Hon. W. H. Seward

BALTIMORE DAILY COMMERCIAL.

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

d18-2w

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del9-12t-1stp

184 ONE EIGHTY-FOUR. 184

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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.

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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., 184 Baltimore street.

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"*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,

del5-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.

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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. del5-2wlstp

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. del5-tf

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. del9-1p6t

JOHN NEEDLES & SON'S.

LINEN.

Linen. Linen. Linen. Linen.

No. 43 N. CHARLES STREET,

Lace. Lace. Lace. Lace.

DRY GOODS.

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

FANCY ARTICLES.

Embroidery. Embroidery. Embroidery. Embroidery.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

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

OF

Books. Bracelets. Cigar Cases. Albums.

SCOTCH WOOD

Cabas. Reticules. Vases. Card Cases.

AT

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

JOHN NEEDLES & SONS.

de22-1wlp **No. 43 N. Charles Street.**

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

FEARFUL ASCENSION.—An aeronaut named Buisley recently performed some startling tricks at San Francisco. Attached to his balloon, instead of the customary parachute or car, was a trapeze—two ropes suspended about two feet apart, with a stout stick connecting them at the bottom—and from the moment that the balloon was cut from its anchorage and above the heads of the people, he commenced his performance, hanging by his feet and hands to the trapeze, then again by one foot and by the neck.—The balloon mounted to a great height, and when so far up that Buisley appeared to be of the size of a small child, he could still be seen clinging to the trapeze, first by his hands, then by his feet with his head down, then lying across it on his breast and back, imitating the motions of a swimmer. The crowd seemed perfectly awed and thunderstruck by his terrific feats, several ladies fainted, and it was not till it was seen that he felt or acted with perfect coolness and confidence that the people could make known their emotions, which then found expression in shouts of applause. After remaining in the air between fifteen and twenty minutes, at an altitude of over half a mile, he slowly descended, and reached the ground in safety.

EXTRAORDINARY FORTITUDE UNDER A PAINFUL SURGICAL OPERATION.—Captain John Dougherty, of this city, yesterday underwent a most painful and tedious operation, resulting in the removal of a large tumor from the left side of the chest. The operation was performed by Edwin Bently, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel and Surgeon U. S. Vols., and evidences not only the highest degree of skill on the part of the operator, but also of physical fortitude and endurance on the part of the patient, who, at his own request, took no chloroform or anæsthetic agent of any kind. The tumor required an incision six inches in length, and was so adhered on all sides and at its base as to require careful dissection and manipulation, and from the fact that not even a groan or even an expression of the countenance indicative of pain was elicited from the patient, proves conclusively that the operation was performed with consummate skill.—*Alexandria State Journal.*

MARYLAND POST OFFICES.—Postmaster General Dennison has issued the following orders:

A new post office is established at Cross Roads, Montgomery county, Md., and Richard T. Mitchell appointed postmaster, on route Washington to Brookville, and between Sligo and Eustor.

At Thomas Run, Harford county, appoint James H. Bull postmaster, vice J. F. Barrow, resigned.

At Ijamsville, Frederick county, appoint B. F. Siliman postmaster, vice Samuel Nixdorf, resigned.

At Woodbine, Carroll county, appoint James A. Albaugh postmaster, vice Warren M. Shawn.

At Lignore, Frederick county, William Nicodemus postmaster, vice D. Pfoutz.

At Tilghmanton, Washington county, Joseph Santman postmaster, vice John W. Avery.

At Littersburg, Washington county, James A. Hays postmaster, vice D. G. Wolfinger. All to fill vacancies created by resignation.

DIABOLICAL ATTEMPT TO THROW A TRAIN FROM THE TRACK.—A few nights since a most diabolical attempt was made to throw from the track the Germantown train, which leaves this city at 5,45 o'clock. A rail, braced with ties, had been placed across the track on the curve near Wayne station. A young man who worked at Nicetown, and who was on his way home, discovered the obstruction, and instantly commenced to remove it, when he was violently stoned by some parties who were concealed in the distance. He abandoned his work and hastened to the telegraphic station at the junction of the Reading Railroad, and had the signal lights displayed so as to stop the approaching train. Had the train went on a most fearful accident would have resulted, as the embankment at this point is steep and perilous.—*Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.*

—A lady of this city was asked the other day why she choose to live a single life. She naively replied: "Because I'm not able to support a husband." Sharp!

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

It is our intention to publish the COMMERCIAL every day in the year, Sundays excepted, in order to gratify the desire of the public for their accustomed morning entertainment.—Every business man looks for his paper as he does his breakfast, and we have determined to supply a want that is universally expressed in this community, by making the COMMERCIAL a daily visitor at the doors of our subscribers. It will therefore be published to-morrow as usual.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas—the season of merry-making, again dawns upon the world to-day, bringing with it we hope and trust, a substantial peace, and good will between man and man. In this city, as in days of yore, services will be held in all of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches during the morning, and the remainder of the day will be spent in social gatherings, family reunions and conviviality. There will be an almost total suspension of business. The Banks, the Courts and their clerks' offices, the Municipal, State and Federal Offices, with the exception of the Post Office,(which will observe Sunday hours) will be entirely closed. Out door sports and exercises will probably be at a discount on account of the unpropitious weather; but the good old custom of exchanging the "compliments of the season" bids fair judging from the preparations that have been made in the way of boned turkeys, game, cake etc, etc., to prevail as extensively as ever.

GENERAL NEWS

About nine inches of snow fell in Montreal on Thursday, and it was still snowing heavily.

A bill is before the Georgia Legislature to prevent the immigration of persons of African descent.

The surveys for a railroad between Poughkeepsie and Copake, on the Hudson road, are complete, and the work will commence in the spring.

By order of Gov. Brownlow a salute was fired in Nashville, Dec. 16, in honor of the great victory achieved there by Gen. Thomas, a year ago.

The New York Stock Exchange, on Friday morning, voted a subscription of $5,000 to the Gen'l Grant presentation fund.

The January gold interest on the public debt will be ready for payment on Tuesday the 26th instant.

The Hon. John Minor Botts is very strongly opposed to the admission as a member of Congress of any man who has had anything to do with the rebellion.

The Governor of Canada has declined to accept the resignation of Hon. George Brown. The other members of the government have been summoned to Montreal to meet His Excellency.

The total internal revenue receipts from the 1st of July last up to Friday evening, foot up $173,000,000. The sum will be increased to one hundred and seventy-five millions by the 1st of January, making at this rate, a grand total of $375,000,000 per annum.

Nearly all the Southern representatives have followed suit of the venerable Jacob Barker, from Louisiana—*gone home*—nor will they return until Congress has acted on the questions pending regarding the political status of the States lately in rebellion.

The trouble between the Pacific and Central Railroad routes has been settled, and trains from Folsom to Lincoln, Cal., will soon be running. The laying of the track from Lincoln to Marysville, Cal. will be immediately resumed.

The Western (Mass.) Railroad will commence building their second track from Springfield westward next week. It is to extend as far as Washington, Berkshire county, and when completed there will be a double track through from Boston to Albany.

A razeed list of generals, it is stated, will shortly be published—the number on the roll at present being fully double what there is any need of. Gen. Grant is as thorough in his ideas of retrenchment as the President, and the public are greatly in his debtor therefor.

The French Minister on Thursday received official intelligence from President Juarez of the abandonment of Chihuahua by the French. Two millions of Mexican silver dollars, coined at Paso, were deposited on Thursday in one of the banks in Washington, to the credit of the Mexican Republic.

The stock market on Saturday was quite dull, gold being ½ to ¾ lower, selling at 145¾@145⅞. Sales about $12,000. Governments were firm, 7.30's being slightly higher. Nothing was done in railroad shares; railroad stocks were steady. Money was easy, 6 to 7 ⅌ cent. on call, 8 to 12 ⅌ cent. for Commercial paper.

The Philadelphia *Ledger* says that the Secretary of State has been notified by the Spanish Minister that one certainly, and possibly two privateers, are being fitted out at New York to prey upon Spanish commerce under the Chilian flag. In thus calling the attention of our Government to the matter, the Spanish Government expects its action to prevent the sailing of the vessel.

Matthew Hall McAllister, the first United States Circuit Judge ever appointed for California, died in San Francisco on the 18th instant. He was a native of the State of Georgia, and few men have possessed such varied talents as Mr. McAllister; few still have combined so much that was delightful in private life with so many of the qualities that insure success in public career.

As a couple of ladies were passing up Michigan avenue, Chicago, the other evening, they were encountered by two fellows, who at once approached them. One of the ruffians took hold of one of the ladies, put his arms around her waist and attempted to kiss her. She screamed for assistance, and at the same time struck the fellow in the face, when he let go of her and seized the other lady. She also screamed, and the husbands of the ladies then ran up and seized the ruffians and handed them over to the police, who had them duly fined for their impudence.

A bill is before the Legislature of Alabama to incorporate an "Emigration White Labor Agency," which shall have authority to appoint agents in all the States of the United States, for the purpose of hiring white laborers for the planters of that State. It is meeting with opposition, but has passed the Senate. Mr. Wilkins, in opposing the bill, argues that the white laborers proposed to be introduced would be of poor character, and less valuable to the cotton planter than the labor of the freedmen, already at hand, who cannot and should not be driven out, being worth more as laborers than any set of men in any country.

—The annual dinner of the New England Society in commemoration of the Landing of the Pilgrims, took place at Delmonico's, N. Y., on the 22d inst. This festival is always duly celebrated, and is made the occasion of convivial pleasure, and the enjoyment of the best oratory in eloquent eulogy of the virtues of the Pilgrim Fathers. Speeches were made by a number of distinguished gentlemen. To the toast in honor of "The Army and Navy of the United States," Major General W. S. Hancock responded in an eloquent and appropriate speech, in the course of which he paid a handsome tribute to the valor, and esprit de corps of New England soldiers.

A determined attempt at murder was made in New York on Wednesday morning by a little colored errand boy, fifteen years old, named Edward Brown, who tried to kill his late employer, Mr. W. W. Broom, with a hatchet, while asleep. Mr. Broom resides at No. 863 Broadway. It appears that the boy had been discharged for petty thefts and committed the act out of revenge. After making three attempts on three successive mornings, the boy gained access to Mr. Broom's sleeping-room and struck him in the left temple with a common hatchet, stealing at the same time a check for $100 and $35 in cash. On Thursday the police arrested the youthful offender, and yesterday he was committed for trial.

G. B. Lamar, Sr., G. B. Lamar, Jr., and General H. W. Mercer, are all to be tried in Charleston, before a military commission convened expressly for their trial. Captain Watrous will act as Judge Advocate. The trial of Gen. Mercer will commence on the 5th instant. He is charged with the murder of some Union soldiers, who had, as this specification reads, "been induced to enlist in the army of and had taken the oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate States to avoid starvation, brutal treatment, and to offer a better means of escape, on the assurance that they should never be required to take up arms against Union soldiers, which assurance was violated on the first occasion."

The *Times* Mexican correspondent says that the whole State of Oajaco is in arms against the Imperialists, and that the Liberalists are masters of the whole coast between Vera Cruz and Tampico. The Austrians have met with several defeats. The *Herald's* Brownsville correspondent of the 7th reports on the authority of the country people that there are now not over 15,000 troops in the country. The Liberals had evacuated Monterey on the return of the French troops from Saltillo. There had been no fighting. Many of the Liberal troops were deserting for want of clothing. Concerning the imprisonment of American citizens Gen. Weitzel has informed Gen. Mejia by directions of Gen. Sheridan that if such outrages are repeated no personal apologies for them will be accepted. Mejia claims that the persons imprisoned were found in arms against the Imperial cause.

—There died suddenly on Tuesday last, of congestion of the brain, at Weehawken, N. J., a man named Theodore Winkelman, a Lutheran minister, and a teacher in a school at that place, whose papers and diary bore evidence of some very singular transactions on his part. From these it appeared that he had made a regular practice of stealing from the students and others about the school such articles as he could lay his hands on and pawning them in New York.

—The curious trial of the Mayor of Louisville is in progress in this city. It will be remembered that he was impeached by the City Council for refusing to sign a bill which had been passed over his veto. The Mayor gave as a reason that some of the members had been bribed to secure its passage, that those thus bribed became interested parties and that without their votes the requisite majority to pass the bill over his veto would not have been attained.

LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS TO THE DAILY COMMERCIAL.

FROM MEXICO.

Liberals Master of the Coast from Vera Cruz to Tampico—The Austrian Allies have Met Several Reverses—Weitzel-Mejia Correspondence—No Apologies for bad faith to be taken as Accidents.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 22.—The *Times* Mexican correspondent says that General Diaz is carrying all before him, and that the whole State of Oajaco is in arms against the Imperialists. The Liberals are masters of the whole coast between Vera Cruz and Tampico. The Austrians have met several defeats, and Marshal Bazaine says that the Northern portion must be put under the double protection of the Emperor of Mexico and the Emperor of the French.

NEW YORK, December 24.—The *Herald's* Brownsville correspondent of December 17 states that well informed people in Mexico think there are now not over 15,000 troops in the country. The Liberals had evacuated Monterey in consequence of the return of the French troops from Saltillo. No fighting had occurred. The Liberal army was encamped near Camargo on the 1st of December. Large amounts of money and goods have been taken from merchants and other citizens there. Many Liberal troops are deserting on account of a lack of clothing and other necessaries.

Some further correspondence has occurred between Generals Weitzel and Mejia. General Weitzel alleges that General Mejia has on mere suspicion imprisoned innocent American citizens, and informs him by direction of General Sheridan that if such outrages are repeated no apologies for them will be accepted and that General Mejia will not not be permitted to commit acts against the United States which are no accidents, and that the Government will not accept his personal apologies for bad faith. General Mejia claims that the persons imprisoned were found in arms against the Imperial cause.

The Imperial troops are reported to have robbed the citizens of Saltillo of large sums by forced loans.

The Restoration in Southern States—Governor Holden Relieved—Response of Governor Orr.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Secretary of War has, by direction of the President, addressed a letter to Provisional Governor Holden, of North Carolina, relieving him of that trust, and expressing the President's acknowledgment of the fidelity, the loyalty, and the discretion which have marked his administration. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Governor of North Carolina, with the tender of the co-operation of the Government of the United States, whenever it may be found necessary in effecting the early restoration and the permanent prosperity and welfare of the State over which he has been called to preside.

These official communications are similar, with the exception of names, to those recently addressed to governors and provisional governors of other Southern States, with a similar purpose. The following is the response of Governor Orr, received by telegraph.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 22.—*Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State:*

The Legislature adjourned yesterday at noon. Gov. Perry has returned to his home in Greenville. Your dispatch has been forwarded to him by mail. It will be very gratifying to the people of South Carolina that her government has been entrusted to officers of their own selection. In their name I thank you for the tender of co-operation of the Government of the United States, when found necessary, in effecting the early restoration and permanent prosperity and welfare of the State. You may be assured of my unalterable purpose to aid in upholding the supremacy of the United States, and on advancing the honor, interest and prosperity of a common country.

JAMES L. ORR, Governor.

Execution of a Murderer.

ROCHESTER, Dec. 22.—Wilson, the murderer of Devoe at Portage, was hung to-day at Genesco.

The murder took place on the 16th of May. Wilson went to the gallows with the same callous spirit he had shown since his conviction, and smiled with contempt upon the scene in which he was the most prominent person. He denied that he had killed Devoe, but admitted that he knew who was the guilty party.

He refused to entertain any clergyman as spiritual adviser. Sheriff Chase has caused his photograph to be taken, as he was on his way from the jail to the gallows, against his protest. For this he told the sheriff, as he stood with the rope about his neck, he would take his (the sheriff's) picture —— quick, if he had the power.

He died like a brute, without looking for sympathy from any one present. Wilson confessed he did not bear his true name, and refused to disclose it, or tell his history to his counsel.

He did, however, confess he killed the Hon. Burr Burton, of Syracuse, in May last, and also a Mrs. Lewes at Lancaster, Ohio, about a year since. He hinted at many other crimes, but disclosed no particulars, and gave his body to his counsel, who sold it to a surgeon at Nunda.

From Louisiana---Apprehended Negro Troubles in Mississippi.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 22.—The Legislature of the State adjourned to-day until the fourth Monday in January. The House failed to pass the usual appropriation bill. The Governor has vetoed the bill suspending the collection of taxes for 1861, '62, '63, and '64, on the ground that it would afford relief to those who had attempted to destroy the Government, and who were absent from this city during the war whilst Union men remained and paid their taxes.

The Vicksburg *Journal* has advices which it deems reliable of an alarming character, from Yazoo. The people of that part of the country are reported to be flying to the towns for protection from the negroes, whom it represented claim that between now and Christmas land must be given them or they will take it by force. The colored troops stationed in the country, it is further said, are espousing the cause of the negroes, and serious trouble is apprehended.

From California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—The Pacific Railroad Land Grant bill passed the Senate to-day.

Legal tenders, 66¼; mining stocks firm; Savage, $839; Opher, $335.

Arrived ship Ladoga, New York. Spoken, December 8, latitude 38° 27' north; long. 134° 28' west, barque Hallett, from New York for this port, 145 days out.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 21.—The Legislature took an excursion on the Pacific Railroad to Colfax to-day. The road was found in splendid condition.

Frank Pixley has bought for the Yuba Railroad the California Central Railroad and rolling stock for $78,500.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—There were not many visitors at the White House to-day, and the executive apartments were unusually quiet. The first reception will be given by the President on New Year's day, but no others will be given until after the recess of Congress, and the reception rooms are newly furnished. It is not probable that there will be any levees held until February, a month at least being required to place the Executive Mansion in a respectable condition.

The issuing of pardons has almost entirely ceased. About a dozen requisitions were made out to-day for North Carolina cases, all of the $20,000 class.

From Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 22.—The formal reception of the battle-flags of Massachusetts regiments to-day was the occasion of a very imposing and interesting display. There were about three thousand veteran officers and men in marching column, representing sixty regiments, and displaying some two hundred and fifty battle-worn flags. All along the route of the procession were veterans, and their banners were greeted in the most enthusiastic manner. On marching to the State House, Major General Couch, on behalf of the Massachusetts volunteers presented the colors to the keeping of the Commonwealth, in an appropriate address, to which Governor Andrew responded.

The Tax on Tobacco.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 23.—This morning's newspapers publish an elaborate article on the subject of taxing leaf tobacco, written by a gentleman fully conversant with the subject. He takes strong ground against the position assumed by the Tobacco Convention recently held at the Cooper Institute, N. Y. He contends that the proposed taxing of leaf tobacco would be injurious alike to Government, the planter, and the manufacturer.

Heavy Robbery in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, December 22.—The safe at the Sanitary Commission was found robbed this morning of $8,450 in U. S. 5-20 and 7-30 bonds. They were the property of John W. Wilson, the chief clerk.

The following are the numbers of the 5-20 bonds of five hundred dollars each—23,960, 35,058, 35,059, 35,063, 35,064; one hundred dollar notes—Nos. 69,140, 32,771, 56,818, 56,819; and of fifty dollar notes, 8,989; 7-30's, each for $500—Nos. 35,903, 35,906, 125,423, 127,476.

Cold Weather in the Northwest—Heavy Snow Storms.

FORT KEARNEY, Dec. 22.—At 7 o'clock this morning the thermometer stood at 28 degrees below zero. Heavy snow storms have fallen on the plains lately, and drifted in hollows between here and the Missouri river to the depth of 15 to 20 feet. No coaches have arrived from Atchison for the last two days.

The Fenians.

CHESTER, Pa., December 22.—A circle of the Fenian Brotherhood, numbering eighty-five members, was formed here last night. Resolutions were unanimously adopted indorsing the action of Colonel John O'Mahoney, and the sum of $85 was subscribed to the Fenian cause.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23.—The mail train on the North Carolina Railroad ran off the track near Concord on Friday, killing J. A. White, express messenger, and Mr. Oats, baggage master. Other particulars of the accident are not known.

The Fenians.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24th.—It is reported that Colonel O'Mahoney has received despatches from the Head Centre Stephens, calling for prompt and decisive action by the Fenians. The crisis is said to be near at hand.

FROM WASHINGTON

Gen. Grant and the Freedmen's Bureau.

THE LATE INDIAN APPROPRIATION.

The Pacific Railroad Measure.

LETTER FROM PROVISIONAL GOV. HOLDEN.

The Negro Suffrage Election.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 1865.

THE COMMITTEES.

Several of the less important committees will hold sessions and work off the routine business before them, to be in readiness for more important action upon the reassembling of Congress.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU AND THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

In the recent report of Lieut. General Grant to the President, giving his views of the feelings of the Southern people, he spoke of the Freedmen's Bureau as an absolute necessity until civil law is established and enforced, securing to the freedmen their rights and full protection, and said in this connection, "at present, however, it is independent of the military establishment of the country, and seems to be operated by the different agents of the bureau according to their individual notions." General Howard, Commissioner of Freedmen's Affairs, in view of this remark of General Grant, on Friday issued an order, calling attention of the assistant commissioners to that report, and saying:

The most thorough inspection will at once be made and the evils complained of be corrected. No order from the War Department makes the bureau independent of the military establishment, and any agent or officer who presumes to act contrary to such instructions will be forthwith removed or reported to the department commander for trial by court martial. In all matters of a military character they are under the direction of the department commander, in the same manner as an officer of engineers buildings a fort in the same department, who reports directly to the Chief Engineer. Every assistant commissioner will constantly seek co-operation with the department commander, and must keep him furnished with all information in his possession. His formal approval must be secured, when possible, to all orders and circulars issued by the assistant commissioners.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

Hon. John Bigelow, who was appointed *ad interim* Minister to France, has been nominated by the President for confirmation.

MINISTERS TO MEXICO AND JAPAN.

The nominations of the Hon. Lewis D. Campbell as Minister to Mexico, and General R. B. Van Valkenburg as Minister to Japan were sent to the Senate Friday, but too late to be acted upon by that body.

THE INDIANS.

Half a million dollars have already been appropriated by Congress for the support of indigent Indians during the winter. Indian affairs have been so systematized within the past year, that there is every probability that the needy red men will get a heavy proportion of the money. Heretofore agents, commissioners and contractors have been the principal beneficiaries of moneys so appropriated. Notwithstanding the fact that this half a million is expected to go so much further than any like sum ever has gone, it is not enough, and Congress will be called upon to double it at an early day. Estimates have been forwarded to the Interior Department, fixing eleven hundred thousand dollars as the lowest possible figure at which we can purchase the famine imperiled lives of the natives for the ensuing five months, or until they can again gather crops. Parties in Washington, who have recently been among the suffering tribes, picture their condition as terrible in the extreme, and say that in our overweening sympathy for the freedmen we are losing sight of a much wider field for the exercise of charity. Western members of Congress, latterly, are waking up on the subject; and the Eastern public, who are supposed to know little and care less about redskins, will be called upon to endorse liberal legislation in their behalf.

A letter forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior from Gen. Sully, of date the 18th inst., says that there are a large number of Indians assembled at Fort Rice, and elsewhere on the Missouri river, who are manifesting the most friendly feeling for the whites, and are quite willing to enter into the most liberal treaties. Gen. Sully remarks that he forwards this information in order to give direct contradiction to the newspaper accounts of a contrary state of affairs among the Indians of that section.

A delegation of four chiefs and braves of the Shawnee Indian tribe have arrived in the city to express to their Great Father the loyalty of their tribe. They came them some Christmas presents [illegible] to use his influence with the Indian Bureau to have their Kansas reservation exchanged for another located further south. Scarcely a month goes by without the arrival of some of these "lords of the plain" to pay their respects at the White House. They usually manage to beg a few hundred dollars' worth of presents, and, after a "big drunk," clear out for home, leaving the government to pay their board bills.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD MEASURE.

The extension of the Pacific Railroad into the bowels of Kansas in several directions will come up in Congress this winter. Kansas is growing so rapidly that the claims of a dozen little towns for railroad benefits are pressed with a confidence which would have been unwarrantable when the Pacific Railroad project was first broached. Kansas will be as heavily represented in the third House this winter as New Jersey or Maryland.

THE PATENT LAWS.

Persons interested in patents for inventions, and who have been led to believe that it is intended to obtain through Congress a very essential modification of the patent laws, are authoritatively informed that no material change in such laws will be asked for during the present session. Only a few of the minor points affecting the details of securing patents will be modified.

LETTER FROM PROVISIONAL GOV. HOLDEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The following telegram has been received:

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 23, 1865.

To the Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State:

Your despatch of this date, relieving me of my duty as Provisional Governor of North Carolina, has been received. It gives me pleasure to be relieved of the responsibilities and labors of the office. I will at once transfer the great seal, the papers and property of the State now in my possession to the Hon. Jonathan Worth, the Governor elect. I am pleased to convey to the President my sincere acknowledgments for the honor he has done me and the confidence repposed in me in calling me to this position.

With the expression of the hope that his plan for the restoration of the insurgent States to their natural and appropriate place in the Union, may be crowned with entire success, I have the honor to be, with high respect,

Your obedient servant,
W. W. HOLDEN.

DISCREDITABLE PROCEEDINGS.

The *Star* of Saturday evening says: We learn that a petition to Congress was in circulation to-day for signatures in one of the Departments (and we doubt not in all of them,) in favor of negro suffrage. The petition purports to be by "citizens of Washington," and yet was being signed by Department clerks, who claim a residence in their respective States, and who go home to vote at State elections. Every clerk of this class therefore will sign this petition as a citizen of Washington, signs to a falsehood. The fact that the individual circulating this untruthful petition is a bitter enemy of the President, serves to show the animus of the parties concerned in this discreditable proceeding. This petition, thus signed by nonresident clerks, is to go in to Congress, to be presented as representing the sentiments of the *bona fide* citizens of Washington! And this is but one of the modes by which it is attempted just now to misrepresent and villify the people of Washington.

THE LATE ELECTION.

On Saturday morning a suit was entered in the Supreme Court by Lewis Clephane, J. H. Crossman and Z. C. Robbins against the Mayor and City Council, the object being to obtain an injunction restraining the Corporation officers from paying the expenses of the election held on Thursday.

The petition, among other matters, sets forth that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen have no authority for authorizing the holding of elections of a political character, or to determine or ascertain the views of the residents of said city in reference to the extension of the elective franchise to "persons of color" in said District. Judge Carter ordered the case for a hearing to-morrow.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

For the week ending December 23 the Treasury Department received $258,000 in outstanding Certificates of Indebtedness, and $3,942,798 80 on interest bearing notes and currency. Last week the Comptroller of the Currency issued $40,149 50 in currency to National Banks.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that 25 cents is the highest rate of stamp duty upon warehouse receipts, whatever the value of the property deposited or stored.

GENERAL GRANT'S REPORT.—The Mobile *Register and Advertiser*, edited by John Forsyth, says in its issue of December 13:

General Grant's report is a full and comprehensive history of the war as conducted on the Federal side. It is a frank and able document, and of the highest interest to all participators in and observers of the great struggle. The fame with which this fine distinguished general has written about persons and events promises to provoke a good deal of controversy. Of all the great leaders on the Federal side, we believe that General Grant is held in highest respect and esteem by his late adversaries as soldier, patriot and man.

Sentence of a Murderer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—T. Ward, convicted of the murder of Policeman Walter in August last, was today sentenced to the State Prison for life.

—The town and canton of Vica, Andalusia, Spain, are being ravaged by an invasion of spiders. All vegetation is eaten up by those insects, and their bite produces a very painful swelling.

—A complete change of system will be shortly introduced in the madhouses of France. Strait waistcoats, and all the other instruments hitherto used, are to be abolished, and the patients will live together and be constantly occupied at some useful work. The experiment has been tried at the lunatic asylum, at Blois, with great success.

—The water drinkers of Chicago are disgusted by the invasion of myriads of little fishes in the water pipes. Tons of them are collected about the inlet, and cannot be driven away. At times they are drawn by the pumps in such masses against the screens that the supply of water is stopped, when it becomes necessary to hoist the screens, and the minnows rush in by the barrelful.

—The Montgomery (Ala.) *Mail*, dwelling upon the fact that Southerners generally prefer the soldiers to represent them in Congress and elsewhere, says