NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

Published Daily, Sundays Excepted,
BY W. J. MURTAGH & CO.

GEORGE M. WESTON, EDITOR.

☞ The publication office of the *National Republican* is at the northeast corner of D and Seventh street, second floor, over W. D. Shepherd's store. Entrance on Seventh street.

Tuesday, December 31, 1861.

☞ Reading matter on every page.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.

BUSINESS AND AMUSEMENT NOTICES.—After the first day of January next, all business and amusement notices, other than ordinary advertisements, will be subject to a charge of ten cents per line.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION.

We are authorized to state that the public reception by the President of the United States on New Year's Day, will commence at 12 o'clock M., at which time, in conformity with police arrangement, the gates of the enclosure will be opened. The reception will terminate at 2 o'clock P. M. precisely. Carriages will approach the Executive Mansion by the east gate.

SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS

The announced stoppage of the Northern banks is not a less serious event, because not wholly unanticipated. We are now fairly on the sea of paper money, which is full of breakers, hidden rocks, and whirlpools.

The banks have broken down under the demands of the Government for money, unsustained as those demands were by any efficient system of finance.

Unmoved by the new clamors of the day, which are after all but repetitions of old ones, we are for adhering to the constitutional standard of hard money, and of getting back to it with as little delay as possible, by putting the national credit upon the true basis of taxes adequate to the emergency. Instead of excise duties of twenty millions of dollars, as proposed by the Secretary of the Treasury, we insist to-day, as we did when we reviewed his report three weeks ago, that we ought to have not less than one hundred millions.

The New York city press give signs of seeing what the case requires. Many of their editorials of yesterday are well written, and contain sound views. This is hopeful.

Specie payments were yesterday suspended by the National Treasury, as the consequence of what has happened at the North.

HOW WE LOST THE SUPPORT OF ENGLAND.—In a speech, (reported in the London *Times*,) December 10, by Right Hon. E. Horsman, M. P., before "*his constituents in the subscription room of the Strand borough town*," that gentleman said:

"When the war first broke out, all our sympathies were ready to enlist themselves with the North, because we believed the cause of the North was that of emancipation, and it was only when we found that they were ready to compound with slavery, to perpetuate slavery, to combine all the profits of slavery with all the advantages of professed abolition, that the reaction took place, and that the English public determined to observe that strict neutrality which to this moment has never been departed from. ['Hear.']"

Mr. Seward said, in his letter of November 30 to Mr. Adams, that the rebellion would break down in ninety days, but for the hope of foreign aid; but he did not say, what is true, that foreign aid to the rebellion has only been rendered possible by our own egregious mismanagement.

FOREIGN COMMENTS.—The Europeans do not disguise their astonishment at the effrontery of Jeff Davis' message to the Richmond Congress. Thus the London *Times*, although favorable to the Southern Congress, says:

"We confess we read with some impatience the hypocritical lamentations of Mr. Davis, the President of a Confederacy which may be said to live, and move, and have its being under the especial patronage of Judge Lynch, over the violation of personal liberty, the suppression of the freedom of the Press, and the intimidation of the courts of justice, consequent in the North upon the civil war. These things, which the South regards with contemptuous astonishment, the war has not brought upon her, because they were all domesticated with her long before the war."

The Paris *Journal des Debats* says:

"What astonishes and afflicts us, is to see the President of the new Confederation, the chosen of those eight millions of men who have broken their bond with their old Government in order to defend slavery, invoke the great principles of right, justice and humanity, and even name Providence in support of that detestable cause. 'Liberty,' says Mr. Davis, in conclusion, 'is always won where there exists the unconquerable will to be free, and we have reason to know the strength that is given by a righteous cause not only of the magnitude but of the righteousness of our cause.' Those are certainly magnificent words, but in the mouth of President Davis, and applied to the cause of which he represents and defends, they are not only a monstrous contradiction and a scandal, but a blasphemy."

FLAG PRESENTATION AND A SERENADE.—The Hon. DANIEL S. DICKINSON, of New York, arrived in this city on Saturday evening, and is now at Willard's Hotel. Mr. Dickinson has devoted most of his time since the commencement of the present war to addressing his fellow-countrymen upon the exciting questions of the day, convincing by his argument, and arousing by his eloquence, thousands upon thousands to patriotic duty. Mr. D. brings with him a "stand of colors," which he will present to-morrow at one o'clock to the Eighty-ninth regiment of New York, (Dickinson Guards.) The presentation will be made at their camp near the Blue Bridge toll-gate. The colors will be received on behalf of the regiment by Hon. R. H. Duell, member of Congress from Mr. Dickinson's district. Mr. Dickinson is expected to deliver a lecture at the Smithsonian Institution to-morrow evening, after which he will be serenaded at the hotel. Few men, if any, have more power or influence in America, than Mr. D. Let him be welcomed to our national capital, and let those who may be fortunate enough to hear him, resolve to be devoted more than ever to their country; and thus, like him, secure the confidence, and win the approbation and command the respect of a free people.

COTTON IN ILLINOIS.

The Chicago *Tribune* publishes a summary of the statements of thirty-nine persons, who have had a practical experience, some of them as long as thirty years, in raising cotton in Illinois. These statements are in answer to questions proposed by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, the agents of which are still engaged in collecting additional testimony upon the same subject.

These statements establish the fact, that cotton may be raised in Illinois from three to five hundred pounds per acre, and with scarcely any danger from frost. The portion of Illinois in which this is practicable embraces, according to the *Tribune*, ten or twelve millions of acres. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Casey states it as including the south half of the State.

All the early settlers in Illinois from the South seem to have been in the habit of raising cotton. The habit was given up gradually, twenty and thirty years ago, and for the reason, as given uniformly by all the witnesses, that factory-made cotton cloths became so cheap that it was better economy to buy them than to raise cotton and spin and weave it at home. This shows for what use cotton was formerly raised in Illinois, that is, to be worked into cloth in the household, and not to be sold. It could not then be raised to be marketed in its raw state, without being at a disadvantage with more Southern cotton, in distance from New Orleans. Now, since artificial routes to the Atlantic from the Mississippi, as low down as Cairo, or even Memphis, have superseded the natural one of the river, this disadvantage no longer exists.

Lieutenant Governor Casey, who emigrated from Middle Tennessee to Jefferson county, Illinois, says:

"I had been in the habit of raising all the cotton the family used prior to coming to this State. For twelve years after I came to Illinois, to wit: from 1817 to 1829, we raised cotton every year sufficient for home consumption, and discontinued raising cotton there because cotton goods could be purchased cheaper in the stores than made at home. We used Tennessee cotton seed. Planted usually about the first of May, and picked out during the month of September. Usually we had no trouble from frost.

"I have no doubt but that cotton could be raised to advantage in all the south half of Illinois every year.

"Z. CASEY.

"Mt. Vernon, Jefferson county, Illinois,
"December 9, 1861."

This is a sample of all the statements, and to quote one, gives a correct idea of the whole.

At the present prices, and prospects of prices of cotton, we may well suppose that the amount of cotton raised the next season in Illinois, will be limited only by the limits of the seed which can be obtained for planting.

In addition to Illinois, the free States have in Kansas a broad belt of territory, in which it is not merely possible to raise cotton, but which is admirably adapted to that plant in both soil and climate. That is true of the whole Neosho valley lying in Kansas. The strip of land in that State, fifty miles in width, lying south of Fort Scott, (now temporarily encumbered with Indian rights,) is known to be as favorable to cotton as any part of Arkansas or of the Indian territory. For the present, remoteness and expense of transportation constitute a drawback upon cotton cultivation in that quarter; but that is a difficulty easily remedied by railroads.

In Illinois, the question of the labor necessary to raise cotton is being discussed. The exploded absurdity, that negroes are so superior to the white race—that cotton can only be cultivated by black labor, is, of course, not attempted to be revived among the intelligent people of Illinois. If, however, there is a temporary insufficiency of white labor for the sudden and perhaps large requirements of a new crop, an abundance of "contrabands," trained to cotton picking, can be had from the confiscated estates of Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana rebels. If Illinois does not choose to relax her "black laws," and to let in this kind of labor, she has only to wait a little longer, until it flows in from the Atlantic States and from Europe. Wherever wages are offered, there labor will be sure to come, and if Illinois wants a new million of people to raise cotton, it is a want which the world will supply as soon as it is made known.

ALEXANDRIA REBELS AND UNION MEN.—On Friday night last, the Union men of Alexandria had a grand supper, speeches, toasts, &c. Among the distinguished gentlemen present, were Mr. Shinn, President of the Association; Mr. Massey, the Postmaster; Col. McLean; Assistant Adjutant-General Freese; Rev. Mr. Clothier, Chaplain of the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania; Captain Morris, Commander of the Pensacola; besides several Pennsylvanians, who happened to be in Alexandria. Mr. Massey made a speech, in which he said, that out of a voting population of fifteen hundred in Alexandria, seven hundred are now in the Rebel army.

He further said, that if the General Government had sent troops to Alexandria one month before she did, nearly the whole of those seven hundred would now be in the Federal army—that the manner in which so large a number of men happened to be found at this time in so unjustifiable a position, was in consequence of their having at first organized themselves into a sort of home guard, and then being ordered out of the city by the State authorities, for a short distance, under the pretence of being placed in "camps of instruction." Having been removed from the city proper, other troops, from more southerly sections, were sent in to take their places. When Ellsworth and his men came down, these foreign Virginia soldiers retreated from the town, and the Alexandrians being in their "camps of instruction," some distance away, were unable to return, as large numbers of them desired to do.

JUDGE JOHN C. LEGRAND, late chief justice of Maryland, died in Baltimore on Saturday last. He was 47 years of age, had served in the State Legislature, and was Secretary to Governor Thomas.

Colonel BERDAN is not so seriously injured as was at first supposed. He is rapidly recovering.

☞ There are over three hundred of the Fourth Maine troops in the hospitals in and around Washington.

THE MASON AND SLIDELL AFFAIR.

In Baltimore, the surrender of Mason and Slidell is generally approved of by the Unionists, but the secessionists are wofully disappointed, as it completely annihilates their much cherished hopes of a war with England.

In Boston, the public received the announcement of the surrender very philosophically, having generally anticipated such a finale. The street talk is that Mason and Slidell were not worth their board there or elsewhere.

In Philadelphia, general satisfaction was everywhere expressed at the news. The people seemed to feel that, however ungenerous might be the demand of England for their restoration, the Government was prudent and politic in the giving of them up. The manner of their restoration was likewise a subject of congratulation. Mr. Seward's letter was generally commended as a model of diplomacy and dignity.

In New York, the general expression was entire satisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Seward had managed the affair. Stocks rose, and business men were in high glee.

[From the Chicago Tribune.]

GEN. JAMES H. LANE.

As our readers are already informed, Gen. Lane, of Kansas, has been nominated to the Senate, and unanimously confirmed, as Brigadier General. The appointment of Gen. Lane to military command was due to him and to his State, not less than to the cause he has served so well. The news made all Kansas feel happy.

PLENTY TO EAT.—The Navy Department has received a report of a reconnoissance of the North Edisto, (S. C.,) by Commander Drayton. On the 17th, he visited an abandoned encampment near Rockville. We extract this part of the account, as showing how admirably the enemy is supplied, and how remote the prospect is of success in the starving-out policy.

Commodore Drayton says:

"There being no signs of life on shore, I landed with about fifty men to reconnoitre, and was soon satisfied that the troops had left, as the first thing seen was the negroes pillaging a building, in which was a large quantity of commissariat stores, consisting of rice, sugar, bacon, corn, &c. This I stopped at once, and had what remained removed to the Vixen. Being then informed that the camp, which was a mile from the water, was entirely deserted, I went there; but although, as far as I could learn, the troops had left at daylight, and it was then only a little after eight, the negroes, whom I found as busy as bees, had removed the most valuable part of what had been left, which was nearly everything, excepting their arms. The encampment was a large one, had been occupied for many months, and its late tenants had evidently been in the possession of every comfort.

"I removed to the boats forty Sibley and four ordinary tents.

COMPLIMENT TO MR. SEWARD.—The Baltimore *Clipper* of yesterday thus speaks of the Secretary of State, in connection with the Mason and Slidell affair:

"In the solution of this question, our Secretary of State has added immensely to his already exalted reputation as a statesman. It is unquestionably a most brilliant feat of statesmanship, which will shine with an enduring brightness along our public records through all the years to come. We most heartily forgive Mr. Seward all his errors in the past, all his ultraisms, and what were, in our opinion, dangerous theories. *He has saved the life and the honor of the nation.*"

THE LECTURE TO-NIGHT.—Our readers will not forget that Hon. DANIEL S. DICKINSON lectures before the Washington Lecture Association to-night. This being one of the regular lectures of the course, holders of season tickets will be admitted as usual.

APPLETON OAKSMITH, charged with fitting out a vessel for a slaver, was brought before Judge Sprague, of Boston, on the 28th. He plead not guilty, and was required to give $5,000 for his appearance for trial, in March. He has been confined in Fort Warren. Mr. Oaksmith was Gen. Walker's last minister to the United States, near Washington City.

☞ Acting Master Samuel B. Washburn, and Acting Master's Mate Oliver B. Rice, have been dismissed from the United States navy, for disobedience of orders.

MR. ELY intends, at an early day to introduce a bill for the relief of the prisoners held by the Rebels in Richmond and other places.

TRADE WITH ACCOMAC.—Persons engaged in legitimate trade with Northampton and Accomac counties, may now obtain clearances at the New York custom-house.

IN OUR OWN WATERS.—Hildreth's History of the United States, (vol. 1, 2d series, p. 533,) under the year 1795, gives the following account of an attempt made by the British to seize a hostile minister in our waters, for which it does not appear that England ever thought of apologizing:

"Considerable feeling had lately been excited by an attempt to seize Fauchet, the returning French minister, within the American waters, while on his passage through the Sound in an American packet-boat from New York to Newport, to embark in a French frigate lying there, and which was watched by a British frigate outside the harbor. In consequence of stormy weather, the packet-boat put into New London, and Fauchet, on some hint of what was intended, proceeded to Newport by land. The boat was afterwards stopped, and many of her papers seized, in consequence of which the British frigate concerned in the outrage was ordered out of the waters of the United States. The British consul at Newport, believed to have been concerned in the scheme, and who had written a somewhat disrespectful letter in relation to it, was deprived of his exequatur."

COLONEL BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION.—This expedition, fitting out at Annapolis, increases in men and vessels every day. There are now twenty vessels ready, and of all sizes from a tow-boat to a big ship.

The total number of troops now at Annapolis, including the Rhode Island Artillery, is about 12,000. Besides the Rhode Island Artillery, there are thirteen regiments—five from Massachusetts, the Twenty first, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty fifth, and Twenty-seventh; three from Connecticut, the Eighth, Tenth, and Eleventh; two from Pennsylvania, the Eleventh and Fifty first; two from New York the Fifty first and Fifty-third, or D'Epaulitz Zouaves, and the Ira Harris Cavalry.

ARMY AFFAIRS.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SIXTH.

The Sixth New Hampshire regiment, whose camp lies in our north-eastern suburbs, consists of a fine set of mountaineers. They are under command of Colonel Nelson Converse. Their tents are of the Sibley style, very large, all provided with tall sheet-iron stoves, and pipes as high as the tent. Their cooking stoves are simple and portable, requiring less than a fourth of the wood used in open-fire cooking.

The surgeon, Dr. Tracy, reports his hospital cases to be principally measles. We saw a dozen or more in hospital, and a still larger number in camp, complaining of minor ailments. There are besides, of this regiment, ten in hospital in this city, five in Philadelphia, and four in Keene, New Hampshire. They are in a very healthy position, and, but for the measles, would doubtless be in fine condition, physically.

FIFTY-SEVENTH PENNSYLVANIA.

There is considerable sickness at present in this regiment, under command of Colonel Maxwell. There were two deaths yesterday—of privates Bell and Dennis Peters. Their tents are good, their camp well situated, and the best possible care is evidently taken of the sick.

THE SEVENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

This regiment has been greatly afflicted with sickness, besides ordinary diseases; about half the regiment have lately had the measles. On Saturday week, two hundred and fifty-one were on the sick list from this cause alone. The general health of the regiment is now improving, and the men will soon be in comfortable winter quarters. Wooden barracks are now being prepared for them.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.—General McCall's division, near Langley, were reviewed by Governor Curtin, Secretary Cameron, and Assistant Secretary Scott. A large number of civilians were present. Governor Curtin made a speech, in which he said: "Upon consultation with the general commanding this division I have ordered that on the standard of this brigade there shall be inscribed '*Dranesville, the first battle in which the Reserve Corps of Pennsylvania stood under fire*,' and thank God in which they have came out victorious and distinguished."

THE REPUTED REBEL FORCE AT DRANESVILLE.—The story has been extensively published, that there is a rebel force of 13,000 at Dranesville, and that Gen. McCall's pickets had been driven in. We are authorized by the highest authority to contradict both the above statements. There are no rebels at Dranesville, nor within eight miles of Gen. McCall's pickets, and not a rebel soldier have they seen since the Dranesville affair. The rebels know Gen. McCall too well to appear in force within his limits, unless they were prepared for a brave and vigorous reception, such as Gen. McCall would undoubtedly give.

PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF WHITE MEN FOR SLAVES.—A proposition has been made to the War Department, by members of the Rebel Congress, to arrange some plan by which fugitive slaves can be returned in exchange for the surplus of prisoners they have; they to select the slaves. Something definite as to securing their runaways will be at once proposed to Secretary Seward.

MILITARY PASSES.—As all passes given at the Provost Marshal's office expire with the month, it is recommended that those of the "Sanitary Committee," the "press," and "paymasters," who are entitled to "passes," call at the pass department on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, between the hours of 1 and 3 P. M., and have the same renewed.

SHOOTING OUR PRISONERS.—An order has been issued and posted up in the Richmond jails, forbidding the guard to shoot prisoners for merely looking out of the windows.

A GENUINE ENGLISH SENTIMENT.—The Earl of Shaftsbury, according to the Albany *Evening Journal*,—whose editor is in England,—recently remarked to a gentleman who had a conversation with him on American affairs:

"I, in common with almost every English statesman, *sincerely desire the rupture of the American Union*. It has been the policy of England to brook no rivalry, especially in the direction of her own greatness. We justly fear the commercial and political rivalry of the United States. With a population of thirty millions now, they will soon, if not checked, overshadow Great Britain. We cannot look upon such a monstrous growth without apprehension."

POSITION OF THE FEDERAL TROOPS ON THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The Wheeling *Press* says:

We learn from entirely reliable authority that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad is completely guarded as far east as Hancock. The Fourteenth Connecticut regiment is at Hancock, some 400 or 500 cavalry, with two pieces of cannon at Bath, Morgan county, a sufficient force at Sir John's Run and at Big Cacapon. Thence to New Creek Station and Piedmont all is safe. There is now scarcely fifty miles of the road to recover and repair; so that in a short time, it is confidently hoped the road will be put in running order to Baltimore.

WHAT A MARYLAND LADY DID.—The Richmond correspondent of the Nashville *Union* tells the following:

Not long ago I told you of the sufferings of Miss Converse on her trip from Philadelphia. I have now to record another instance of female heroism. A young lady of Maryland, as gentle and genuine a woman as the South contains, but withal a true heroine, has, after braving many hardships, recently arrived here.

Reaching the Potomac, she found a boat and a negro to row it; but the negro refused to attempt to cross, for fear, as he said, the Yankees would shoot him. Drawing a pistol from her pocket, our heroine told him coolly she would shoot him herself if he didn't cross. The negro quailed, rowed her over to the Virginia shore, and thus, utterly alone, she came to her friends in Richmond, with her petticoats quilted with quilts, her satchel full of letters, many of them containing money, and with no end of spool thread, needles, pins, and other little conveniences now so hard to get in the blockaded South. The name of this heroine ought not to withheld from the historian. It is Miss Nannie Webster.

Miss E. J. Potts, of this city, was among the passengers who sailed, from Boston last Wednesday, in the Europa, for Liverpool.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

IN SENATE.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1861.

MEMORIALS.

The following petitions were presented and appropriately referred:

By Mr. SUMNER: Five petitions from citizens of Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania, for emancipation of slaves by the war power.

By Mr. GRIMES: From citizens of Iowa, for a national armory at Rock Island.

Also, several petitions for establishment of mail routes in various parts of Iowa.

By Mr. WADE: From Erastus Ferguson, asking for increase of pension.

By Mr. FOSTER: From citizens of Connecticut, asking for emancipation of slaves by the war power.

By Mr. HARLAN: From citizens of Iowa, asking the emancipation of slaves.

Also, from citizens of Iowa, for the establishment of an armory at Rock Island.

By Mr. NESMITH: From citizens of Astoria, Oregon, against removal of custom house.

Mr. GRIMES introduced a bill to quiet titles in the District of Columbia. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GARRET DAVIS introduced his bill, in accordance with notice previously given, declaring certain persons to be alien enemies, forfeiting their property to the United States, and creating a lien on said property in favor of loyal persons, to indemnify them for such damages as they may have sustained by the existing war of rebellion. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

A communication was received from the Adjutant General, in reply to a resolution of inquiry, saying that it was not deemed compatible with public interests to furnish copies of orders from General Scott to General Patterson, commanding on the Upper Potomac.

On motion of Mr. NESMITH,

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be, and is hereby requested to communicate to the Senate a copy of the charges existing against Captain Thomas Jordan, of the Quartermaster's Department of the United States army, at the time of his resignation; also, the amount, if any, due from the said Jordan to the United States Government at the time of his resignation; also, the amount of the said Captain Jordan's bonds to the United States, as assistant quartermaster, together with the names and residence of his bondsmen, and the reasons for accepting said resignation.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. POTTER asked leave to introduce resolutions requesting the Secretaries of the Treasury and Interior Departments to furnish the investigating committee on the loyalty of Government clerks' statements of all removals made in their respective Departments since the date of the list of employees furnished the committee some time since.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, was opposed to the adoption of the resolution. The House of Representatives had evinced a desire to usurp power in the military, judicial, and executive branches of Government, hitherto unparalleled. Congress had no business to interfere with the removal of clerks in the Departments, that business belonging exclusively to the heads of those Departments; but if it was done, the employees should have the privilege of appearing before the committee of investigation and clearing themselves of the charges against them.

Mr. POTTER, in his reply, stated that there were five hundred men now in the Departments known to be disloyal, and hundreds who had never expressed one word of sympathy with the United States Government in its efforts to uppress the rebellion. The committee had never dictated the removal of any clerk. They were simply a committee of inquiry, and could only lay the result of their investigations before the heads of Departments. But those officers had not done their duty. He would not charge them with wilful neglect, as it was frequently impossible to decide as to the merits of those whose loyalty was doubted.

Men had appeared before the committee and made oath to their loyal sentiments, and had presented vouchers from Senators, but when they found their assertions and protestations were of no avail with the committee, they had left Washington, and were now to be found in the ranks of the rebels. It had become even necessary to produce evidence of disloyalty sufficient to hang a man, before the heads of Departments would notice it. There should be none employed by the Departments against whom there was the slightest suspicion of disloyalty.

Mr. MALLORY objected to the introduction of the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, addressed the House upon a bill repealing certain laws creating ports of entry; after which the House adjourned.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.—In consequence of the hesitation exhibited by the Federal Administration to sanction a formal exchange of prisoners, lest, by so doing, they should in some way embarrass their position and action in crushing the rebellion, a committee was recently appointed by the Massachusetts Historical Society, to inquire into and report to what extent an exchange of prisoners was effected during the American Revolution, and especially to ascertain and report if, by such exchanges, the rights of sovereignty claimed by the Crown were supported in England to have been in any way impaired or set aside. From the report of the committee it appeared that, from the battle of Lexington to the close of the Revolutionary war, exchanges constantly took place, and often in considerable numbers, although the British Government steadily and cautiously avoided recognizing the independence of the Colonies, or making any political admissions whatsoever. They permitted exchanges, under rules of war, for purposes of military convenience, and in relief of the sufferings of their own officers and privates in captivity.

CONTRABANDS STILL COMING.—Slaves very frequently escape from the Rebels at Pensacola in boats. Appearances indicate that in a short time the number of contrabands who fly in this way from their masters will be very great. During a single day, while the Baltic lay off Fort Pickens, no less than seventeen negroes came to the Fort, and some of them boarded the steamer. One bright fellow said that the Rebels had not always provisions enough for their own use, and that very often the negroes were on half rations. The desire to escape was very common among them, and those who could get away would do so.

A SAD CASE OF SUICIDE.—George Lee, whose property in New Orleans has just been confiscated by the Confederates, committed suicide at Ballston Spa, N. Y., a day or two since. The loss of a hundred thousand dollars caused him to become insane.

The St. Louis *Democrat* says the cash payments in the department of Missouri since April 230, amount to two hundred and twenty-two thousand dollars; seventeen millions of which has been paid since the 1st of July.

A BILL FROM MASSACHUSETTS.—The Auditor of Massachusetts presented the Government with a bill of $8,200,000 for expenses in enrolling, equipping and transporting the troops which have left that State for the seat of war.

☞ The Union Prayer Meeting will be held each day this week in the New York Avenue Church, (Dr. Gurley's,) to commence at 4 o'clock P. M., to be continued one hour only. dec 30

☞ Headquarters First Regiment Eastern Virginia Brigade, Alexandria, December 21.—The headquarters of this regiment will be located in Alexandria. Recruiting stations will be designated at proper stations. Recruits wishing to join this regiment will be mustered in and clothed at once.
W. WALL,
Col. First regiment Va. Vol.

A recruiting station is opened on Seventh street, No. 333, Captain Whitney's quarters, light cavalry. dec 21—eod1m

☞ The Union Prayer Meeting will be holden, every day this week, in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, Pa. avenue, opposite Brown's Hotel, to commence at 4 o'clock. To be continued one hour only. dec 4—t

WANTED—A Comfortably-furnished Room, in a central location. Address "Union," at this office. dec 31—3t

WANTED—A Second-hand Buggy, with top. One with a high back and low in its construction preferred. Address "Washington," at this office. dec 31—1t

486 APPROPRIATE FOR PRESENTS. 486

Just received a few choice Colored Engravings, neatly framed.
Also, a beautiful variety of Card Visite and Oval Picture Frames, suitable for presents, at
J. MARKRITER'S,
No. 486 Seventh street,
Eight doors above Odd Fellows' Hall.
☞ Remember the number. dec 31—3tif

SELECT SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

$12 Per Quarter, French and Music included.

MRS. A. ZAPPONE, Principal,
No. 61 K street,
Near the Circle.

☞ Furnished Rooms for Rent, on very moderate terms, in the same building. dec 31—1t

BY GREEN & WILLIAMS, Auctioneers.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF A VERY VALUABLE REAL ESTATE ON THE CORNER OF SEVENTH AND K STREETS.

By virtue of a decree of the circuit court of the District of Columbia, in chancery sitting, passed in two causes in which "Statham, Smithson & Co." and Austin Sheppard, respectively, are complainants, and John F. Callan and others are defendants, bearing date the 7th day of December, A. D. 1861, the undersigned will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on TUESDAY, the 14th day of January, A. D. 1862, at 4 o'clock p. m., upon the premises, Lot No. 8, in square No. 485, of the plan of the city of Washington, fronting 60 feet 11 inches on 12 feet north and 78 feet on Seventh street west.

This well-known property is situated on the northeast corner of K and Seventh streets, opposite the General Post Office, and is one of the very best business locations in the city of Washington. The improvements consist of three three-story houses on K street, including the drug store at the corner of Seventh and a two-story building on Seventh street. The property will be sold at the risk of the defaulting purchaser.

Terms cash, payable on the day of sale and, if the terms are not complied with immediately, the said trustees are authorized to eject the said bidder and accept the next highest bidder, on his prompt compliance with the terms.

All conveyancing at the cost of the purchaser.
C. INGLE,
A. LLOYD,
Trustees.
GREEN & WILLIAMS,
Auctioneers.
dec 18—law4w

OFFICIAL.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
November 30, 1861.

Notice is hereby given of the readiness of this Department to redeem the Treasury notes authorized by the act of Congress approved 17th December 1860.

The interest on such Treasury notes will cease on the first day of February next, by the terms of the above act.

S. P. CHASE,
Secretary of the Treasury.
dec 2—law3w

NOTICE!

SELLING OUT BELOW COST TO CLOSE the entire business. The large and fine stock of Hats, Caps, and Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods will be sold at great bargains.

A small lot of Ladies' Furs will be sold very cheap. Fixtures and Show Cases for sale at
HOPKINS',
Corner of Sixth street and Penn. avenue,
between Brown's and National Hotels.
dec 26—1weod1f

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Washington, Dec 21, 1861.

Notice is hereby given to all persons in arrears for taxes, whether gas special or annual tax, that unless the same is paid at this office before the 1st day of February next, the property on which the tax is due will then be advertised and sold, as the law directs.

Those who wish to avoid the heavy expense of advertising, will please pay within the time specified.
WM. DIXON,
dec 26—eot1d Collector.

LITHOGRAPHIC WORK.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Senate Committee on Printing until the 10th of January, for Lithographing and Printing the Maps, Charts, and Diagrams which accompany the documents from the Departments communicated with the Annual Message of the President to Congress, to be executed in the very best manner.

No bids received except from persons carrying on the Lithographic Business.

For particulars apply at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Printing, where the work to be done can be examined.
JOHN D. DEFREES,
dec 18—eo3t Superintendent Public Printing

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, December 23, 1861.

The Secretary of War directs that no more horses be bought until all now belonging to the Government are in active service.

The attention of all quartermasters of the regular and volunteer army is called to the above order from the Secretary of War.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster General
dec 27—eod10t United States.

STAGE LINE to Fort Albany and Hunter's Chapel.

The undersigned has commenced, [illegible] and will run daily a line of stages [illegible] from corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventh street to Fort Albany and Hunter's Chapel.

Will leave Hunter's Chapel at 8½ o'clock a. m. and 2½ p. m.; leave Washington at 10 a. m. and 4 p. m.

Fare to Fort Albany, 25 cents; to Hunter's Chapel, 50 each way.
dec 27—eod3t THOMAS J. CORNING

WASHINGTON LECTURE ASSOCIATION.

The Fourth Lecture will be by
HON. DANIEL S. DICKINSON
Subject—"THE UNION, ITS PERILS AND ITS HOPES."
AT THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
TUESDAY EVENING, December 31, 1861.
Doors open at 7; Lecture at 8 o'clock.
Tickets 75 cents; to be had at the Bookstores and at the door. dec 30—2t

THE GOMEZ SUBMARINE ELECTRIC FUSE TRAIN, FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY, And also For Land and Submarine Blasting.
Orders will be received at
dec 30—1w* 338 D street north.

KRIS KRINGLE'S COME—

Just receiving the largest stock of
FANCY GOODS
In Washington
Writing Desks, Dressing Cases, Portfolios, Direction and Albums, Sheppy Dames, Please get your Winter Clothing at Albany, Corner Seventh and I streets. dec 21—1w

Call and see, at SHEPHERD'S
Headquarters,
dec 21 Corner Seventh and I streets.

TO LET—A Fitting Bar, Steam Table and Oyster Box, (all complete,) at 524 Pennsylvania avenue. Rent ten dollars a month. [illegible]
G. WILLIAM,
dec 21—10t* 524 Pennsylvania avenue,
between Second and Third sts.

NOW IS THE TIME to get your Winter Clothing at low prices, at 400 Seventh street.
dec 12—1m