Con. W. H. Seward

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What GIFT that is worthy of thee?
Shall I seek in the blue Heavens above,
Or under the deep, dark sea.

Shall I traverse the desert sands, so drear,
Where the beasts of the wild do dwell?
Or the lofty mountains, where the leaves are sear,
And the dark clouds snows foretell?

Or over the Indies' coast I'll rove,
Where the perils lie hid in the deep.
All, all I shall dare, to prove my love,
E'en in their dark waves I'll sleep!

She smiled as she wondered at my task,
While I tremblingly lay at her feet;
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And my happiness, then, is complete!

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"THUNDER IN THE WINTER."—The Cleveland *Herald* of Monday says: It is not a common thing in this latitude to hear thunder in the winter, but yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock, we were visited by one of the most thoroughly developed thunder storms of the past twelve months. The vivid flashes of lightning, the loud crashes and reverberations of the thunder, and the down pouring of the rain, would have done credit to the sultry days of August. It lasted about an hour, and immense quantities of water fell. "Thunder in winter" is said to be a sure indication of freezing weather soon. If the intensity of the coming cold is to be judged by the vividness of the lightning and the loudness of the thunder, we will soon have a touch of the Arctic regions.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.—The New Orleans *True Delta* says to its readers:

If our people wish to get rid of freedmen's bureaus, of harassing annoyances, and to be restored to their civil rights, they must make amply adequate provision for the protection of the persons, labor, property, and rights of the free negroes. We believe this to be the unalterable policy of the Government, which it is folly to attempt to contend against.

THE MESSAGE.

The Message just submitted by President Johnson to the two Houses of Congress, is one of the most concise and comprehensive State papers ever issued by a chief magistrate of the Republic; and as a complete vindication of the Government in its struggle to maintain itself against disintegration and overthrow, it leaves nothing needful to be said. Thoroughly and carefully analyzing the rights of the State and general Governments respectively, and conceding to each the powers justly their due, he shows that in what has happened of late, the course taken by the defenders of the Constitution was inevitable; that doing less than has been done by the champions of republicanism, would have been the destruction of all that was valuable in good government, the triumph of all that could be deplored in the overthrow of equal rights and the hopes of progress. Invoking the precepts of the founders of the nationality, and justifying his action by what they have clearly laid down, he tells the nation why he has been slow to interfere with the rights and prerogatives of the States; why, in the plenitude of the power already conferred upon him as the National Executive, he has had no occasion to use his great powers more freely than he has seen fit to do. Anxious to let a partially disruptured government reconstruct itself, so far as it could be relied upon to accomplish so great an undertaking, he freely tells Congress and the people why he so unhesitatingly made the experiment of withdrawing military rule from certain of the States lately in revolt, that unless the return to the Union was made upon the basis of the rights of the States, as clearly understood remaining unimpaired, the central government of which they formed the constituents, would also be weakened, that "the whole cannot exist without the parts, nor the parts without the "whole.

And whilst he dwells upon the evils inseparable from military rule, he sets forth at length the nature of that policy, bold yet considerate and wary, which following closely the reactionary spirit manifested from time to time, has enabled him to trust those who have been most deeply engaged in defying the authority of the Government. Vindicating the Federal authority by the appointment of "Provisional Governors," and encouraging the formation of public opinion through the action of the State Conventions recognized as occasion served, the reestablishment of Post offices as public benefits, along with United States Courts and other national agencies looking to bringing security to persons and property, have had their kindly influence, making the return of the General Government "known only as a "beneficence," and rapidly doing away with that feeling of distrust which has to so great an extent been fostered by the acts of revolutionists and demagogues only intent on leading the people astray. Admitting the "risk" of such a policy, he chose that, as the least of possible evils; and if he had done nothing else in his whole eventful career to entitle him to the appellation of a statesman, and to the gratitude of the people, these broad and liberal views, and this course, so fraught with a brave and hopeful trust in the better qualities of the masses, would be amply sufficient to place him amongst those recognized as the benefactors of the nation. "Inviting" the States lately in revolt to participate in "the amendment of "the Constitution," he has again, in this, made them largely the judges of, and the controllers of their own destinies; and intimating the promise of a "general amnesty" for those who have broken the laws, yet are repentant, he appeals to the strongest motives possible in the direction of a thorough and speedy reconstruction. And if his "invitation" is rather imperative, if he insists upon the "amendment" as much in the nature of a final test of what is sincere and "loyal," it is far more of forbearance than could have been expected, and certainly no more than all the circumstances fully justify, if we are ever to have in truth a restored Union.

He deals but briefly and indecisively with those questions appertaining to the standing of the freedmen; and this doubtless, because on other occasions he has set forth pretty much at length what he deems his power to deal with their claims; and if he has thus left these matters more fully to Congressional action than most others, he is, we think, fairly justified in doing this, in view of late events and the promulgation of opinions from prominent quarters. That he is most kindly disposed toward them is plain enough; because far from insisting upon the necessity of "colonizing" them elsewhere, he encourages them to hope for a good future in a country where there is a demand for labor from all.

"He predicts a glorious future for the Gulf "States, 'now that slavery is at an end,' enjoining them 'to look away to the future which "is sure to be laden for them with greater "prosperity than has ever before been known.'"

But following this, is a passage calculated to awaken a feeling of anxiety, we think, amongst certain great corporations, when he says—"No State can be justified in devise to "tax the transit of travel and commerce between States." Therefore—let "the State of Camden and Amboy," for one, take heed.

Coming to the reports of the Secretaries, he briefly, but hopefully, passes them in review, the Report of the Postmaster General especially, presenting a most encouraging condition of affairs, that department which in the olden time was too often a dead weight upon the public treasury, as well in its high rates as upon the people. The large reductions in the Navy and the War Departments are dwelt upon with much apparent satisfaction, and coming to the Treasury Department, he speaks in the most decided terms of the obligation of the nation to stand up to its liabilities unflinchingly, whilst, at the same time, pursuing the most rigid economy in order to maintain the National credit unimpaired.—He commends the action already taken in reducing the volume of currency, and without considering "a National debt a National blessing," he terms it a "heavy burden." to be gotten rid of "without unnecessary delay."

But it is in dealing with our complications with England, and with our foreign policy generally, that we apprehend the Message will be dwelt upon with peculiar interest. Justly complaining of the conduct of England in her course towards us, he significantly tells Congress that he does "not advise to any "present attempt at redress by acts of legislation;" and in referring to the action of other Powers in taking advantage of our past troubles, he shows that he has abated nothing of our prescriptive rights and claims; that these are only held in abeyance; await "a more "convenient season" for their adjustment.

The Message winds up by earnestly congratulating the people of this country on the advantages they possess over the people of most other lands, for the development of what marks the advancement of the race in all that is essential to their happiness. Expressing unbounded confidence in the future of the nationality, he appeals to the people to join him in carrying the nation onward to its high destiny; and winds up appropriately—by expressing the hope that "we of this day may be "able to transmit our great inheritance of "State Governments in all their rights, of the "General Government in its whole constitutional virgin to our posterity, and they to "their's through countless generations."

OBITUARY.—We regret to announce the decease of Captain Garret Schenck, Commissary of Subsistence U. S. V., who has been on duty for several months past in the Commissary Department in this city. He died yesterday of consumption, at his residence, No. 38 North Calvert street. Captain Schenck was a native of New Jersey, a pleasant gentleman and an efficient officer, whose loss is sincerely mourned by his numerous friends. He leaves a wife and two children.

—A man in London was fined five shillings for ringing the late Lord Palmerston's door bell.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

WE PUBLISH this morning a *Supplement* containing, for the benefit of such of our readers as did not peruse it in our Extra yesterday afternoon, the President's Message to Congress, which will be found to be a dignified and able State paper.

The *Supplement* also contains the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, whose views and recommendations will be read with absorbing interest in commercial and financial circles; and the reports of the Secretaries of War, the Navy and Interior, and the Postmaster General.

FOREIGN NEWS.

By the arrival of the steamship City of New York, from Liverpool, on the 22d via Queenstown on the 23d, we are in receipt of later dates from Europe The pirate Shenandoah sailed for New York on the 21st ult.

Earl Russell says the *Times* is engaged with the readjustment of the ministry. It is reported that Sir Robert Peel has resigned the Irish Secretaryship. He will be succeeded by Chichester or Fortescue.

Parliament has been further prorogued to the 28th nstant.

The admission of a number of the Fenian prisoners to bail is regarded as an indication that their Chief will be prosecuted by the Government.

The Pigeon House Fort, commanding Dublin Bay, has been garrisoned.

Fenian General Brown, and an anti-Fenian, name not given, had fought a duel near Liverpool; Brown was wounded in the hip slightly, and had left the country for New York.

The French army has been reduced 10,396 men. The political news is unimportant. The Bank of England has reduced its rate of discount to 6 per cent. The Paris and Havre merchants have memorialized the Emperor regarding the Spanish Chilian affair.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate a joint resolution for a special committee of fifteen on the subject of the rebellious States, and looking to the concurrence of the Senate, after some discussion went over under the rules.

Several bills were offered and ordered to be printed, one of the most important of which was a bill for the survey and sale of the United States mineral lands. The credentials of Senators Sharkey and Acton of Mississippi, were presented and laid upon the table.

A bill was presented to repeal all laws in the District of Columbia making distinction between persons on account of color. From 12½ o'clock until 2½ o'clock, a recess was taken, and upon re-assembling The President's message was received and read. In the House an election was had for Chaplain, which resulted in the choice of the Rev. C. B. Boynton. A resolution was adopted inquiring of the Secretary of War whether the office of Provost Marshal General could not be abolished, and its duties transferred to some permanent branch of the War Department.

A resolution by Mr. Washburne was unanimously adopted, for the appointment of a joint committee to report by what token of respect and affection it may be proper for Congress to express the deep sensibility of the nation on the death of their late President.

The message was received in the House about 2½ o'clock, and its reading listened to with deep attention

GENERAL NEWS.

Grau's Opera Company are in St. Louis. The season promises to be successful.

Two per cent of all the fractional currency at the Treasury is counterfeit.

The steamer Weybossit was destroyed by fire, at New York, yesterday morning. Her whole cargo was valued at $250,000. She had $40,000 worth of cotton on board.

Mrs. Julia Dean Hayne, is playing an engagement for Brigham Young in Salt Lake city. His theatre, which is the wonder of Utah, cost over one hundred thousand dollars, and most his actors perform gratuitously as a labor of love and piety.

A collision occurred in New York yesterday between an Adams Express Company car and one of the Third avenue city passenger cars, by which one person was killed and several severely injured. The street car was completely demolished.

What a Buffalonian Saw in Baltimore.

A contributor to the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser*, in a late number of that journal, gives an account of what he saw in Baltimore during a brief stay here some time ago, and as he says a great many pretty things of us, we quote for the delectation of our readers, and especially the ladies, to whom he pays a flattering and deserved compliment.

During the brief stay which we made in Baltimore, we managed to see most that possesses any particular interest in the city. Our first visit was to the Washington Monument, the view from the top of which is magnificent. The panorama presented to the flushed and tired pilgrim is sufficiently comprehensive and lovely to repay him for all that he has endured in gaining his elevated foothold. I make no attempt to describe it, for I am neither poet nor painter; but I heartily admonish those who visit Baltimore to put themselves in communication with this luxuriant spread of beauty—the combined work of nature and art.

Druid Hill Park is one of the features of Baltimore. It contains six hundred acres, and lies about two miles away from the business portion of the city. It is yet in an unsophisticated condition, and I venture to say that if art does not spoil the pretty caprices of nature which enter into its composition, it will, in good time, be worth a long journey to see and enjoy.

Of our sewerage he says:

It is, of course, no particular concern of mine, in what manner a city is drained, but I claim the right to say that the system of surface-sewerage which has been adopted in Baltimore strikes the stranger very unpleasantly. I am familiar with, and assume to appreciate the local logic which champions the system, but it fails to convince me that the plan is the best which could have been devised. The raised stepping stones with which a number of the principal streets are disfigured look like an advance picket thrown out by some weary "Stonewall" for the purpose which, if it be disguised, is obviously malicious. I grant their necessity, their indispensibility, in the present order of things; for it is next to impossible to cross one of the avenues where they are found, even after a heavy dew, without experiencing a "damp, moist, unpleasant" sensation in that portion of the anatomy which is farthest removed from the crown of the head, but all this does not prove that both they and the system they are intended to serve might not be abolished at a lump.

But the general air of Baltimore is attractive. The business streets are commendably clean, and scores of the business buildings are as splendid specimens of architecture as one could wish to see. I have range seen private residences which expressed more solid elegance and substantial comfort than those of Baltimore. Their lavishness is one of rational enjoyment. They were constructed rather with regard to the emotions than the eye. Indeed, Baltimore, "lovely and pleasant" in itself, needs but the presence of the refining spirit of a generous country to make it one of the most desirable places in which to spend the days that are allotted to man that can be discovered after the most patient and persistent search.

A passing tribute to the beauty of Baltimore, and I bid it farewell. It is my deliberate and candid opinion that in no city on the American continent is more concentrated more genuine loveliness than is to be found in the metropolis of Maryland. Wherever you are, in the street, the church, the theatre—its radiance bedazzles you, its weird spell is upon you.

"If idol worship ever yet was right,
It is when Woman is the idol that."

I should be less than human were I able to enter the charmed circle of Baltimore beauty without experiencing sundry singular sensations in the left side, and recalling various rapturous characters and scenes in ancient mythology, notwithstanding the plain and practical fact that a marriage certificate may be found among my valuable papers, which evidently relates to myself, and that I am obliged, every year, to purchase more or less pairs of children's shoes.

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

Collision of Niagara and Post Boy—Great Loss of Life—Full Particulars.

[From the Memphis Appeal, Nov. 26.]

It is an old maxim with steamboat men that "accidents never come single," which has been alas! too often verified upon our Western rivers, as is evidenced by the burning lately of the Tycoon, which was soon followed by the sinking of the Ben Stickney, and the burning of the Duke, and again we are called upon to chronicle another and more fearful marine disaster, involving an immense loss of life.

From Mr. Greenough, clerk of the Niagara, we learn that on Friday night, about nine o'clock, when about seven miles above Helena, they discovered the Post Boy coming down and running in toward the Arkansas shore. The usual signals were given and promptly answered, but in a few minutes it was discovered that the Post Boy was bearing down upon them by crossing over to the channel. Capt. Fitzgerald, who was on the roof at the time, saw the danger, and immediately ordered the engines stopped, which was done about the same time that the Post Boy struck her on the larboard side, aft of the boilers, or in other words, amidships, cutting through into her hull, and causing her to sink to the boiler deck in about three minutes.

The Niagara had on board at the time between two hundred and fifty and three hundred cabin and deck passengers, including one hundred and twenty-nine colored soldiers, who had lately been discharged, and the scene that ensued when the collision occurred will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. In the cabin there was less confusion than might have been expected, considering the large number of ladies on board. They were cool and collected, much more so than the men, until the ill-fated vessel sank beneath the waves, and the heart-rending cries of the deck passengers arose from beneath their feet, and they realized the fact that hundreds of lives were being lost.

Captain Fitzgerald and the other officers immediately set to work to cut away the cabin floor, in order to rescue them from their impending fate, and nobly did they strive amid that dreadful scene at which the bravest stood appalled, as the floor was cut away, and disclosed them struggling in the water, while the cabin resounded with their shrieks for help. Captain Fitzgerald and the officers, assisted by some of the passengers, worked with an energy almost superhuman, and only ceased when the turbulent waves had silenced every cry and closed over the lifeless bodies of those who so recently had been struggling in it. About fifty or sixty were thus saved.

The Post Boy remained alongside and rendered all the assistance possible, in taking off the passengers, until the Kate Hart came up and took the majority of them on board.

How many lives is lost is unknown, owing to the fact that a portion of the passengers returned to Helena, but the lowest estimate is seventy-five, principally of the colored soldiers, whose names are unknown, and probably will remain so, as the passengers were lost, and no baggage, except what was stored in the baggage room, which is under water.

Her entire cargo, consisting in part of two hundred and fifty bales of cotton and a large amount of merchandise, was lost.

A CONSUL RESIGNED.—We understand that John E. Newport, Esq., of this city, who for more than four years has served as United States Consul at Turk's Island, has recently resigned his post, owing to the unfavorable influence of a West Indian climate on his health. Mr. Newport's Consulship, extending as it has throughout the entire period of the rebellion, involved duties, growing out of blockade-running and the ravages of rebel privateers, of a very unusual, delicate and important character, and he has repeatedly received the thanks of the government for his efficient services.—*Philadelphia North American.*

LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS

TO THE

DAILY COMMERCIAL.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the City of New York.

Re-Adjustment of the Ministry.

RESIGNATION OF SIR ROBERT PEEL.

Parliament Prorogued to the 28th.

The Fenian Chiefs to be Prosecuted.

IMMENSE LOSS OF INSURANCE CO.'S.

Duel Between a Fenian and an Anti-Fenian

Immense Reduction of the French Army.

BANK OF ENGLAND AND ITS RATE OF DISCOUNT

LATER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The steamship City of New York, from Liverpool on the 22d, via Queenstown on the 23d, has arrived.

The late piratical steamer Shenandoah, sailed at noon on the 21st for New York.

ENGLAND.

The London *Times* says that Earl Russell is proceeding with the readjustment of the ministry, in the hope that when Parliament meets it will present a fair front.

The *Times* repeats the rumor that Sir Robert Peel has resigned the Irish Secretaryship, and is to be succeeded by Chichester or Fortescue.

Parliament has been further prorogued to the 28th of December.

A Dublin paper says that the Pigeon House fort, commanding Dublin Bay, has been garrisoned since the 18th.

The number of Fenians admitted to bail is regarded as an indication that only the chiefs will be prosecuted.

The Underwriters' and Marine Insurance Companies of London and Liverpool, are reported to have lost half a million sterling by the destruction of three New Orleans cotton ships, at Key West.

A duel is reported near Liverpool, between the Fenian General William Brown and an anti-Fenian of Liverpool, the former, having been slightly wounded in the hip, had left the country for New York.

A meeting is to take place at Manchester, to demand from the Government a most searching investigation into the late proceedings in Jamaica.

The *Morning Post* sees indications of a reform bill in certain steps taken by the Government.

FRANCE.

The reduction of the French army is 10,396 men, a saving of twelve or fifteen millions; and reductions in the navy saves four millions franc.

Commercial Intelligence.

LIVERPOOL, Nov. 23.—Cotton—Sales yesterday and to-day 15,000 bales. The market closes nominal. The sales on Monday and Tuesday reached 11,000 bales. The market opened steady but closed flat and prices slightly lower.

Breadstuffs—The market is more active, but the tendency in prices is downward.

LATEST.

The Breadstuffs market closes very dull. Flour almost unsaleable at a decline. Wheat is 1@2d. lower. Corn has declined 6d.; Mixed 30@30s. 6d.

Provisions—The market is quiet and steady. Bacon is dull and has declined 2s. with no sales reported.—Lard dull; sales small. Butter is firm. Tallow is steady.

Produce.—Sugar is quiet. Pot Ashes scarce and prices higher. Rice is inactive. Rosin is steady. Spirits Turpentine dull. Petroleum is firmer. Refined 3s 4d@3s 6d.

LONDON, Nov. 23—Consols closed at 89½@89¾. United States 5-20's, 69½@64.

The Latest via Queenstown.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—Political news is unimportant.

The Bank of England has reduced the rate of discount to 6 per cent.

The merchants of Paris and Havre are adopting memorials to the Emperor on the Spanish-Chilian affair.

Violent gales have occurred on the coast of England, causing great damage to the shipping.

Later from Cape Haytien—The Cholera in the West Indies.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The steamer Liberty from Havana on the 29th ult., has arrived.—The news from Cape Haytien confirms the accounts of the bombardment of the town by the British ships of war. The rebels there have scattered. Most of the rebel chiefs have been shot. Six or seven persons who took refuge at the British Consul's during the bombardment, were seized by the rebels and shot.

The rebel General Hudron, with 500 men, surrendered to the Government, and President Geffrard is now master of the situation.

Most of the foreigners fled to the American war vessels at Cape Haytien during the bombardment.

The triumph of the Government was commemorated with festivities at Port Au Prince, and at Jacinel.

The cholera at Gaudaloupe and at Martinique has been so fatal that all vessels from there are refused.

Havana is healthy.

From Canada.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—A special to the *Herald*, from Toronto, C. W., says:

Burglaries are very numerous. The safe of the Law Society was robbed last night of £500.

A Council of leading Orangemen had been held, at which it was decided to take measures of defense against the anticipated Fenian raid.

Navagation is open and the weather is pleasant.

Elections in Massachusetts.

BOSTON, Dec. 4.—John H. Perry, the citizens' candidate, was elected Mayor of New Bedford, without opposition. Edward H. Bennett was re-elected Mayor of Fall River. Armington, Republican, was elected Mayor of Lawrence by 64 majority over White, independent.

J. Warren Merrill has been re-elected mayor of Cambridge, and Eustice C. Fits, Mayor of Chelsea.

From Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 4.—A special engine, ran at the instance of the Adams Express Company, arrived here this morning, bringing a messenger of that Company, who left Washington city on Saturday evening, in charge of packages supposed to contain the President's Message, and copies of the reports of the several Departments at Washington for Western cities, sent, it is understood, at the instance and under the arrangements of the Secretary of War.

Highway Robbery.

OIL CITY, Dec. 5.—On Saturday about noon, Mr. Uhler, Superintendant of the Ocean Oil Company, while on his way to Titusville, was waylaid and robbed of $4,200, in money, and $10,000 in checks. He was fired at, one ball passing through his hand, and the other, which was aimed at his heart, fortunately struck his watch, which saved his life. One of the robbers then knocked him off his horse with a club, and beat him until he was insensible. No clue has been discovered of the guilty parties.

Railroad Accident.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Adams' iron express car, on the Harlem railroad, ran into a city railroad car yesterday, opposite Eighth street, in the Bowery. The city passenger car was crushed, and a boy standing on the platform was killed and some fifteen or twenty others injured.

From Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 2.—Mr. Amell, a member of the General Assembly, when speaking in the House today, was seized with a hemorrhage of the lungs. He is very low, and there is little hope of his recovery.

Perry, the fourth murderer of Heffernan, has been convicted of murder by court martial. The four are awaiting the signature of General Thomas for their execution.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—The *Times* says a contract has been completed for the conclusion of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, including a bridge across the Missouri, on or before January 1st, 1868. The contractors agree to build the road and receive their compensation in the shape of an annual rental for a number of years.

Burning of a Steamer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—This morning the steamer Weybosset took fire and was par tially consumed. She arrived from Savannah last Saturday, with a valuable cargo, consigned to Messrs. Wakelan, Gookin & Dickinson. The cotton on board was valued at $40,000, and the whole cargo was valued at about $250,000. It is impossible to give an estimate of the total loss, but it will be very great.

Ship News.

FORT MONROE, Dec. 5.—Arrived bark Christopher Columbus from City Point and Richmond, wih tobacco for Venice The schooner Wm. Burroughs, from New Orleans for Liverpool, with a cargo of cotton, has arrived here with her mainmast and rigging carried away. Her cargo is safe.

Robbery of a Returned Californian.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 4.—Captain Volney Cushing, from California, was robbed, on the steamer New York, between Boston and Portland, this morning, of $2,450.

Virginia Legislature.

RICHMOND, Dec. 5.—The Legislature passed a bill to-day repealing the act allowing the transfer of the counties of Berkley and Jefferson to West Virginia.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1865.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's Message was read in the Senate by Col. Forney, the Secretary, and in the House by Mr. McPherson, the Clerk. Both these gentlemen performed their duties in such manner as to elicit general commendation. The passages in the message, which were applauded in the House during the reading were those asserting that traitors should be punished and the offence made infamous, and at the same time the question judicially settled, finally and forever that no State of its own will has the right to renounce its place in the Union; that a tax on travel and merchandise in their transit constitutes one of the worst forms of monopoly; and the evil is increased if coupled with a denial of the choice of route; and also the President's declaration that the justification of England in fitting out cruisers during the rebellion, "cannot be sustained before the tribunal of nations, and that the friendship between the two countries must hereafter rest on the basis of mutual justice." The applause on the reading of this part of the message was emphatic, and there was a general clapping of hands, both on the floor and in the galleries, on the conclusion of the reading of the document. The message seems to be regarded by every one acquainted with its contents as frank, direct and patriotic, and its facts and arguments so clearly stated as to leave no doubt of the President's views and policy.

THE STATUS OF REBEL LAWYERS.

A motion has been filed in the United States Supreme Court by A. H. Garland, Esq., of Arkansas, to be permitted to practice in the court without taking the oath, as prescribed by acts of Congress of July 2, 1862, and January 24, 1865. The motion will be argued probably to-day. The petitioner sets forth a pardon, in due form, granted by the President to him on the 15th day of July, A. D. 1865, and contends: First, that the act of Congress prescribing this oath is unconstitutional upon its face; second, that as far as it affects his status in this court, it is palpably in violation of the Constitution; third, that if it be not unconstitutional, the pardon of the President restores him to his rights as an attorney of this court, notwithstanding the oath; and fourth, that as the United States, through Congress, has collected revenue of him for the privilege of being a lawyer, his right to practice in the courts of the United States follows, at least, so far as any obstacle thrown in the way by the oath are concerned. Mr. Garland argues that the acts of Congress referred to are obnoxious to the objection; that the law is retrospective in its operation and effect. It stamps certain acts and deeds with a character totally different from that which they were when committed, and by new principles, introduced by its own terms, seeks to settle rights existing at the time of its passage.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

T. C. Durant, the Vice President and General Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad, is now in Washington making arrangements for the examination and acceptance by Government Commissioners of the first forty miles of the main line west of Omaha.—Since the decision of the President approving the amended location of the line, the work has progressed very rapidly.

COUNTERFEIT FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

Two per cent of all the fractional currency received at the Treasury is counterfeit. This comes to the Department from bankers and others deemed experts in judging money, and two per cent comprising the detection of such parties, gives some idea of the extent of this kind of counterfeiting.

THE LATE BUTCHERY BY INDIANS ON THE PLAINS

The Commissioner of the Indian Bureau has just received a report from the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, located at Atchison, Kansas, giving some additional particulars relative to the late attack by a band of Indians on a mail-coach crossing the Plains, and the killing of a number of passengers. Among the six passengers brutally murdered was Frederick Merivin, of New York city. From the best sources of information at the command of the Superintendent, he believes the attack to have been made by 1,500 Cheyennes, Arrapahoes and Apaches, who, after the massacre, burned five mail stations and drove away all the live stock in a southerly direction.

The superintendent believes that the greater part of those who committed the outrage belong to the Cheyenne tribe, and that they were not present when the recent treaty of peace between that tribe and the United States was ratified. As this band is on its way to join their tribe, the superintendent believes that when they learn of the munificent provisions of the treaty made with their tribes by the United States, they will be induced to cherish peaceful relations with the Government.

FROM BRAZIL.

The End of the War Near at Hand—Brazilian Currency—The Prospects of Emigrants.

The following is an extract of a private letter, dated Rio de Janeiro, Nov. 3, 1865:

The war will close soon; the Paraguayans will be well whipped; so well, I hope, as to leave the name of their Lopez dynasty with history alone. Both sides have fought courageously. The Paraguayans are giving way fast.

The Brazilian currency, which suffered the usual run of the jobbers, has revived, and exchange is now 27 pence to the milreis; the par being 27½; the empire having effected a loan of about twenty-five million of dollars, on very bad terms in England, and at the same time settled its quarrel with that State.

You had better advise all American emigrants for Brazil to stay at home. It is too costly and too painful a process for Americans to learn, how supremely superior their own country is to *all* others, *even with the oppressions of which they complain so lowdly.*

New York City Election.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The city election to-day passed off quietly, and no rows or murders are as yet reported. There was a full vote for Mayor. Hoffman, Tammany democrat, received 32,955; Roberts, republican, 31,412; Hecker, Citizens' Association and Mozart democrat nominee, 1,044; Gunther, McKeon democrat, 6,661. Mr. Hoffman is elected by a majority of 1,544.

A Baltimore Vessel Ashore.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—The steamer Alleghany, from Baltimore for New York, went ashore yesterday on Long Island in the fog. She will probably be gotten off without serious damage.

THE OPENING SCENES IN CONGRESS.

The following interesting and graphic description of the scenes connected with the assembling of the House of Representatives and the election of Speaker is reproduced from the Washington correspondence of the New York *Tribune:*

The floor is covered with a busy and merry throng, as becomes the first Congress after the war. As the clerk quietly trips up the side aisle a buzz of curiosity runs through the multitude, for this middle-sized, smooth-faced young man, with blue eyes, high forehead, and light, sunny hair, has a responsibility that may change the destinies of America. It seems to rest easily as he rolls over his paper in a business-like way and quickly raps on the desk as the minute hand touches 12. The busy audience quiets down, and, as we have the opinion of Mr. Colfax for believing it to be the ablest House in many years, we look at it with some interest.

Thaddeus Stevens, who bears his 60 years as though they were 30, looks stern, grim and impassive.—Schenck of Ohio bends over him, and, conside ing he was a Yankee monitor in Baltimore, looks quite amiable and harmless to-day. As John Sherman's competitor for the Senate he excites some attention.—John Sherman seems quite easy, however, as he stands near by returning the salutations of Senator Harris, who looks as though he were born on a woolsack, grave, earnest, majestical, and Henry S. Lane, of Indiana, who carries his never-absent cane, and seems, like a Methodist exhorter, anxious to improve the occasion. Banks quietly takes a back seat, looking fresh and natty, rather grayer and more marked than when he led the struggling party of freedom to a Congressional victory nearly two years ago. Mr. Boutwell, his colleague, with a thoughtful, angular face, ridged forehead, and a generally keen Boston manner, enters into conversation with him.

Mr. Colfax, the prospective Speaker, is the center of a group, and seems pleasant and hopeful, while Mr. Washburne, the father of the House, as they call him, smiles grimly upon his children. Bingham, of Ohio, who looks like a fanatic, is conversing with Kelley, of Pennsylvania, who does not; while Roscoe Conkling, with a crowd of New Yorkers, is discussing the late election in that State.

The Clerk quietly begins to call the roll, and as he passes Tennessee, Maynard arises and endeavors to interrupt him, that Tennessee may be heard. The request makes a hum, but nobody hears it and the Clerk declines to hear him. The call finished, and again Maynard strives to gain a hearing, but Mr. Morrill quickly trips him up by moving to proceed to the election of Speaker. Again Maynard beseeches, but the majority, under the head of the resolute Stevens, insist upon order rather sternly.

Brooks arises to his feet, and, in a speech that reads like an editorial of the *Express*, informs the House that unless it changes its