Con. W. H. Seward

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Fine WATCHES, for Ladies and Gentlemen, of best makers.
Diamond, Pearl, Coral, Enameled, and other styles of rich Jewelry.
Beautiful Silver Ware, Best Silver-Plated Goods, as Tea Sets, Waiters, Baskets, Fruit Stands, Butter Dishes, &c.
Elegant Paris Clocks and Bronzes, in great variety.
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Dressing Cases, Fancy Work and Glove Boxes, Paper Mache Tables, Desks, Work Boxes, new Parisian Goods.
Fans, Opera Glasses, Portmonaies, Traveling Bags, Table Cutlery,
With a very full supply of New Goods, suitable for Presents.
at the Lowest Prices.

Canfield, Bro. & Co.,
de21-5t-1stp 229 Baltimore street.

Holiday Gifts!

WEDDING PRESENTS.
My assortment of above articles is very complete; among which will be found
PIER AND MANTEL MIRRORS, SOFA, BOQUET AND BRACKET TABLES,
Colored and Plain Engravings, Handsomely and Plainly Framed, or in Stock, Paintings, &c.
VASES, CARD RECEIVERS, PARLOR AQUARIUMS, MUSICAL BOXES, TOILET SETTS, GLOVE AND WORK BOXES, PARIAN BUSTS AND STATUETTES,
Swiss Carved Goods in Great Variety.
CLOCKS AND TAPESTRY CLOCKS.
Ladies and Gentlemen are requested to examine our line of goods, as they are very choice and select.

FRYER'S
Emporium of Art,
d16-7t1sp 206 West Baltimore street.

Holiday Presents.

LADIES' FANCY FURS,
In their several varieties, and of the LATEST STYLES,
which we will close out at greatly reduced prices. Call and examine the long established HAT, CAP AND FUR STORE.
S. HINDES & SON,
d18-2w No. 100 Gay street.

Christmas and New Year's Presents.

at the POPULAR BOOKSTORE,
Corner Baltimore and Holliday streets.
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS,
Bible, Prayer and Hymn Books,
Writing Desks, Portfolios, Children's Books, Games, etc., etc.
Diaries for 1866,
Pocket Books and Picture Frames,
Rogers & Wostenholm's Fine English Pocket Cutlery,
Fine Imperial Photographs and Engravings,
Immortelles, Wreaths, Crosses, &c.
All the new Holiday Books.
J. S. MORROW & Co.,
de19-tu,th,fr&sat Baltimore and Holliday sts.

The Best Present is one of Shank's Improved Empire Noiseless Sewing Machines. Corner Lombard and Sharp streets. dc20-4t1p

Parlor Organs,
and
MELODEONS.

CARHART, NEEDHAM & Co's
unrivalled
PARLOR ORGANS
and
MELODEONS.

For Sale Only at
Wm. Knabe & Co.'s,
Piano Warerooms,
de19-12t-1stp No. 350 W. Baltimore street.

Go to Shank's New Store, Corner Lombard and Sharp streets, for all kinds of Sewing Machines. de20-4t1p

184 ONE EIGHTY-FOUR. 184
BALTIMORE STREET, OPPOSITE LIGHT STREET.
Is the cheapest place in the city to buy useful articles for Christmas presents. We give below a partial list of goods to be found in our store, suitable for presents.
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS.
We have the largest and most complete stock in the city, which we will sell at extremely low prices.
SILVER-PLATED WARE.
Our stock is very large, and consists in part of Castors, Cake Baskets, Card Baskets, Tea Sets, Coffee Urns, Sugar Dishes, Butter Dishes, Syrup Cans, Wine Stands, Butter Knives, Spoons, Forks, &c., &c.
FANCY GOODS, &c., &c.
Writing Desks, Fancy Boxes, Vases, Picture Frames, Watches and Jewelry of all kinds, Fancy Soaps and Perfumery, fine Ivory Handle Knives, &c., &c.
Sale at auction every Evening at 7 o'clock.
L. CLARK & CO.,
de12-2w 184 Baltimore street.

Gold Pens.

"*In the selection of a wife* another important matter is, that she should write well. A lady who neglects to cultivate this accomplishment is, not unlikely, deficient in other essential qualities."—CHESTERFIELD.

Gifts for the Girls; gifts for the Boys;
A useful gift, not useless toys—
Something to have, something to hold;
Suitable, too, for young and old—
A Good Gold Pen!

Gold Pens.

In solid Gold Holders!
In solid Silver Holders!
Suitable for Ladies!
Suitable for Gentlemen!

'Twill please the ladies and the men.
Each line they write they'll bless the pen;
The giver bless, and praise the taste
That gave for use and not for waste—
A Good Gold Pen!

Gold Pens.

In Gold mounted Rubber Holders!
In desk Holders of every variety!
Put up in cases of rich velvet for presents.
AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,
B. F. BLAKENEY & Co.,
GOLD PEN MANUFACTURERS,
de15-tf 125 Baltimore Street, first floor, up stairs.

GET A TRUE COPY.
Imperial Photographs and fine engravings of GEN. R. E. LEE AND STONEWALL JACKSON,
Taken from life.
J. S. MORROW & Co.,
de6 tf Corner Baltimore and Holliday streets.

Wm. Brown & Son,
No. 227 WEST BALTIMORE STREET,
Corner of Charles.
WATCHES, SILVER AND PLATED WARE, FINE JEWELRY!
Elegant assortment of JEWELRY and SILVER WARE suitable for Holiday presents. de 22-1stp,f,s,tu,th&s

40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40
40 **Clothing for Christmas Presents.** 40
40 Boys' Jackets for Christmas Presents. 40
40 Boys' Overcoats for Christmas Presents. 40
40 Business Suits for Presents. 40
40 Gents' Overcoats for Presents, at Marble Hall. 40
40 Undershirts, Drawers, Gloves, Ties, &c., for Presents. 40
40 $80,000 at Less than Cost. 40
40 $15,000 worth of Gents' Furnishing Goods at Reduced Prices. 40
40 $80,000 at Less than Cost of Manufacture. 40
40 $80,000 Worth of Clothing at Less than Cost. 40
40 $80,000 Worth of Clothing at Less than Cost. 40
40 We have Reduced the Price of all our Clothing in order to Reduce our Immense Stock, 40
40 at SMITH BROS. & Co., 40
40 38 and 40 West Baltimore street. 40
40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40

38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38
38 **Ties, Collars, Scarfs, Gloves, Un-** 38
38 dershirts, &c. 38
38 Collars, Ties, Scarfs, and Gloves for Christmas presents. 38
38 Christmas, Christmas, presents at 38
38 Presents for Gentlemen at 38
38 All styles of Gents Furnishing Goods for presents. 38
38 Scarfs, Saratogas, Butterfly, Unique, *Ne* 38
38 *Plus*, Fenian, and all the latest styles of 38
38 Ties at 38
38 Next to Marble Hall. 38
38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38 38

The "Florence" American.

INVENTORS' GREAT TRIUMPH.
THE SEWING MACHINE PERFECTED.

All the objections to other Machines are overcome n the Florence. It makes four different Stitches with the same ease, and with as little machinery as others make one. Besides, it has the reversible feed motion—a uniform self-regulating tension of thread and no springs, cog-wheels, or cams to get out of order.

WE CLAIM FOR THE FLORENCE
THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES
Over Any and All Sewing Machines.

It makes four different stitches, the Lock, Knot, Double Lock and *Double Knot*, on one and the same machine. Each stich being alike on both sides of the fabric.

It has the reversible feed motion, which enables the operator, by simply turning a thumb-screw, to have the work run either to the right or left, to stay any part of the same, or fasten the ends of the seams, without turning the fabric.

Changing the length of the stitch, and from one kind of stitch to another, can readily be done while the Machine is in motion.

Every stich is perfect in itself, making the seam secure and uniform.

It is almost noiseless, and can be used where quiet s necessary.

Its motions are all positive; there are no springs to get out of order, and its simplicity enables the most inexperienced to operate it.

It will not oil the dress of the operator, as all the machinery is on the top of the table.

It is the most rapid sewer in the world, making five stitches to each revolution.

Its stich is the wonder of all, because of its combined elasticity, strength and beauty.

It does the heaviest or finest work with equal facility, without change of tension or machinery.

Every machine has one of Jenck's Patent Hemmers attached, (the right to use which we control,) enabling the operator to turn any width of hem desired.

There is no other Machine which will do so large a range of work as the "Florence."

It does not require finer thread on the under side than it does on the upper.

The needle is more easily adjusted than in any other Machine.

It will sew across the heaviest seams, or from one to more thicknesses of cloth, without change of tension or breaking of thread.

It is fully protected and licensed by Elias Howe, Jr., and his associates, and our own letters patent.

To avoid the strain on the eyes, bent posture, close application, and fatiguing care, heretofore necessary on a large proportion of work done on sewing machines, we now furnish each Machine with "Barnum's Self-Sewer," which guides the work itself, and is of incalculable value, especially to inexperienced operators.

While possessing the above, and many other advantages, the Florence is sold at corresponding prices with other first-class machines.

THE FLORENCE COMPANY
LOCK-STITCH MACHINES.

The only Machine having the Reversible feed-movement, was awarded the highest premium, gold medal, at the late exhibition of the American Institute.

COPY OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SEWING MACHINES:

The Florence Sewing Machine Company, 505 Broadway, for the best Family Sewing Machine.
Reasons:
1. Its simplicity and great range of work.
2. Its making four different stitches, viz: the Lock, Knot, Double-Lock, and Double-Knot.
3. The reversible feed motion, operated by simply turning a thumb-screw, enabling the operator to run the work from right to left, or left to right, and perfectly self-fastening to the end of the seam.
4. The perfect finish and substantial manner in which the Machine is made.
5. The rapidity of its working, and the quality of the work done.
6. Its self-adjusting tension.

BUY THE FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE, and if you are not perfectly satisfied after three months' trial, you can return it, and get your money. Office, No. 155 Baltimore street. de2-eotf

1865 **Watches.** 1865
Larmour & Co., Light Street.
Have just opened their splendid stock of HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
consisting of Enameled and Diamond WATCHES, Patent ¼-seconds Timing Watches, Diamond, Pearl and Mosaic JEWELRY, Opera Glasses, Table Cutlery, Gold Pens and Pencils, Solid Silver WARE, Triple Plated Albata WARE, CLOCKS, FANCY GOODS, ETC.,
All New and Beautiful Patterns.
☞We would especially invite persons wishing to purchase HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
to call and examine our stock. They will find Bargains. de5-tf

John Hanna.
OPPOSITE BARNUM'S HOTEL.
Real Meerschaum Pipes, in every variety, and beautiful patterns.
ALSO, HAVANA CIGARS.
d18-1w*

A BOX OF NOTE PAPER stamped with your initial is a suitable Christmas present—Albums, Portfolios, Writing Desks, Games of all kinds and other suitable gifts at the Stationery Engraving and Stamping Emporium of Stork & Gillespie, 278½ West Baltimore street. de19-1p6t

Holiday Presents.
GEO. W. WEBB & Co.,
Corner Baltimore and Light Streets.
RICH DIAMOND JEWELRY, STONE CAMEOS, AMETHYSTS, PEARLS, &c., &c.
FINE WATCHES, Jules Jurgensen, Patek Phillippe, Chas. E. Jacat, and other celebrated Makers.
SILVER WATCHES, suitable for boys.
SILVER WARE, of Beautiful Designs, of Pure Silver Coin.
COFFEE URNS, BUTTER DISHES, WAITERS, FRUIT STANDS, GOBLETS, CUPS, &c., &c.
MARBLE AND BRONZE CLOCKS, VASES, &c.
Purchasers will find everything that is new and elegant. de15-2w1stp

"IMPORTED HAVANA CIGARS."—From $5 to $20 per Box, at MAY'S HAVANA CIGAR EMPORIUM, 36 N. Charles street, near Lexington st.
d18-tf1stp

Shank's Improved Empire Noiseless Sewing Machine is the best in use. Corner Lombard and Sharp streets. de20-4t1p

JOHN NEEDLES & SON.

Linen.	Linen.
Linen.	Linen.
Linen.	Linen.
Linen.	Linen.

No. 43 N. CHARLES STREET,

Lace.	Lace.
Lace.	Lace.
Lace.	Lace.
Lace.	Lace.

DRY GOODS.

White Goods.	White Goods.
White Goods.	White Goods.
White Goods.	White Goods.
White Goods.	White Goods.

FANCY ARTICLES.

Embroidery.	Embroidery.
Embroidery.	Embroidery.
Embroidery.	Embroidery.
Embroidery.	Embroidery.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Photograph Albums.	Photograph Albums.
Ink-stands.	Ink-stands.
Spectacle Cases.	Spectacle Cases.
Napkinrings.	Napkinrings.

OF

Books.	Books.
Bracelets.	Bracelets.
Cigar Cases.	Cigar Cases.
Albums.	Albums.

SCOTCH WOOD

Cabas.	Cabas.
Reticules.	Reticules.
Vases.	Vases.
Card Cases.	Card Cases.

AT

Watch Stands.	Watch Stands.
Paper Cutters.	Paper Cutters.
Ring Cases.	Ring Cases.
Spinning Tops.	Spinning Tops.

JOHN NEEDLES & SONS,
dc22-1wlp **No. 43 N. Charles Street.**

For Christmas.

We open this morning, just out of the custom-house, unquestionably the finest selection of SCARFS ever presented for sale in the city of Baltimore. The patterns are all of new designs, and will repay a visit to our establishment simply to examine them.

Nothing more suitable for a Christmas Present can be selected than what we offer in the way of Scarfs and Ties, Dressing Gowns, Dressing Cases for Ladies and Gentlemen, Breakfast Jackets.

Cardian Jackets,
Gloves lined and unlined,
Mufflers,
Handkerchiefs,
Afghans,
Foot Muffs.

Fur Gloves—These especially are worthy of attention, being the finest of the kind.
RAYMOND, BURTON & Co.,
1stp-1t 168 W. Baltimore st.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the President announced as the Committe on Reconstruction, Messrs. Fessenden, Howard, Johnson, Williams and Harris.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition from white citizens, of the District of Columbia, asking for the extension of the suffrage to the colored people of the District, and in support thereof said, that the white people of this District had for years, been squatting upon the civil and political rights of the colored people.

Mr. Howard offered a resolution which was adopted, asking upon what charges Jeff. Davis is held in confinement, and why he is not placed upon trial.

Mr. Wilson's bill on the condition of the Southern States, was called up by Mr. Stewart, who made a few remarks in defence of the President's recent message, and condemning Mr. Sumner's white-washing epithet as applied thereto. He thought the objects could be attained without regarding the Southern States as territorial subjects.

Mr. Wilson defended the bill which he said he introduced to meet a pressing necessity and as a matter of humanity.

Mr. Saulsbury said that Mr. Wilson labored under a great mistake if he understood him to say that the Democratic party would come into power through the present Executive. He contended that the ordinances of secession being mere nullities, the Southern States had never been out of the Union, were still in the Union, and entitled to elect their own State officials and representatives, and conduct their own State affairs.

In the House, a preamble and resolutions were introduced, eulogizing the annual message of the President of the United States, and declaring the President entitled to the thanks of Congress and the country for his efforts to restore civil government and law to the late rebellious States.

In Committee of the Whole, on the President's message, speeches were made by Mr. Finck, of Ohio, Mr. Raymond, of New York, and others.

FROM EUROPE.

The mails by the steamship Cuba at Halifax, have arrived. We glean the following items:

Earl Russell, the new English Premier, is sick.—Having a cold he stayed away from the recent Cabinet Council. According to the London *Star*, however, his illness is somewhat more serious.

The Viceroy of Egypt has given the American mission at Cairo a block of house worth two hundred thousand francs. The Viceroy is also said to have given the missionaries free passes by the railways, and to have decided that religious journals and books shall not be subject to any tax.

Sir Frederick Bruce, the British Minister, has been appointed umpire to a joint commission representing the United States and the republic of Colombia.—South America, for the settlement of claims arising out of the Panama riots of 1856.

The Marquis Corrio, Maximilian's Charge d'Affaires of Mexico at Brussels and the Hague, has been named Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the same courts.

Rear Admiral Couprent-Desbois has been appointed to the command in chief of the French naval station at Brazil and La Plata, in the place of Rear Admiral Chaigneau, whose term of service has expired.

The official investigation into the escape of Stephen's has been postponed until the close of the Commission, but the Inspector of Prisons, Mr. Corry Connellan, has been directed to answer certain interrogatories tendered to him by order of the Executive.—*A large number of persons of considerable position are said, by the Dublin Evening Mail, to be seriously compromised in the affair.*

The Paris journals are strictly forbidden to speak of Mexico.

The arrival in Paris of the magnificent jewels belonging to the Empress Charlotte, under pretence of alteration and repairs, has given rise to all sorts of comments. People say that a certain great financial firm has been induced *to lend a considerable sum upon the Imperial corset*, which was composed of the whole of the wedding diamonds of the Princess Louise, and which was all the dower King Leopold ever got with his wife.

GENERAL NEWS

Rarey, the horse tamer, was attacked on the 18th paralysis, at his residence in Freeport, O. The left side is implicated.

Mr. Pollard, an American merchant resident at Valparaiso, committed suicide on the 9th of November, by shooting himself with a pistol.

Hon. Samuel Ames, for ten years Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, died on Wednesday of apoplexy.

The surgeon-in-chief of the Washington District Bureau of Refugees, has issued an order requiring his assistants to vaccinate the entire colored population of the city.

A Macon paper says that petty larceny is now the most destructive and dangerous crime in Georgia. To keep horse, cow, pig, poultry, is now an achievment so difficult that most people are giving it up.

The *Chronicle*, of Augusta, Ga., says that about a thousand persons have been sent from that section to the Mississippi Valley. These parties refused to make contracts with their former owners.

The President's Message and Gen. Grant's report on the condition of affairs in the South, says a Washington special, is having a very marked effect in both Houses. The Radicals see nothing in it to change their views.

Brigadier General Martin T. McMahon, late of General Hooker's staff, who has recently been admitted to practice at the bar, has just been appointed to the position of Corporation Attorney of New York, and will enter upon his duties with the Hon. Richard O'Gorman, the Corporation Counsel elect.

Gold sold yesterday at 146¼a146¼. Governments were inactive and a shade lower. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad closed at $111½, Northern Central $45. For City Passenger $20¾ was asked but no sales were made. Money seems abundant and the loan market easy.

Advices from Panama report the discovery of rich gold mines in the vicinity of Tumaco and Barbacoas, State of Cauca, New Granada. Four men in eight days took out thirty pounds. Since the attempt at revolution on the 29th ult., affairs in Panama have been quiet. The new commercial tax on Panama and Aspinwall was to be increased five per cent.

The Quebec *News*, of Monday, says:—We learn that a considerable number of letters containing remittances for the United States have recently miscarried. It is believed that they have been stolen in the United States; for registered letters have been traced as far as the lines. Registered and unregistered letters have alike been lost."

We learn by recent advices from Constantinople, that Azop Effendi, who, for the past thirty years, filled the post of *Secretaire Intime*, or "Counsellor of State," to the Turkish Embassy in Paris, having recently died, the vacant post has been proffered to Mr. Oscanyan, whose lectures on Turkey delivered in this city not long since excited so much interest.

LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS
TO THE
DAILY COMMERCIAL.

FROM GEORGIA.

The Supreme Court—Proceedings of the Legislature—Testimony of Freedmen in Courts.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Dec. 15.—The House passed a bill to-day, fixing the first Monday in May and November for the session of the Supreme Court. N. C. Barnwell was elected Secretary State; J. A. Burns Comptroller, and Gen. John Jones State Treasurer.

The Legislature passed a bill regulating the testimony of freedmen, which makes free persons of color competent witnesses in civil cases where like persons are defendant, and in criminal cases where the offence is against the person or property of freedmen. It provides, also, where freedmen are the party, the plaintiff and defendant may make or file any affidavit now allowed citizens, to have the same force as if done by other persons.

A joint resolution was adopted unanimously, stating, in effect, that the President had acted magnanimously towards the people of Georgia. The Legislature adjourned on the fifteenth of January.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Provisional Governor of South Carolina Ordered to Relinquish the Affairs of the State to the Governor Elect.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Secretary Seward to-day transmitted to the Hon. Benj. F. Perry, Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina, a letter, identical with those recently addressed to the Governors of Alabama and Georgia, relieving him of the trust heretofore reposed in him as Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina, and directing when the Governor elect shall have accepted and become qualified to discharge the Executive office, to transfer the papers and property of the State to said Governor elect. A letter, notifying the Governor of South Carolina of this action, and furnishing a copy of the communication addressed to the late Provisional Governor—the same as sent to the Governors of Georgia and Alabama—was also sent by the Secretary of State.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE COLOMBIAN COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Colombian Commission adjourned until the 4th of January. The Commissioners, General Salgar, for Colombia, and Col. Thomas Biddle for the United States, have worked faithfully at their docket, and out of the one hundred and eighty-seven cases have decided sixty-five, and have differed on only two, which are referred to Sir Frederick Bruce, the British Minister, for final decision. The cases thus far have been argued for the claimants by S. S. Cox, now of New York, and for the Colombian government by J. M. Carlisle, Esq., of the District of Columbia. The awards will not be published for some time. There are many important questions submitted in the cases, but the most important cases are yet to be tried.

SECRETARY M'CULLOCH.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McCulloch, left Washington this morning on a visit to New York, and will be absent until after Monday.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS.

The Senate, in Executive session to-day, confirmed the nomination of Edwin Marsh, of Washington Territory, to be Register of the Land Office at Olympia, vice Denney, elected a delegate to Congress; Peter Edward Van Olstyne to be Collector of Internal Revenue for the 12th Collection District of New York, and Charles Durkee, of Wisconsin, to be Governor of the Territory of Utah, vice James D. Doty, deceased.

COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINING.

The Speaker of the House, in his appointment of the new committee on mines and mining has represented the gold mines of California and Oregon, the silver mines of Nevada, the lead mines of Wisconsin and Iowa, the copper mines of Michigan, the iron and coal mines of Pennsylvania, and the iron mountain mine of Missouri.

DISCHARGE PAPERS.

The Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting of the Navy Department has in its possession some four hundred discharge and settlement papers belonging to soldiers transferred to the navy, and which will be forwarded on application to the Chief of the Bureau. Every transferred soldier who has not received his discharge papers is invited to apply, stating his regiment and other particulars to prevent fraudulent applications.

SETTLEMENT FOR CLOTHING.

By a recent order of the War Department on the settlement hereafter of the clothing accounts of volunteer soldiers discharged since March 3d, 1865, the same amount of clothing will be allowed as in the case of regular soldiers.

LAWYER BRADLEY VS. JUDGE OLIN.

In the Circuit Court, a few days since, Joseph H. Bradley charged that Judge Olin was abusing a prisoner confined in the jail during court. The judge replied that Mr. Bradley stated what he knew to be untrue, whereupon Mr. Bradley retorted by calling him a liar. Mr. Bradley having afterwards apologized, Judge Olin said the former had made all the reparation which a gentleman could be expected to make for the offense imputed to him, but still he did not think that Mr. Bradley could be excused, and, therefore, he fined him $100 for contempt of court.

WINDER AND DUNCAN.

Captain G. R. Walbridge, military superintendent of the old Capitol prison, returned to Washington today. He conveyed the prisoners, Winder, Duncan and Gee, to the respective points to which they had been ordered. Winder was taken to Richmond and turned over to General Terry; Gee was left at Raleigh in charge of General Roger: and Duncan was conveyed to Savannah and placed in the custody of Gen. Steadman. They are to be tried by a military commission.

THE QUESTION OF NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN WASHINGTON.

In accordance with the resolution of the city authorities, the question as to negro suffrage was submitted to the citizens of Washington to-day. About 7,000 votes were recorded against it, and only about 75 in favor of thus extending the franchise. It is said that the friends of the measure, who abstained from the polls, are obtaining signatures to a petition to be presented to Congress, preferring this mode rather than the ballot, of expressing their wishes.

FROM NASHVILLE.

The River Rising—Judge Advocate for Freedmen.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 18.—The river is twenty inches high and falling. Four steamers are at the shoals, waiting for a rise to reach here. At Burkesville, today, a rise of five feet occurred, which will affect the river at the shoals by to-morrow. It rained here all day.

Cotton is dull; 40½c. is the holding price, with few purchasers. Buyers are shy at the ruling rate. Receipts 440 bales; shipments 369 bales.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 19.—It has been raining all day and still continues, with a prospect of a big rise in the river. The height of the water on the shoals is eight inches, and rising.

Chaplain John Lawrence has been appointed by General Fiske to try cases of misdemeanor in which freedmen were implicated. A notice was served on Mayor Brown of his assuming that duty. This order is approved by the citizens generally, as the municipal regulations of this city make it requisite for officers to arrest people on suspicion of drunkenness, and negroes on all real and imaginary offences.

Chili and the South American Republics.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Advices from South America state that the cause of Chili is warmly espoused by the people and press of the South American republics, though as yet no government aid action is reported.

The first direct conflict between the Chilian and Spanish forces occurred on the 6th of November, at Dicacho. A party of thirty Spaniards attempted to land, first firing at the fortifications. They were beaten by the garrison; one man was taken prisoner and two wounded.

The British merchants at Valparaiso had held several more meetings, and sent through their Consul further petitions to their Government to lend its influence in behalf of Chili.

Mr. Pollard, an American merchant, resident at Valparaiso, had committed suicide.

The new Government of Peru would, it was supposed, support Chili.

The rebellion in the United States of Colombia was deemed to be at an end.

The Gale—Damages at Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Dec 21.—The following are some of the effects of last night's gale. St. John's Church turret damaged and the windows broken. The spire of the Universalist Church rocked so badly, that it crumbled the capstones and dislodged some of them. Part of the roof on the *Courier* office was blown off. The smoke-stack and part of the roof of the Buffalo Steel Works was blown down. The steam barge International was blown from its moorings, and carried down Niagara river some distance, and a large number of chimneys were blown down in various parts of the city.

From Georgia.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The steamships Hunter, Nevada, and Enterpe, from Savannah on the 17th, arrived this morning.

The *Herald* says a Convention of Internal Revenue Assessors and Collectors for South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, will be held at Atlanta on the 20th to regulate a system of assessments and for the collection of taxes.

The steamer Falcon was seized by Gen. Brannan, at Savannah, owing to the refusal of the owners to allow troops to be transported in her from Augusta.

Railroad Accident.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—This morning's passenger way train, on the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad, from Holinesburg, was run into when crossing the Reading Railroad, at the junction, by an engine on the latter road. Both engines and tenders were damaged, but nobody was hurt.

The train from New York, due at 12.30, has not arrived, and is probably detained on account of this accident.

Accident to a Member of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Hon. Allen F. Bradford, Congressional delegate from Colorado, was to night run over by a street car and severely injured. Mr. James Donaldson, Secretary Seward's Messenger, with his characteristic kindness was unremitting in his attentions until he placed him under charge of a physician.

XXXIXTH CONGRESS.

Freedom of Inhabitants of United States

Senate Reconstruction Committee.

Petition of White Citizens For Universal Suffrage.

Inquiry Concerning Jeff. Davis.

THE SOUTHERN CONDITION BILL.

Sparring Between the Republicans and Democrats

High Compliment to the President.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.

FREEDOM OF INHABITANTS OF UNITED STATES.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to maintain and enforce the freedom of the inhabitants of the United States. It provides that whereas the Congress of the United States, on the 1st of February, 1865, submitted to the Legislatures of the several States an amendment to the Constitution providing that involuntary servitude should not exist except in punishment of crime, and that the Secretary of State, in his proclamation of December 19th, 1865, officially declares that three-fourths of the States have ratified said amendment.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled, That all laws and regulations heretofore in force in any State or Territory of the United States wherein any inequality of the inhabitants of said States or Territories is authorized by reason of distinction of color or a previous condition of slavery, are hereby repealed, and it shall be hereafter unlawful to make any such law or regulation, or enforce the same. That *all* inhabitants of said States or Territories shall be entitled to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties and give evidence in all courts, to lease, purchase, sell and hold, and convey real and personal property, and to have full and equal rights before the law for the security of person and property. That any person who shall cause *any* inhabitant of said States and Territories, under this act any privation of right of person or property secured by this act shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by fine not exceeding $1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both, at the discretion of the Court. That in the States recently in rebellion, proceedings under this act may be instituted in the proper military courts until Congress may by law establish the relations of said States to the United States. That in all cases where any defendant in any suit or proceeding in any court of a State or Territory shall claim any right, under the provisions of this act by way of defence, such defendant may remove by petition such suit or proceeding into the proper circuit or Circuit Court of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

The Chair announced as the Committee on Reconstruction as follows:

Messrs. Fessenden, Howard Johnson, Williams and Harris.

PETITION FROM COLORED SOLDIERS.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition from colored soldiers in the late war, praying an equal bounty with white soldiers, and protesting against the admission of the Southern Representatives except upon a general basis. Referred to the joint committee.

COLORED MEN OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Mr. Howard presented a petition of 3,740 colored men of South Carolina, praying equal rights before the law without distinction of color, politically or otherwise. Referred to the committee on reconstruction.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition of white citizens of the District of Columbia, asking for the extension of the right of suffrage to the colored people of the District.

He stated that the white people of this District had for years been squatting upon the civil and political rights of the colored people, and that the present state of things was about to end. Gen. Petition was referred.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to amend an act entitled an Act for the establishment of a Bureau for the relief of totally disabled officers and soldiers of the volunteer forces of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

INQUIRY ABOUT JEFF. DAVIS.

Mr. Howard offered a resolution providing that whereas the Constitution provides for a speedy trial by jury—

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform the Senate upon what charges the traitor Jeff. Davis is still held in confinement, and why he is not placed upon trial. Adopted.

CONDITION OF SOUTHERN STATES.

Mr. Stewart called up Mr. Wilson's bill upon the condition of the Southern States "for the purpose of making a few remarks upon the attack of Mr. Sumner upon the message of the President yesterday." He considered it a duty to reply to that attack and defend the policy of the President. He inquired if "*conquest*" had been the motto under which millions of the Union men of the country had rallied around the flag of their country; or to "*sustain the Constitution of the United States?*" He thought the latter. He thought the despotic legislation embodied in the bill unnecessary and would do injury rather than good. He dwelt upon that portion of the President's message in reference to the amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery and quoted extracts of the proclamation of the Secretary of State upon that subject and contended that the States which had ratified that amendment were States of the Union. He stated that there were more behind this still than mere reconstruction, and that was fixing the elective franchise without regard to color and without regard to *law*, and contended that the conferring of that right was strictly the privilege of the several States.

He spoke of the letters read by Mr. Sumner yesterday, and said they were written by persons unknown to the Senate and to the country, and inquired what means of information they possessed, and what intentions they had in inditing them.

Mr. Wilson said he introduced the bill under consideration to meet a pressing necessity, and as a matter of humanity. He defended the authority of the letters read by his colleague, and said the gentleman might as well question the atrocities committed at Andersonville as those letters. If the gentleman would go into the Freedmen's Bureau and read the testimony daily received there, it would make his heart sick to contemplate the injustice committed by man upon his fellow man.

Mr. Stewart contended that the objects of the bill could be obtained without regarding the Southern States as territorial subjects.

Mr. Wilson defended the bill against the attack of the other side of the Senate and stated that there was no issue between Congress and the President but that he believed if Congress legislated upon the subject as they believed right and according to law the President would sanction it. If not then the issue would come. He hoped that the word "*conquered*" would not again be used by any member in either house, for in his opinion it was a word that disgraces the lips of any American statesman that utters it. He predicted that as sure as "God rules the world," we shall have emancipation; emancipation by war, emancipation by legislation, emancipation by the proclamation of the martyred President, and emancipation by the amendment to the Constitution, and hoped that Congress would be as bold, firm, and prudent *now* as they were when the country was deluged in blood. He would *not* trust a repentant rebel with the interests of the meanest man in the country, and he would say to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. Saulsbury,) that he does not know the men who fought this war for the Union if he supposes they will countenance the men whose names are linked with that of slavery, and some of them with that of the rebellion.

Mr. Saulsbury said that Mr. Wilson labored under a very great mistake if he understood him to say that the Democratic party would come into power through the present Executive. He said nothing of the kind; he did say, however, that the apprehension seemed to exist both in the House and in the country, lest that such would be the case; that so far as the President was concerned, he had always (though he had strayed into bad company), entertained the highest regard for him, and as long as he continued in his present course he had his hearty co-operation. He informed Mr. Wilson that the Democratic party was not in as hopeless a condition as he supposed. He said in regard to the word "conservative" that if the present system of amending the fundamental law of the land be persisted in, the Democratic host would swell with the conservative element of the country.

He contended that the ordinances of secession being mere nullities, the Southern States had never been out of the Union, were still in the Union and entitled to elect their own State officials and Representatives to Congress, and conduct their own State affairs; and stated that General Sherman's principle was the only true solution of the national difficulties. He contended that three-fourths of the States had no more right to *abolish* slavery in his State than had three-fourths of the States the power to *establish* slavery in Massachusetts. He inquired of Mr. Wilson what he knew of the negro's condition; he had never until after the war condescended to visit the slave States, and, as to his State, there was not enough of negroes to make mile posts along the public roads.

Mr. Wilson. I would inform the gentleman that in 1855 I visited Delaware, and in the city of Wilmington delivered one of the most rabid abolition speeches it was ever in my power to deliver, and was very kindly received and entertained by a number of persons who thought exactly as I did; and I am very confident that in a short time we shall have a *majority* of the people of Delaware thinking the same way.

Mr. Saulsbury. It is said that "hope springs eternal in the human frame," but the gentleman may grow old and grey-headed before Delaware becomes a disciple of Massachusetts.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Cragin introduced a joint resolution to amend the Constitution. It provides that persons of sovereignty shall reside in the United States, and every citizen of the United States shall be bound, and primarily owe allegiance to the United States, anything in the Constitution of any State or Territory notwithstanding, and every State heretofore in the Union or that may be admitted, shall forever form a part of the United States, and shall not under any circumstances, have any right to withdraw therefrom. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Lane, of Indiana, introduced a resolution directing the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the franking system except upon written communications. Adopted.

The Senate, at fifteen minutes before three, went into executive session, and shortly after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEVADA.

Mr. Bidwell, of California, presented the credentials of D. R. Ashley, member elect from Nevada, who came forward and was sworn in.

On motion of Mr. Phelps, of Maryland, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to furnish to this House what amount has been expended in the permanent establishment of the Naval Academy at Annapolis from its foundation to the present time.

NO MONARCHICAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Hubbard