, to drive him to following their plans. To this end they are holding caucuses, offering resolutions in Congress, making speeches and cutting up various other antics characteristic of the race, but they are destined to disappointment, for we do not beleive that President Lincoln will ever submit to become a party to their insane plans. Congress has no authority whatever to abolish slavery in any State; and if they should pass an act to that effect it would be void in itself, and we would be sure to elect men to the next Congress that would wipe the illegal enactment from the statute book. This full time that something was done with the incendiaries, for they are really doing more injury to the country than the Secessionists, and if the President would direct his Marshals to take charge of one Lovejoy and one Stevens, who have obtained seats in Congress, and also about two or three hundred of their co-conspirators outside of Congress, and give them a berth at Fort Lafayette or Warren, he would do the country more good than could be accomplished by an army of fifty thousand men. These are the men who have been instrumental in plunging the country into war, and now they are doing everything in their power to prolong it, and to add to its horrors. They do not enlist either as soldiers or officers, for they fear to meet a hailstorm of leaden bullets; but they stay at home, seek for contracts or fat offices, and then occupy their leisure time in concocting schemes that must result in making the strife more sanguinary than the most blood-thirsty could desire. There must be an end put to their operations, and that soon, or more evil will ensue.

The Nigger in Congress.

Congress is devoting considerably more attention to the nigger than to the war.—The Republican political generals, who occupy seats in that body, and whose brilliant exploits at Bull Run are so well remembered, cannot remain contented with leaving our military operations in the hands of the officers appointed to conduct them, but seek to embarrass them by resolutions and suggestions that cannot fail to have a disastrous effect. Instead of this being a short and economical session, we are to have endless propositions and debates on the sickening slavery hobby, which will only help to aggravate difficulties. The Republicans have things now entirely in their own hands, and will be responsible for the whole management of the Government. If they shall postpone relief to our soldiers, if they cripple the efforts of our generals, if they extend the war, and distract the North, by dragging the slavery discussions into the Halls of Congress, as of more consequence than speedy peace, they alone must be held to account, and a fearful retribution will await them.—*Erie Observer.*

Defeat of the Abolitionists in Congress.

The Abolition leaders of Congress last week, made an effort to pass a resolution to censure General Halleck for issuing his order preventing slaves in Missouri from entering the lines of our army. The resolution also aimed at modifying and altering the order. Stevens, Lovejoy and other kindred spirits, made speeches denouncing Sherman, Dix, Halleck and General McClelland for refusing to carry out the emancipation scheme of the abolitionists. But when the vote came, on the resolution, we rejoice that there were found in Congress enough conservative, Constitutional men to defeat the resolution. If the true Union men only stand firm in Congress, the deep laid schemes of the busy agitators will be thoroughly defeated, and the Union restored on a constitutional basis. This is what the people are now fighting for, and they will be content with nothing else.—*York Gazette.*

A Significant Remark of President Lincoln.—Said a leading Democrat of the West, the other day, to the President, "If those who helped to place you in power were as truly your friends, and as unselfish and honest in their support of your Administration, as those who opposed you, you would have less trouble." "*I begin to think so,*" replied the President.—*Providence Post.*

☞ The Somerset *Democrat* says: "The Chicago platform did well enough to carry an election, but it won't do to govern a nation by. Mr. Lincoln is gradually coming all right, and we expect that before his term of office expires he will be a first rate Democrat."

☞ Judge JEREMIAH S. BLACK has been appointed to the honorable and lucrative position of Reporter of the Supreme Court of the United States, in place of Gen. Benjamin C. Howard, resigned.

☞ Hon. Jas. X. M'Lanahan, formerly of Chambersburg, died suddenly, at his residence, in New York city, on Monday last, mourned by a large number of friends and relatives.

☞ Wm. H. Johnson, a private in the Lincoln Cavalry, was shot on the 13th inst., for the crime of desertion, in the presence of 7000 soldiers. This is the first execution in the army of the Potomac.

☞ The New Orleans Crescent states that three eminent divines of the Methodist church have been commissioned to raise a mounted regiment of preachers for the Confederate army.

☞ The Southern Congress has passed a bill admitting Kentucky into the Southern Confederacy. Commissioners were appointed at Russellville empowered to act in behalf of Kentucky.

☞ Of all the Cabinet officers, the one most conspicuous in hostility to the emancipation programme, is Secretary Smith.

☞ Mr. Foster, the candidate for the U.S. Congress from North Carolina, has voluntarily abandoned his claim. The whole proceeding was a notorious farce.

☞ Christmas—on Wednesday next.—Youngsters, don't forget to hang up your stockings to-morrow evening. Bigsters can hang up theirs', too, if they wish, and then take them down the next morning.

☞ The sleighing is said to excellent in the northern part of New England.

President Lincoln Burnt in Effigy.

On the 6th ult., the first anniversary of his election, President Lincoln was burnt in effigy in the city of Zanesville, Ohio.—Not for any breach of the Constitution, not for usurpations of power, was this indignity offered to the President: but simply for doing what he had a *constitutional* and legal right to do—removing Fremont from the command of the Department of the West.

This removal is loudly denounced by Republicans and so-called *Unionists*, who were lately blatant for the support of the President in all his acts, as identical with the support of the Government and the Union.

Had a mob of Democrats, when the President suspended the writ of *habeas corpus*, assembled tumultuously, and burnt him in effigy, what a yell of indignation and wrath, reverberating across the continent, would have burst from the Republican and Abolition ranks. The cry of "Treason!" "Treason!" "Treason!" would have been proclaimed by every political anti-slavery newspaper, and every fanatic in the land.

The immediate imprisonment, if not the execution of the mobocrats, would have been demanded, as a just penalty for their audacious and treasonable amusement. It is doubtful, if such a scene had been enacted by Democrats a few months ago, whether the aiders and abettors would have been permitted, at least in some locations in this State, to survive for twenty-four hours afterwards.

Republicans burning Lincoln in effigy!—The thought is startling! But times change and the bogus Union lovers change with them. It is no uncommon thing for fanatics and hypocrites to vilify and persecute those whom they have once professed to love and worship, when they can no longer use them to effect their selfish purposes.—Certain Republicans and radical Abolitionists are now showing, by the abuse and curses they heap upon President Lincoln for removing Fremont, how deep and sincere were their loud professions of love and devotion to the Administration, the Government and the Union.—*Jeffersonian.*

An Outburst of Sympathy.

Some sixty negroes—and perhaps twice as many whites—are now confined in the Jail of Washington city. Most of the negroes were arrested by the city police as escaped "contrabands," and for various offences against the municipal authority of the city. Senator Wilson, having learned these facts, brought the subject to the attention of the Senate, and asked the appointment of a committee of investigation. Here a display of Abolition sympathy for the negro burst forth in all its glory. The old jail was an "Austrian Dungeon"—a "stinking, filthy, pestilential hole," worse than the "Black Hole of Calcutta." Now, all this may be true enough. But why have these philanthropists neglected so long this crying abuse? The Washington *Star* informs us that this "Austrian Dungeon" has been presented to the Grand Jury of Washington over twenty times within the last ten years; and we remember very well that while in 1854, '55, and '56, when the city was under the control of the "Blood Tubs," "Plug Uglies," &c., in other words, the Know Nothings, this old prison was filled with "Dutch," "Irish" and other white folks, Congress was perfectly quiet. The old jail was quite good enough for its denizens then. But now when Sambo is concerned these false-hearted philanthropists are filled with horror.

We had supposed that these fellows would be satisfied when they could raise the negro to a level with the white man; but now it seems that they are determined that the negro shall not be submitted to the degredation heaped upon white men.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

Not Counted in Yet.—Senator Hale, of New Hampshire, said in the U. S. Senate, not twelve months since, that in case of an appeal to arms between the North and the South, he would be counted in. Five hundred thousand men have left their homes to serve their country, but the distinguished Senator has not been counted in.—*Hartford Times.*

☞ Certainly not, Mr. *Times.* These Abolitionists are the greatest braggarts in the world, but they always take good care to keep out of harm's way. Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, made a show of courage by assisting in raising a regiment, of which it was announced that he was to be commander, but when the hour for marching came, he found a more congenial place in his old seat in the Senate. Has any one ever heard of Garrison, Philips, Sumner, Wilmot, Giddings, Greeley, Wade, Chandler or Doolittle offering to fight for the defence of the Union? They prefer to remain at a safe distance from the field of danger, where they can criticise and abuse the officers of the army, and denounce the Administration for not thinking, like themselves, more of the negro than the white man. Like hellish fiends, they were not contented until they plunged the nation into the horrors of civil war, and now, cowards as they are, they will not peril a hair of their worthless heads in aiding to extricate the country from the trouble they assisted so much in bringing down upon it.—*Erie Observer.*

Showing the White Feather.

At the Republican Congressional caucus held on Wednesday night, Mr. Sherman, of New York, took the ground that we never could put down the rebellion with the bullet; that we must employ the slaves to do it. Had any person ventured to make the declaration three months ago that the united North, with its eighteen millions of free population and vast resources, could not put down the divided South, with but seven millions, he would have been branded as a coward or denounced as a traitor. But times have changed, and the loudest boasters are the first to show the white feather. Shame on the white man who thus seeks to impeach Northern courage!

☞ The Albany Argus says Mr. Croswell's letter, which the Emancipationists have claimed as favorable to their views, "is an argument against the emancipation policy, and which declared that the advocates of emancipation are laboring, as effectually as the Secessionists, for the dissolution of the Union."

A Feeling Illustration.—A very worthy clergyman of this city, in one of his sermons on Sunday last, dwelling upon the depravity of the human heart, and its exhibitions in human conduct, remarked that the night before it was evinced in the meanest of all possible phases by the robbery of his hen roost.—*New Bedford Mercury.*

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, on Monday, Mr. Wilkinson offered a resolution reciting a certain letter from Jesse D. Bright, a Senator from Indiana, to Jefferson Davis, and providing that the said Senator be expelled from this body. He moved that the resolution be referred to the committee on the judiciary.—He would, he said, have offered this before, but the Senator was not in his seat.

Mr. Bright stated that he wished an inquiry into the truth or falsity of the charges preferred against him by a licentious press. He courted investigation into all his acts, public and private, for the seventeen years that he had held a seat in this body, he was not conscious of having said or done anything that was unworthy of him as a patriot, a Senator, or a gentleman. He presented a letter, which was read, and which was addressed to him to a friend in Indiana upon the subject of the charges against him. In the letter he expresses his devotion to the preservation of the Union, while the Abolitionists were, in his opinion, making its destruction. No one, he says, regrets more than himself the situation of the country; he is more anxious to restore its tranquility. But he also expresses his entire opposition to the coercive policy of the government. The subject was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

The Senate took up for consideration a resolution heretofore offered by Mr. Trumbull, for an inquiry whether any person had been arrested by order from the Secretary of State, in the loyal States, and under what law.

Mr. Hale suggested the additional words: "and for what cause."

Mr. Dixon deprecated the introduction of this inquiry. It would not, in his judgment, be the way to promote the cause in which we were engaged. The necessary process had not, in all cases, gone far enough. Open and avowed secessionists had been arrested. It would have been moral treason to have neglected this duty on the part of the Secretary of State. What were the facts? Our nationality was endangered, and, in the opinion of foreign governments, it was even now doubtful whether the government could be sustained in its present form.

Mr. Trumbull vindicated his proposition. He believed the government could put this insurrection down by arms, and without the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act. But this was a resolution of inquiry merely, and was confined to citizens in the loyal States. He denied the right and the power of the government by the click of the telegraph to arrest a citizen and immure him in prison without the opportunity of defense or inquiry. An arrest at the whim and caprice of a cabinet minister, even if he were infallible, was a gross abuse, and ought to be corrected by law.

If power alone was to be consulted, a major general, or even a brigadier, might assume at the head of a force, to arrest the President of the United States, and confine him at Fortress Monroe. Innocent men had been arrested. If they were not innocent they would not have been discharged. Then why were they arrested? The President was the last man to assume despotic power. But we might have a man of different character at the head of affairs, and any assumption of despotic power ought to be prevented by law. It was just in such times as these that the foundations of tyranny were laid. [illegible] under the plea of necessity.

Mr. Wilson expressed his regret that the Senator from Illinois had introduced this resolution, and deplored the speech with which he accompanied it.

Mr. Hale was rejoiced that the inquiry had been proposed, for he would never yield the right to inquire into official acts of the Executive. He had come into this Senate without a party and should go out of it without a party, if free inquiry into the proceedings of the government was to be denied by those with whom he acted. If the day should ever come when this government could not be sustained upon principles of constitutional liberty, let it perish. Bull Run had, he said, been to this government what the Hartford convention had to the party that avowed it. It had cast a shade over those who were concerned in it. But the country could better stand another Bull Run defeat than the continued course of inaction and indecision that had marked the conduct of the war.

Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland, thanked the Senator from Illinois for introducing his resolution. As to the State of Maryland, there had never been any considerable time when the civil power in that State was not able to maintain the supremacy of the law. The action of the people of the State at two elections illustrated their loyalty to the constitution and the laws. He would not vindicate treason, would not say that there were not thousands who were unfriendly to the government, yet persons had been wrongfully arrested. He instanced the case of a State Senator now in Fort Warren, who protested that no word or act of his could be produced to fasten the crime of treason upon him. He believed that the civil power has ample power for exercising its legitimate authority.

Mr. Doolittle moved a reference of the resolution to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Pearce remarked that it was not pretended that there was any constitutional power to make the arrests in question.—He was in the dark as to the principle involved by exercising the authority. He wanted to know by what right the Secretary of State, sitting here at Washington, should by a dash of his pen immure persons within the walls of a fortress. Such arrests were not needed to restore the Union, which was a thing most desirable to him. But if there was no power to prevent such arrests then the vital principle of the constitution was gone, and he would sink into despondency and grief if they were continued.

Mr. Bayard, of Delaware, said there was nothing in the resolution which was a proper subject for reference.

Mr. Latham was against the reference of the resolution. He saw no need of maintaining law by trampling on law. The example was worse than that of the rebel States.

Mr. Fessenden spoke at much length, expressing the opinion that much weight had been given to the resolution. He justified the arrests as a general thing, but would not shrink from inquiry as to whether or not wrong might not have been done by the Executive. If arrests had not been made in the hour of peril, then our officials were not the men for the occasion. He would not have initiated the resolution of inquiry, but as it was up he would vote for it.

Mr. Doolittle desired the reference with a view to having a report as to who had the power to suspend the habeas corpus act.

After further protracted discussion by Senators Doolittle, Browning, Fessenden and Trumbull, the vote was taken and the resolution was referred—25 yeas to 17 nays.

In the House, "explanations" occurred between Mr. Conway, of Kansas, and Mr. Fouke, of Ill., the one (Conway) denouncing the other as a blackguard and a scoundrel, and the other (Fouke) retorting that he (Conway) is a disgrace to his State, a disgrace to his nation, and a disgrace to humanity. Here the matter dropped.

On motion of Mr. Duell, a bill was passed authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension rolls the names of all persons who are disloyal to the government.

Mr. Vallandigham offered a resolution that inasmuch as the Secretary of the Navy had sanctioned the act of Capt. Wilkes in taking from a British steamer Messrs. Mason and Slidell—

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

It was referred by a vote of—yeas 100; nays 16.

Mr. Wickliffe then called up his bill to raise an additional force to defend the borders of Kentucky.

Mr. Lovejoy would not now vote for additional soldiers. He thought we had more now than we knew what to do with at present. He thought if it was necessary to send a force to Kentucky, we could send them from the Potomac, as we have already enough to spare, at least twenty thousand for that State, which this bill requires. He said that every soldier that enlisted for three years' service should be placed upon the same footing as those of the regulars.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, could not vote for this bill. It had not been asked for by any of the departments of the government.

Mr. Dunlap, of Ky., said that Kentucky was still true to the Union. If Kentucky is to be the battle ground of this contest we want a force to defend this border State as our army passes on towards Tennessee.

Mr. Diven, of New York, thought it was time to put this rebellion down, and speedily too.

Mr. Lovejoy hesitated at first to oppose this bill when it was first read, because it might look as if he was opposed to it because it came from a slave State. He said the gentleman from Kentucky had said something about his being at Bull Run.

Mr. Wickliffe did not charge the gentleman with running. He only said the gentleman from Illinois was there.

Mr. Lovejoy said he was there, and he did not run. The defeat of that battle was not owing so much to the want of men as it was to the drunkenness of some of the officers.

Mr. Wright, of Kentucky, advocated the passage of the bill, when—

Mr. Lovejoy desired to know if the gentleman was in favor of enlisting all men who offer their services to the United States?

Mr. Wright said he was in favor of making this army just as large as was necessary for the necessity of the government.

Mr. Lovejoy desired to ask the gentleman if he had ascertained the necessary number of men?

Mr. Wright replied that it was not within the power of the gentleman from Illinois, nor the power of the President, nor the Commander in Chief, to tell.

Mr. Lovejoy said the question still came back whether, in the opinion of the gentleman, that this House should go on to enlist. If we do not know how many, we should not go on in this indefinite way.

Mr. Wright.—The gentleman thought so; no longer than last week he proposed that this House should be the Commander in Chief of the army, by offering a resolution to rescind the order of Gen. Halleck.

Mr. Bingham spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Blair, of Mo., said we had not in one single instance met them but that they outnumbered our force. We have not driven them back one foot. He thought this ought to be conclusive for the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. Lovejoy replied that the enemy will not meet us unless they have a superior force.

Mr. Blair.—Why then does not our army advance.

Mr. Lovejoy.—We have no Generals.

He thought there was a broad difference between the State of Kentucky and that of Pennsylvania. The men of Kentucky are suffering by the hands of the enemy, and ask the government for protection.

The bill was then passed.

Mr. Allen, of Ohio, offered a resolution that when this House adjourn it adjourn to meet on the 6th day of January next.—Agreed to—yeas 60, nays 59.

Mr. Aldrich, of Minnesota, offered a resolution, which was passed, to abolish sutlers or sutlerships.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Carlile, of Western Virginia, made a speech against the emancipation of the negroes. Among other things, he declared—let this policy be avowed and he would undertake to say that the Federal army would melt away like snow before the rays of the sun, and that every loyal man, not only in the seceded States, but in every border slave State, would abandon the cause of the Federal government.

In the House of Representatives the resolutions of Mr. Elliott, Mr. Stevens and all others included in the same special order, proposing the emancipation of the slaves, were, on motion of Mr. Kellogg, referred to the Judiciary Committee by a vote of yeas 77, nays 57. It is to be hoped that this is the last of them, and that Congress will now set to work and transact the really important business of the session.

Nothing of interest transpired in either House on Wednesday.

In the Senate, on Thursday, Mr. Sumner presented petitions from Abolitionists of Massachusetts in favor of the emancipation of the slaves.

Mr. Wade, of Ohio, presented a petition from citizens of Ohio, expressing confidence in John C. Fremont, and asking that he be created lieutenant general of the United States army.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to cause to be constructed twenty iron-clad gunboats.

Mr. Vallandigham offered an amendment to have the contracts for the building of these steamers advertised for ten days.—The amendment was rejected and the bill passed.

The Senate, on Friday, discharged the Judiciary Committee from the further consideration of the bill to abolish the Supreme Court. Good!

Both Houses adjourned until to-day—Monday.

☞ A dispatch from Washington states that if any conference has taken place between Lord Lyons and Secretary Seward, it has been of an informal and confidential character, as no official communications have passed between them with reference to the Trent affair.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says that it is well understood in political circles in Washington, that Mason and Slidell will be given up rather than have a war with England.

☞ Several of our Littlestown friends do some big shooting. A few days ago, a small party went out along the mountain in Frederick county, Messrs. JOSHUA PRICE and HARRY KLINE among them, and in two days bagged 259 Partridges, 1 Pheasant, and 4 Rabbits! Beat that who can—and give us the particulars. *We* knock under—flat!

By the way—Mr. PRICE has placed us under obligations for the present of another "mess" of Partridges, including a *white* one, the only one of the color we ever saw—and certainly very rare. The birds were large and plump, and not at all "hard to take."

Local Items.

RELIEF FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS.—The ladies of Adams are not behind those of our sister counties in contributing to the comfort of the sick and wounded soldiers—indeed, they are ahead of most of them. Their more recent efforts "foot up" after this gratifying fashion:

The Relief Association of this place, on Saturday week, forwarded two boxes to Baltimore, for the use of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers there, containing the following articles:

4 comforts, 1 pair of blankets, 3 pair of sheets, 17 pair of pillow cases, 22 pillows, 18 pair of woolen socks, 18 pair of hospital slippers, 4 gentlemen's dressing gowns, 2 bed gowns, 13 canton flannel shirts, 10 muslin shirts, 13 pair of canton flannel drawers, 1 linen collar, 5 needle bags, 13 pocket handkerchiefs, 12 towels, 5 pieces of soap, 16 quarts of dried fruit, bundles of linen, illustrated papers, 7 bottles wine, 1 bottle cologne, 7 cans of peaches, 3 cans of tomatoes, 5 boxes malta suet, 18 jars and cans of jelly and fruit.

The Ladies of Hunterstown have filled, and forwarded to Washington, a large box, made up as follows:

1 coverlet, 10 comforts, 10 blankets, 42 pair drawers, 36 canton flannel shirts, 4 canton flannel bed gowns, 40 pair woolen socks, 9 pair cotton socks, 12 pillows and cushions, 17 linen towels, 12 cotton towels, 2 dozen pocket-handkerchiefs, 1 box of lint bandages, linen cloths, 4 pillow-cases, 1 dress wrapper, 1 dozen pieces soap, 2 bottles raspberry vinegar and syrup, 5 jars of jams and jellies, rice, farina, corn starch, water and soda crackers, tracts, papers, 32 quarts dried peaches, 32 quarts dried cherries, 4 quarts dried pears, combs, brushes, &c., &c.

The Fairfield Association has forwarded to the Washington Commission, two boxes, containing the annexed articles:

80 quarts fruit, apples, peaches, &c., &c., 10 glasses and 4 jars jelly 1 cheese, 3 papers farina, 6 papers corn starch, lot of white pudding, lot of domestic soap, lot of castile soap, lot of linen and cotton bandages, lot of magazines, newspapers, tracts, &c., lot of flavoring extracts, 20 feather pillows, with cases, 10 pair of pillow cases, 10 woolen blankets, 17 comforts, 12 canton flannel undershirts, 13 flannel undershirts, 22 pair canton flannel drawers, 64 pair men's woolen stockings, 2 pair men's cotton stockings, 18 linen towels, 23 linen handkerchiefs, 13 sheets, 8 bed gowns, 19 muslin shirts, box containing thread, buttons, &c., 1 loaf of sugar, 2 bottles Lisbon wine, lot of stationery.

The following is a correct list of the officers of the Fairfield Association:

President—Mrs. R. C. Swope.
Vice President—Mrs. Judge McGinley.
Treasurer—Mrs. D. Sullivan.
Secretary—Miss Margaretta McGinley.
Managers—Mrs. I. Robinson, Mrs. A. H. McCreary, Mrs. A. Marshall, Mrs. John C. Shertzer, Miss Jane A. McGinley, Miss Eliza Lawver, Miss Mary B. McGinley.

The officers of the New Oxford Association are:

President—Mrs. George Hersh.
Vice President—Mrs. Peter Diehl.
Secretary—Mrs. Wm. D. Himes.
Treasurer—Mrs. Jno. R. Hersh.
Managers—Mrs. Jas. Townsend, Mrs. Frank, Hersh, Mrs. J. S. Gitt, Mrs. Thomas Himes, Mrs. Dr. Hendrix, Mrs. A. F. Gitt, Mrs. F. Sherman, Mrs. John Bornitz, Mrs. J. Heagy, Miss E. Miley, Miss Hattie Gallagher and Miss Kate Stock.

This Association has also made handsome contributions, having forwarded two boxes to Washington, containing the following:

2 pairs of blankets, 7 comforts, 4 wrappers, 8 pillows, 3 pairs cloth slippers, 8 linen handkerchiefs, 7 gingham handkerchiefs, 3 boxes of lint, 3 rolls of linen bandages, &c., 3 linen sheets, 11 linen towels, 14 cotton pads, 8 small feather pillows, 15 pillow cases, 4 quilts, 25 pairs of woolen socks, 2 pairs of cotton socks, 5 woolen shirts, 3 pairs woolen drawers, 8 pairs cotton flannel drawers, 3 cotton flannel bed gowns, 1 muslin bed gown, 4 bottles wine, 6 mugs sheep suet, 1 can peach butter, 1 can quince butter, 1 can tomatoes, 4 packs tea, 42 quarts dried fruit, apples, cherries, elder berries, &c., a lot of books, magazines, &c., &c.

Acknowledgment.

Office of Sanitary Commission,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 9, '61.

Madam:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, in good condition, of a box of hospital supplies, as per your favor of the 4th instant, on behalf of the Ladies' Union Relief Society, of New Oxford.

The articles will be devoted, as intended, to the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of the U. S. Volunteer and Militia forces, in whose behalf, and that of the Commission, I most cordially thank the donors. I am, Madam, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

ALFRED J. BLOW, Ass't. Sec'y.

To Mrs. M. L. Himes, New Oxford, Adams county, Pa.

The Christmas present to Capt. Horner's Cavalry is to be forwarded to-day, and will no doubt be creditable to the Ladies of our town, who have the matter in hand.

We may presume to say that the Ladies are sincerely thankful to all who have contributed to the above praise-worthy objects.

CAVALRY TO WINTER HERE.—Hon. E. McPherson, in a letter to D. A. Buehler, Esq., says that eight Companies of Cavalry (N. Y.) have been ordered to winter at Gettysburg and in the immediate vicinity. Two Companies go to Bendersville Fair Grounds and two to York Springs Establishment.

They will arrive before long. The men will bring their horses; and will occupy such houses and stables as can be had.—Supplies will be purchased by the Quartermaster in the vicinity.

MUSIC.—We are glad to learn that Prof. HARRY intends forming a singing Association in this place the first week in January. Prof. H. has done much to develope the musical talent of Adams county—his success in this line being of the most extraordinary character. He deserves a continuance of the public's respect and patronage, and we doubt not it will be liberally accorded him. Let the Association to be formed here have a flattering start.

☞ The Examinations in our Public Schools took place last week, the exercises, which were interesting, attracting a large number of visitors. An appropriate Lecture was delivered on Friday afternoon, by JNO. C. ELLIS, Esq., County Superintendent of Common Schools, which is highly spoken of.

BIG HOGS.—Mr. JOHN BUDDY, of Germany township, on Monday last, slaughtered an exceedingly fine Porker—eighteen months old, and weighing 519 pounds!

Mr. JOHN WEIGLE, of this place, slaughtered a Hog, a few weeks since, the weight which was 435 pounds.

☞ The Gas has been taken into the Methodist Church of this place, and the building was illuminated with gas for the first time on Sunday evening week.

IMPORTANT FROM GEN. BANKS' COLUMN.

THE REBELS, UNDER JACKSON, ABOUT TO CROSS THE POTOMAC.

FREDERICK, Md., Dec. 17.—Advices from Williamsport last night show that considerable disquiet exists along the river line.—Shots are continually passing between the enemy and Col. Leonard's men. The reports as to the enemy's numbers and intentions are contradictory and unreliable. One statement is that Gen. Jackson, with his brigade largely reinforced, is at Falling Waters, but other intelligence does not appear to corroborate it. It is evident that Gen. Kelly's advance from Romney towards Winchester, and the approaching opening of the railroad from Cumberland to Hancock, together with the recent movements of Gen. Banks' column, has caused great consternation on the other side. Gen. Kelly has daily skirmishes with the rebel advanced guard, but he progresses slowly and steadily towards Winchester. If it be true that the Strasburg and Winchester railway connection has been completed, the enemy will undoubtedly receive heavy reinforcements, immediately, and a hard fought battle of considerable magnitude be the result.

FREDERICK, (Md.) Dec. 18.—A gentleman, arrived from Williamsport late last night, reports that Gen. Jackson's brigade, largely reinforced, and supposed to amount to 9,000 men, was at Falling Waters. At nine o'clock last evening fifty-one wagons belonging to the rebels, were backed down to the shore, and a boat from each was quietly launched into the river. Two of the boats were of large size, for the transportation of Jackson's artillery. At this juncture, our informant left for Gen. Banks' headquarters. He thinks that Jackson's object is to cross over and make a dash on Williamsport, and secure the stores and arms there. He informed Col. Leonard of all that was transpiring, and thinks that the latter has taken full precautions to prevent it, by moving the stores, etc., to a more secure place, and that he also took steps to concentrate all his available force to prevent the passage of the river. Our informant passed the Fifth Connecticut Regiment *en route* for Williamsport, two miles northwest of Boonsboro, and sixteen miles from Williamsport, and Best's battery less than a mile in the rear.

Later intelligence states that Best's battery reached Williamsport at 6 o'clock A. M., having passed the Connecticut regiment on the route.

Our informant met at Dam No. 4, yesterday, a deserter from Jackson's brigade, a resident from Rappahannock county, Va., who said Jackson had not less than 15,000 men, but this is considered an exaggeration by our informant, who had for one hour a good view of Jackson's whole command.—The deserter stated that Jackson's regulars, including a Georgia regiment which had just joined him, were determined to go to the devil with their commander, but the militia were equally obstinate in refusing to cross the river.

This morning on the receipt of this intelligence by General Banks, orders were issued to the Third Brigade, under General Williams, to be prepared to perform a forced march to Williamsport, at a moment's notice, but up to 10 o'clock this morning the brigade had not moved, but was in readiness to leave at any time.

LATER.—It is reported on the street that one regiment only is about to move, which indicates that Jackson has not sufficient strength to execute his threat, but has probably tried the experiment and met with a check.

Firing was heard at 6 o'clock, the hour at which Best's Battery had probably reached the river opposite Falling Waters. Passengers by the Hagerstown stage, which left at 6 o'clock, heard rumors of firing at Falling Waters, and a thousand other reports are afloat, but nothing authentic.

The Frederick *Union* says that Capts. Cole's and Horner's Cavalry Companies left Frederick at 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening in haste for Williamsport.

WILLIAMSPORT, Dec. 20th.—Affairs in and around this vicinity are quiet, though we expect to have an exchange of shots with the enemy at Dam No. 5, and Falling Waters.

There is not the least danger of Gen. Jackson's rebel force attempting to cross the river. A deserter says he has been ordered to destroy Dam No. 5, at any sacrifice.

Col. Leonard's forces are so disposed as to prevent any danger of a surprise.

A SHARP CONFLICT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—This morning at 6 o'clock, a portion of Gen. McCall's Division proceeded in the direction of Drainsville on a foraging expedition and also for the purpose of making a reconnoissance in that locality. Drainsville is about midway between Gen. McCall's headquarters and Leesburg.

On arriving in that vicinity our troops encountered the enemy, who had four regiments of infantry—South Carolinians, Alabamians and Kentuckians, with a battery of six pieces of artillery and a regiment of cavalry, under command of Gen. Stewart.

The only troops on our side engaged in the affair were Gen. Ord's Brigade, the First Rifles and Eustis' Battery of four guns.

The enemy were completely routed and fled precipitately after a fight of an hour and a half, leaving two caissons and a quantity of small arms, blankets, great coats, etc. More than our troops could carry away.

After the enemy had retreated, Gen. McCall sent two officers to count the rebels killed and wounded, when it was ascertained that they had left on the field 57 killed and 22 wounded. Three of the latter died on being removed, making their loss, 60 killed and 19 wounded—a total of 79 killed and wounded, and they no doubt carried off many. They also left on the field many horses disabled.

Our men also brought in some prisoners besides the wounded.

Our loss is, as near as can be ascertained at present, about ten killed and fifteen wounded.

The expedition returned to their camp at Langley's, at 9 o'clock to-night.

☞ Col. Davis had a brisk skirmish with a rebel force near Milford, in Missouri, last week, when the latter, finding themselves surrounded, surrendered to the number of 1,300, giving up 1000 stand of arms, 65 wagons, 1000 horses, with baggage and supplies. Our loss was 2 killed and 8 wounded. The rebel loss is not known.

Arrested.—The St. Louis *Republican* states that, among the twelve Confederate prisoners recently brought in from North Missouri, is Mr. John K. Lincoln, of Clinton county. He is a highly respectable, wealthy and influential citizen of that county, about forty years of age, and a cousin of President Lincoln. The prisoner is charged with having permitted the rebels to secrete ammunition in his cellar, induced young men to join the rebel army, and otherwise giving aid and comfort to the enemy. He