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NEWS OF THE DAY.

An interesting letter from Colorado will be found on the fourth page.

The Mosquito king who died at Bluefield last month has been succeded by his nephew.

A monument is to be erected to Lord Palmerston in one of the public parks of Southampton.

Admiral Sir Sidney Dacres, commanding the English Channel fleet, has resigned that position, and is to take a seat at the Board of Admiralty.

THE COURTS.—The various courts yesterday adjourned in respect to the memory of Hon. H. Winter Davis, and no business was transacted.

The President was much fatigued yesterday, his hand and arm being badly swollen from much shaking at the New Year's reception.

The O'Mahony U. S. F. B. Head Centre was sustained by the Fenian Congress which met in New York yesterday.

The Nashville *Register and Advertiser* hoists General Grant's name in connection with the Presidency.

Considerable excitement has been created, in Nicaragua, by reported successes at the Chontales gold mines, and a great emigration was expected.

The cattle plague has wrought such ravages in England, that Parisian butchers are now supplying John Bull with his beef cheaper than he can buy it of his own tradesmen.

The official vote of Wisconsin at the late election is published. Governor Fairchild's (Republican) majority is 9,079, and the majority against the extension of suffrage to negroes is 9,003.

Three mates and the boatswain of the American ship Antarctic, lying in Liverpool, have been heavily fined in that town for a murderous assault on the cook of the vessel.

Two thousand men of the Irish police force have lately resigned. English papers are quite sure it is short pay, and not Fenianism, that has caused the movement.

Bernard McElhone was dangerously stabbed by Casper Hover in a general free fight, which occurred in 38th street, New York, on New Year's evening. Six of the rioters were arrested.

The obsequies of Hon. Henry Winter Davis took place yesterday—Vice President Foster, Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, and many other distinguished men, uniting in paying the last sad tribute of respect to the remains of the deceased.

The total home vote at the recent election held in Nevada for member of Congress, was 5,997. Of these, Delos R. Ashley, Republican, received 3,691; H. K. Mitchel, Democrat, 2,215, and Charles A. Sumner, Republican, 1. Ashley's majority, 1,475.

A meeting of the members of the Baltimore Bar was held yesterday to give expression to their sorrow at the death of Hon. Henry Winter Davis. Hon. Judge Martin presided, and remarks were made by Mr. Schley, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Harris.

Business at the Stock Board was moderate yesterday. Gold was ½ to ¾ ℅ cent. lower than on Saturday, opening at 144¾@144½ and closing at 144¼. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad shares were offered at 112 Northern Central at 84½, and City Passenger at 31.

The bodies of Captain Thompson, wife and daughter, American residents of Bluefield, who were reported in our late dispatches from Greytown, as drowned during a heavy gale on the Mosquito Coast, have been recovered. Captain Thompson was a Baltimorean by birth.

By the death of the King of the Belgians the allowance of £50,000 per annum, made on his marriage with the Princess Charlotte, returns to England. The late King received only £12,000 per annum of this amount, but he never surrendered the claim, in case he should be obliged to vacate the throne of Belgium.

A party of five men who had been out to inaugurate the New Year, entered a lager beer saloon in Williamsburg, N. Y., at an early hour Monday, and called for drinks, which being refused, one of the party, who had a musket, leveled it at the barkeeper, John Weichner, and shot him through the heart, causing instant death. The party then escaped, but were subsequently arrested.

Mr. and Mrs. McGaghey, residing in New York, came to their death a few nights ago from inhaling the gas generated by a stove in their room. On the coroner's inquest it appeared that Mr. Hunt, a brother of the agent of the house, inserted a flat stone across the chimney of the apartments occupied by the deceased, thus cutting off the draught, in order to force them to vacate the premises.

From the report recently issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States, I. O. O. F., we learn that the receipts for the past year amounted to $1,450,092.57, of which $857,767.50 were expended for relief; $11,718.88 for the education of orphans; $91,153.79 for the burying of the dead, and $77,782.44 for the relief of widowed families.—These statistics do not include the Southern States.

The Richmond *Republic* of yesterday says: The recent speech of General Curtis, to the colored people of Lynchburg, reflects credit on the good sense and true humanity of that gallant and distinguished officer. The counsel he gave the freedmen was sound and judicious. He advised them to make contracts by the year, and invoked them to put confidence in honorable gentlemen of the State, declaring, as the result of his own observation, that there was every disposition to do them justice, and that if they did not work, laborers would come from other sections and fill their places.

The question of the future status of the freedmen of the South and the systematizing of free labor, receives a new aspect with the new year. The Freedmen's Bureau has been for some time past organizing a new system of labor in which all the guarantees are not on the part of the employer. We publish this morning a copy of the contract which each freedman in South Carolina is required to enter into with his employer, together with a letter from the rebel General Pillow, showing the success of his efforts in working a force of four hundred of them. An order from Gen. Fisk extending the supervision of the Freedmen's Bureau to the newly freed State of Kentucky, has been issued.

President Murillo, of New Granada, having applied to the President of the United States, through the Minister of that government at Bogota, Mr. A. A. Burton, for two United States engineers to take charge of a survey of the Madgalena river, at various points, with a view to contemplated improvements in the navigation of that stream, the government of the United States has designated Col. S. A. Gilbert and Captain P. C. F. West, assistants in the United States Coast Survey, as associated engineers to take charge of the intended surveys. These two gentlemen, with a corps of assistants necessary for properly carrying out the work, arrived at Panama by the steamer Atlantic, on the 19th ult., and will immediately proceed to Santa Martha.

In answer to late resolutions of the House of Representatives, Secretary Seward has submitted to that body certain correspondence with the Mexican Minister at Washington and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, which throws considerable light upon the character of the system of slavery proposed to be introduced in Mexico by Maximilian, and also the nature of the opinions on the subject held by the law officers of our government. The Minister of the Mexican Republic, M. Romero, explains that Maximilian's system provides for the binding of workingmen for not less than ten years to masters to be known as patrons on terms really making the slavery thus instituted perpetual and hereditary. The decree has such offensive provisions as an article against fugitive slaves, and the absorption by the public treasury of all property belonging to workingmen on its invasion.—Mr. Seward, in commenting on this decree in a letter of instructions to Mr. Bigelow, says that the administration has discussed its features and decided that its tendency is to reduce the workingmen into a condition of peon slavery. Mr. Bigelow, in communicating the matter to His Excellency, M. Drouyn de l'Huys the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, calls his attention to certain decrees bearing upon the subject of emigration to Mexico, purporting to emanate from authorities acting in opposition to that republic, and says:—"In the opinion of the law officer of my government, these decrees, if enforced, would inevitably reduce to the condition of peon slavery workingmen of the African race, and of course such of the freedmen of the United States as may have already been, or hereafter may be, induced to go there, without a full and intelligent comprehension of their liabilities."

THE SUICIDE IN BOSTON.

Strange Statements as to His Connection with Booth in the Plot to Assassinate President Lincoln—Service with the Guerilla Moseby, &c.

[From the Boston Herald, Jan. 1.]

A case of self destruction occurred at the South End on Saturday afternoon, which is at least of a melancholy character. Richard Owens, the suicide, was a man of some thirty-five years of age, who followed the avocation of a landscape painter. He arrived in this city on the 15th ultimo, and represented that he came from Zanesville, Ohio, where he said he had friends. He obtained employment at Bruce's window shade store, No. 605 Washington street, at a fair remunerative price, showed himself a master of his profession, and gave unusual satisfaction.

At that time he appeared to be in destitute circumstances, if a scanty garb and an empty pocket denote destitution. But with the proceeds of his labor, he improved in spirits and appearance, and produced a favorable impression upon his employer and his associates. Within a day or two past, however, he had manifested the appearance of one being more or less under the influence of liquor, seemed rather more depressed than usual, and talked about killing himself. No one supposed that he would commit such an act, however, and no particular notice was taken of his remark.

On Saturday he requested some money of his employer, which the latter withheld, fearing it would be expended for liquor. In the afternoon Owens went to Starkweather's gallery to have some likenesses of himself taken, and while sitting manifested so much uneasiness that the artist was compelled to request him to sit quietly in order that a correct picture might be taken. Owens replied that it would be "all right when poor Dick is gone."

Having secured his pictures Owens returned to Mr. Bruce's store, and having enclosed some of them in envelopes, directed them to various parties. Mr. Bruce questioned him as to his history, and in response he talked quite strangely, saying he has been on the frontier during the war, and had served with the guerilla Moseby; that he was also connected with Booth in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln, and that he endorsed Booth's course. Presently he went up stairs, and shortly afterwards Mr. Bruce heard the report of a pistol, and, on hurrying to the spot, he found Owens lying dead upon the floor, and a single-barrelled pistol, with which he had shot himself in the forehead, lying by his side. The affair occurred about two o'clock. No one here having any knowledge of Owens' connections or friends, his body was given in charge of an undertaker, and will await for a reasonable time any claim that may be made upon it. Temporory insanity was undoubtedly the immediate cause of the act.

LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS TO THE DAILY COMMERCIAL.

FROM BOSTON.

Inaugaration of the New City Government—Emancipation Celebration.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.—The new City Government was inaugurated to-day. The address of Mayor Lincoln gives a detailed exhibit of municipal affairs which looks well for the material growth and prosperity of Boston. The city debt is put down at nearly $12,500,000, with ready means of payment on hand of about $2,700,000.

After the inauguration ceremonies the Common Council met and unanimously elected Jos. Story President.

Nearly all the cities of the Commonwealth installed their new municipal governments to-day.

The great event of emancipation was celebrated at noon by the ringing of church bells and firing of salutes on Boston Common, also, at Cambridge, Lexington, Dorchester, Charlestown and other localities. The population were especially jubilant, indulging in military parades and a great meeting in Tremont Temple in the evening, where several distinguished gentlemen made patriotic speeches.

Two hundred policemen paraded to-day, with Gilmore's band, making an imposing appearance. The snow and slush, however, rendered the streets execrable for marching.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.—Lewis F. Simmons, an Englishman, cut his wife's throat and then his own, yesterday, at their boarding house. The crime is said to have been instigated by jealousy. Both are at the City Hospital in a critical condition.

Message of the Governor of New York.

ALBANY, Jan. 2.—The Legislature met to-day, when the Governor's message was delivered. He congratulates the Legislature on the return of an honorable peace, and earnestly urges the claims of the disabled soldiers of New York for permanent relief from the General and State Governments. The Comptroller's report shows a deficiency of $1,700,000. The receipts of the fiscal year, ending September 30, amount to $16,273,000, and the payments $16,185,000. The funded debt of the State amounts to $6,050,954, the sum of $228,000 having been redeemed during the year.

The Superintendent of the Bank Department reports one hundred and nine banks conducting business under the State laws; and that one hundred and ninety-three have retired from the old system during the year, nearly all of which have been converted into National Banks. The amount of outstanding circulation is about $27,000,000. He speaks favorably of the National banking system.

The Governor says the State has made steady progress in agriculture and manufactures, colleges and academies of the State show a gratifying continuance of prosperity and usefulness, and the school system increases in efficiency and importance. The Governor suggests further legislation in view of the increase of lawlessness and crime, and suggests sanitary measures to avert the cholera. The receipts of the Canal Department for 1865, show a decrease of $780,000 from the previous year; and the expenses for repairs and maintenance of the canals exceed that of 1864 by $862,000.

The aggregate exceeds the surplus nett revenue of the canals by nearly $80,000. The canal debt is $19,423,000, there having been paid during the year $2,903,000; the balance of the sinking fund available to the payment of the principal and interest is $3,228,000. The Governor anticipates the payment of the debt of 1864 by October 1868, reducing the entire debt to $11,500,000.

State Comptroller Robinson's report says there is due from Texas by New York city $2,067,000, which, if paid as should have been, would have left a surplus in the Treasury on the 30th of Sept., of $1,188,000, instead of a deficiency. The taxes, however, are now in course of payment in the city, where they are not collected until the fall, or nearly a year later than in other counties. The funded debt of the State is $25,475,554. In 1860 it was $33,613,000.

The Fenian Congress.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The Fenian Congress assembled to-day. The guard, composed of men from the 99th, O'Mahony's militia regiment, refused admission to all not provided with credentials. State Centre Rogers, of the Manhattan district, called the body to order, and Major Kelly, of Indiana, was appointed Chairman of the Congress.

A resolution sustaining Colonel O'Mahony was adopted, and Congress proceeded to the transaction of other business, the nature of which has not yet transpired. There were two plenipotentiaries from Ireland present, and it is said they brought letters from Stephens, who is said to be in France.

Previous to the opening of Congress, Messrs. Meany, Smith and Mulien, of the Fenian Senate, met at the Senate headquarters, in pursuance of the regular adjournment of Nov. 7, but there being no quorum present, adjourned.

Report says that two English detectives were spotted, and refused admission to Congress.

General Sweeny has issued an appeal to the Fenians not to waste their energies in intestine strife. Let deeds not words be your motto, and strike before it is too late and the golden opportunity forever lost. Our situation is that of two armies whose chiefs cannot agree upon a line of operations. The vast extent of the British dominions offers many vital points, and as we cannot reconcile our views let each army follow its chosen general and attack wherever his judgment tells him are the best chances of success. Let this disgraceful squabble cease at once—on the field of battle we will forget all personal rancor and factional prejudices to remember only our dear country and her wrongs. Out of our difficulties I can see but one way of escape. To call in each State a convention of delegates from different Circles to decide on whom they will repose confidence, and then in silence allow Col. O'Mahoney and myself each to work out his respective plan for the freedom of Ireland.

United States Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON, Jan'y 2.—In the Supreme Court of the United States, to-day, Justice Clifford delivered the opinion of the Court in the case of an appeal from the District Court of Wisconsin, in which the Milwaukie and Chicago Railroad Company was the defendent. It appears that certain mortgaged premises were several times offered for sale, but not sold, and that the appellant claimed possession on the ground that he was the highest bidder. But the Supreme Court holds that biddings at auction are mere offers, and that there is no binding obligation until the consent of both parties is given. In other words, there must be a mutual understanding to a definite agreement. As the auctioneer may refuse to strike off the property to the highest bidder, so a bid may be withdrawn before the hammer falls. The Court said that justice has been done, and all parties are satisfied, excepting the appellant, and that the decree of the District Court is affirmed, with costs.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 2.—The new House of Representatives met at noon to-day.

James R. Kelly, of Washington county, (Republican) was elected Speaker on the first ballot.

On taking the chair Mr. Kelly made a speech in which, after thanking the House for the honor done him, he said, the clouds of war having passed away, and the ally of treason, slavery, being dead, a glorious future awaited the country. Pennsylvania will reap the benefit of a steadfast adherence to the cause for which she sacrificed her blood and treasure.

The speech was received with applause. The credentials of the members were then read and they were sworn into office, after which the House adjourned.

The message left by the Governor before he departed for Cuba, will be sent in to-morrow. It is very brief.

The Legislature will adjourn from to-morrow to the following Tuesday, for the purpose of electing a State Treasurer.

From Texas.

NEW YORK, Jan'y 2d.—The steamer Wilmington has arrived from Galveston on Dec'r 24th. Governor Hamilton had issued a proclamation restoring, so far as in his power, to their civil rights, all persons recommended for special pardon.

Galveston advices, of December 27th, state that the new bark B. S. Ewell, of Richmond, Maine, was driven ashore on the coast, on the 26th, twelve miles west of that port.

Captain F. A. Hussey and wife and daughter reached there in safety, after twelve hours exposure in one of the boats. The ship was pounding badly when he left. The mates and crew had not been heard from, but were probably safe.

GALVESTON, Dec. 29.—The bark B. S. Ewell will be nearly a total loss, and is being stripped. A small portion of the cargo may be saved in a badly damaged condition.

Prohibition of the Importation of Cattle.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The *Herald* has the following from Toronto: "To-day Consul Thurston received instructions that the government of the United States will not permit any more cattle to enter the United States from Canada. This prohibition creates an intense feeling not only among the Canadians shut out from American markets, but among the United States traders. By Americans now purchasing in that market, it is estimated that $40,000 worth of live stock already purchased in the neighborhood will be thus cut off from the market for which they were intended."

Heavy Robbery—The Union Pacific Railroad.

LEAVENWORTH, KAN., Jan. 2.—A safe containing $30,000, was stolen last night from the office of Major Ellis, Paymaster of the army. Two orderlies are missing, and supposed to be the guilty parties. Of the amount, $22,000 belonged to the Government.—The remainder was private property. Major Ellis offers $1,000 reward for the thieves.

The Union Pacific Railroad has been completed to Topeka, and passenger trains are arriving at that place to-day from Wyandotte.

The Mexican Question.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—It has been erroneously stated that the French and United States Governments have arrived at an understanding with regard to Mexican affairs. It is known, however, that Maximillian has not met his pecuniary engagements with Napoleon for keeping French troops in that country, and that the latter is not willing to support a military force there at his own expense.

Destructive Fire in Philadelphia—Harnden's Express Office Destroyed.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer*, of this morning, says:

At half-past twelve o'clock last night the State House bell struck the alarm for one of the most disastrous fires which has occurred in this city for many years. It was indicated at once that the fire was in the neighborhood of Independence Hall. On proceeding thither it was found that Howard's Express Building, on Chesnut street, above Sixth, was in flames.

The firemen were promptly on the ground, but the building was so securely fastened, that they were unable for some time to force an entrance, and when this was accomplished, they found the interior enveloped in flames.

An immense storage of goods was on the ground and second floors, and as the greater portion of the packages were inclosed in pine boxes, and were of light and combustible material, the flames spread rapidly. The firemen had no opportunity whatever to extinguish the flames until they had acquired such headway that it was a matter of impossibility.

When the heavy window shutters had been broken in on Jayne street, the flames burst forth in terrific fury.—The ladders of the Washington Hose Hook and Ladder Company took fire, and the intrepid men were forced to fall back for a moment, but speedily they had their ladders reset, and torrents of water were poured into the devoted building, but with little effect.

Herculean efforts were made to subdue the flames, but in a few moments they burst out on the Chesnut front, and it was then made manifest that the entire establishment was doomed.

We do not remember a fire since the introduction of steam engines where the dread element got so complete a mastery of water.

The flames leaped from the Chesnut street windows, and wrapped themselves about the elaborately carved columns, and darted half away across the street, as if holding a high carnival, sending forth millions of sparks, which filled the air for squares around, and descended in a shower, reminding one of the eruption of a burning crater.

The lower portion of the building in question is occupied by Harnden's Express Company, and was lately purchased by the proprietors of the *Evening Bulletin*, and was soon to be converted into a newspaper establishment and printing office by the purchasers. As we write the building is enveloped in flames, and its entire or almost total destruction is a foregone conclusion.

During the progress of the fire the front walls fell into the street, and it is believed that several firemen were injured. The loss is certainly not less than $100,000. The buildings were of brown stone, five stories high, and were among the most ornamental on Chestnut street.

Last night was the fifteenth anniversary of an immense fire on the same spot, on which occasion two men were killed.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—Some twenty persons have been arrested for robbing the stores in the vicinity of the fire. One, in no danger from the fire, was completely gutted. Among the goods taken to the station house was an old pair of pants, which the owner must have exchanged for a new pair, but forgot to remove the pocket book containing six dollars! From the extensive robberies, it is now believed that the fire was set for the purpose of facilitating the thieves.

All the money packages from Harnden's Express, the safe and the greater part of the freight were removed. It is supposed the total loss will be about a quarter of a million dollars, but the amount of the insurance is large, and will probably nearly cover the loss. The firemen worked manfully, and at one time were pouring fifty-eight streams of water on the rear end of the building.

The damage to Magarger's paper warehouse is not very large, principally by water.

Messrs. Rockhill & Wilson's loss is estimated at $50,000, the stock being principally removed. The building was insured. The building No. 609, adjoining one of the burnt stores, was saved from destruction by having iron doors.

Messrs. Perry & Co. loose $60,000, and are insured for $45,000.

The site of the burnt buildings was formerly occupied by the old Chestnut Street Theatre.

From Fort Monroe.

FORT MONROE, Jan. 1.—The double-ender Ascutney, with the monitor Waxsaw in tow, sailed hence to-day for League Island, Delaware river.

The Quartermaster's Department here are about making efforts to raise the gunboat Smith Briggs, sunk by the rebels nearly two years ago during an attack on Southville, Va. The walking beam and connections had been carried to Richmond, but her boiler, shaft, and the greater part of the machinery still remains. The Smith Briggs belonged to the army gunboat flotilla under direction of Gen. Graham, in the operations on the James river during the war.

The French gunboat D'Estang has arrived in the harbor from New York.

The bark St. Lawrence, for Baltimore, with a number of mules and cargo of flour, is in the Roads bound to Demerara.

New Year's day passed here very quietly. The colored population turned out en masse in a great procession, in commemoration of emancipation.—They were headed by a band of music from the 5th New York artillery, the garrison of the fort, and the procession was reviewed by Major Gen. Miles, commandant of the post.

From North Carolina.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Jan. 1.—The celebration by the negroes to-day passed off in perfect order and propriety. Large delegations were present from the surrounding country.

The authority of all the civil officers in the State, appointed by the Provisional Governor, including ministers, mayors and commissioners of towns, judges, and all others comprising the whole machinery of the Government, being at an end by the release of the Provisional Governor, all power now temporarily rests in the military.

The Governor is taking steps to immediately recommend to the Legislature a remedy for this. In the meantime, it is probable that the military authority will confer authority on the officers heretofore acting to continue to exercise their functions.

The steamer Commander sailed to-day for New York.

Inauguration of the Mayor of New York.

NEW YORK, January 2.—Mayor Hoffman delivered his inaugural yesterday. He argues that the city government should be free from control by the Legislature. The funded debt of the city is over $41,000,000, on account of which the commissioners of the sinking fund hold $9,500,000.

He suggests the sale at auction of large portions of the unimproved property of the city, which would now bring large prices. The tax levy of this year is over $18,000,000 of which $3,000,000 are for State purposes. The tax levy for next year is expected to be at least three million dollars less.

RICHMOND.

Abolition of Slavery Celebrated—The Weather—Match Game of Billiards.

RICHMOND, January 1.—Rain has been falling here all day. The temperature is mild for the season.

The colored people assembled this morning at the African Church to celebrate their deliverance from slavery. Several addresses were delivered.

At the opening of a new billiard hall to-night, Phelan and Carson played a match game, the latter being the winner.

Freedmen's Celebration at Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, VA., Jan. 1.—The freedmen of this city and adjacent counties celebrated their freedom to-day by marching in procession through the principal streets and public speaking on Poplar Lawn

The weather was very unpropitious, but great numbers participated in the celebration. The various societies of freedmen donned their badges and turned out with banners. The occasion was one of great rejoicing with the colored people. Everything passed off in perfect order.

Meeting of Chicago Fenians.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—At a meeting of Fenians to-day, composed of officers who served in the Union army, resolutions were adopted supporting Gen. Sweeney, and urging him to call a military convention at some central location. A resolution was also adopted that both contending parties who now divide the brotherhood give way in favor of Gen. Sweeney. Forty officers signed the resolutions, which were sent to General Sweeney.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—The weekly statement of the city banks shows the following total:

Increase. Loans, $873,666; Increase, Circulation $361,564; Increase, Deposits, $6,021,991; Increase, Legal-tenders, $17,213,476; Decrease, Specie, $723,268.

The great increase in Legal-tenders is owing to the fact that the U. S. Clearing House Certificates are now included under that head.

Railroad Officials.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—George C. Franciscus, so long and favorably known as Superintendent of the Eastern Division of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, has resigned in consequence of ill health, and accepted the post of General Agent of the Pennsylvania Central, in this city. He is succeeded by S. H. Darlington.

Massachusetts Legislature.

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—The Legislature assembles tomorrow. A caucus of the members of the House was held this evening for nominating candidates for Speaker and other officers. After an informal ballot without effecting a chance for Speaker, the caucus adjourned, owing to the absence of a large number of members.

Non-Arrival of Steamers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1—10 o'clock P. M.—There are no signs of the steamers City of London or Herman, now due from Europe.

PORTLAND, Jan. 1—P. M.—There are no signs of the steamship Moravian, now due, with later news from Europe.

The Malden Murderer.

BOSTON, Jan. 2.—The question of commuting the sentence of Edward W. Green, the Malden murderer, to imprisonment for life, was decided at the meeting of the Executive Council to-day in the negative.—The vote stood—three for imprisonment and six for hanging.

Arrivals at Wilmington, N. C.

WILMINGTON, N. C., January 2.—Arrived to-day steamer Clyde, from New York. The weather is very thick and stormy, and a large fleet of sailing vessels is reported at the mouth of the river waiting to come up.

Death of a Provost Marshal.

READING, Jan. 1.—Major Henry S. Kupp, late Provost Marshal of this district, and well known throughout this county and the State, died at his residence, near Birdsboro', this morning.

New York Legislature.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 1.—The Union Assembly caucus to-night nominated Lyman Tremaine, of Albany, for Speaker.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

FREE LABOR SYSTEMATIZED.

THE NEW CONTRACT SYSTEM.

The Guarantees from Proprietors and Freedmen Alike

Labors of Gens. Howard, Saxton and Fisk

EXPERIENCE OF THE REBEL GEN. PILLOW.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 28, 1865.

THE CONTRACTS WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA FREEDMEN FOR THE NEW YEAR.

General Saxton's interview with the planters and freedmen of Sumpter district, at the town of Sumpter, took place according to appointment on the 21st. The result was the adoption by both sides of a satisfactory form of contract which is as follows:

FORM OF CONTRACT.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, BARLINGTON DISTRICT.

Articles of agreement between ——— and ———, freedmen and women, whose names are hereunto attached:—

First—The said servants agree to hire their time as laborers on the plantation of ——— from January 1, 1866, to January 1, 1867; to conduct themselves faithfully, honestly, civilly; and diligently to perform all labor on said plantation, or such as may be connected therewith, that may be required by the said ——— or his agent; and to keep no poultry, dogs or stock of any kind, except as hereinafter specified; and without the written consent of the proprietor or his agent to keep no firearms or deadly weapon, no ardent spirits, nor introduce or invite visitors, nor leave the premises:

Second—The said servants agree to perform the daily tasks hitherto usually allotted on said plantation, to wit: One hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty rails; cutting grain, three to six acres; ditching and banking, three hundred to six hundred feet; hoeing cotton, seventy to three hundred rows, an acre long; corn, four thousand to seven thousand hills. In all cases where tasks cannot be assigned, they agree to labor diligently ten hours a day.

Third—For every day's labor lost by absence, refusal or neglect to perform the daily task, said servants shall forfeit fifty cents. If absent voluntarily, or without leave, two dollars a day; if absent more than one day, without leave, to be subject to dismissal from the plantation and forfeiture of share in the crop. All such fines and forfeitures shall inure to the benefit of the employer and employes in proportion to their relative shares.

Fourth—Said servants agree to take good care of all utensils, tools and implements committed to their charge, and to pay for the same if injured or destroyed; also, to be kind and gentle to all work animals under their charge, and to pay for any injury which they may sustain while in their hands.

Fifth—They stipulate to keep their houses, lots and persons in neat condition, and subject to the inspection of the employer or his agent at any time.

Sixth—They agree to furnish from their number a nurse for the sick; also, stock-minder and foreman, to be selected by the employer. They agree to be directed in their labor by the foreman, to obey his orders, and that he shall report all absences, neglects, refusal to work, or disorderly conduct, to the employer.

Seventh.—The said employer agrees to treat his hirelings with justness and kindness; to furnish each family with a quarter on the plantation, with one-fourth of an acre of land for a garden, and the privilege of getting firewood from some portion of the premises, to be indicated by the employer' and to divide the crop with them in the following proportions, viz: to the hirelings one-third of the corn, potatoes and peas gathered and prepared for market, and one-third net proceeds of the ginned cotton, or its market value at the option of the employer, who agrees to furnish the usual bread and meat rations, to be accounted for at the market price out of their share of the crop.

Eighth.—Said employer, agrees to furnish animals and to feed them; also wagons, carts, plantation implements, &c., such as cannot be made by the laborers on the plantation.

Ninth—All violations of the terms of this contract, or of the rules and regulations of the employer, may be punished by dismissal from the plantation, with forfeiture of his or her share of the crop or wages, as the case may be; but the employer shall pay said parties at the rate of four dollars a month for full hands, deducting therefrom advances made.

Tenth—The employer or his agent shall keep a book in which shall be entered all advances made by him, and fines and forfeitures for lost time or any cause, which book shall be received as evidence in same manner as merchants' books are now received in courts of justice, and shall have a right to deduct from the share of each laborer all his or her fines and forfeitures; also all advances made by him.

Eleventh—The laborers shall not sell any agricultural product to any person whatever, without the written consent of the employer.

Twelfth—The laborers shall commence work at sunrise, and be allowed one hour for dinner and one hour fixed for the funeral service a meeting of the Bar of Baltimore was held at 11 o'clock yesterday, in the Superior Court room. There was a larger attendance of the Bench and Bar than has been witnessed upon a similar occasion for many years, testifying the esteem in which the deceased was held by his professional brethren, without regard to difference upon outside issues.

Hon. Wm. Fell Giles, Judge of the United States District Court, moved that the meeting be organized by the selection of Hon. Robert N. Martin, Judge of the Superior Court, as Chairman, and Reverdy Johnson, Jr., as Secretary, which was concurred in with great unanimity.

On motion, a committee of nine, composed of the following named gentlemen, was appointed to draft resolutions for the consideration of the meeting:—Wm. Schley, Judge W. F. Giles, Judge Hugh L. Bond, Judge John C. King, A Stirling, Jr., W. Daniel, R. Stockett Matthews, Hon. J. Morrison Harris and Charles J. M. Gwinn. The committee retired and after a short absence returned, and reported a preamble and resolutions through the Chairman, Mr. Schley, as follows:

Whereas, In the Providence of God, our distinguished brother, Henry Winter Davis, has been suddenly taken from us in the meridian of life; and

Whereas, The Bench and Bar of Baltimore desire to testify in a becoming manner their high appreciation of the merits of their deceased brother, and their sincere sorrow at his death; therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That in the death of Henry Winter Davis the Maryland Bar has lost one of its brightest ornaments; an able lawyer and an honorable and upright practitioner.

2d. That in his death Maryland has lost one of her most distinguished sons, of whom her citizens had cause to be justly proud, and of whose future eminence as a statesman they have good reason to cherish the most confident expectations.

3d. That in his death the nation has lost a statesman of enlarged and comprehensive views, which were maintained so resolutely under all circumstances throughout his political life, that even those who differed from him, however widely, freely awarded to him the praise of political constancy and political honesty.

4th. That we deeply sympathize with his bereaved family in their affliction, and respectfully tender to them or sincere condolence.

5th. That these resolutions be published in the several papers of Baltimore city, and by permission of the Court, be entered on the minutes of proceedings of the Superior Court of Baltimore city.

6th. That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, signed by the chairman and secretary, be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

Remarks were then made by Messrs. Wm. Schley, J. Morrison Harris, Charles J. M. Gwinn, R. Stockett Matthews, and Archibald Stirling, Jr.

REMARKS OF MR. SCHLEY.

Mr. Chairman—Whilst heartily concurring in the resolutions which have just been read, I should, nevertheless, do violence to my own individual feelings, if I did not express my deep and sincere regret at the death of our distinguished brother, if I contented myself with the performance of the cold duty of reporting these resolutions, without adding my personal tribute of respect to his memory.

Although our intercourse was but occasional, and by no means frequent, yet it was always friendly; and although it never led to especial intimacy, it established between us the relations of mutual good-will and mutual respect. But notwithstanding that our intercourse, professional and social, was thus limited, full opportunities, nevertheless, were afforded to me to learn, as I just phrased it, equally honest, but with coarser natures, are in the habit of thinking necessary to the success of a public man. No man of his age has attracted a larger share of public attention during the brief but brilliant career which has terminated so abruptly. In the vigor and beauty of manhood—in the prime and pride of intellect—the lawyer, orator and statesman has been removed from our midst. His work is done, and a thousand grateful benedictions will fall to-day upon his grave, and over the length and breadth of the Republic the truest and the best of our countrymen are uniting with us in our lamentation over the untimely extinguishment of a shining light. For this man was national in the best and largest sense of the term. He was an American citizen, and his decease is a calamity to the land. Not for ourselves, nor even for this generation, do we sorrow. *He was a great man*, daily growing more devoted to the advocacy of the progress and advancement of our race. His whole heart was aglow with a love of liberty, and the blessings which he enjoyed he generously sought to bestow upon all. He was a believer in the manhood of men, and all his sympathies were with the masses of the people. It is not my judgment of his capacities alone upon which I rely—when I speak of him as the greatest citizen of our State—but I have been accustomed to hear the ablest and oldest of our statesmen speak of him as one of the greatest of our countrymen. He has wrought his full toil, and is at rest. The thorough lawyer, the genial, loyal, magnanimous gentleman, the incorruptible patriot, the polished debater, the bold and fearless leader, will never more be vexed with things "of the earth earthy;" and now the Christian has gone to reap eternal compensation for all that he lost, and all that he suffered by his sublime devotion to liberty and the elevation and happiness of his fellow men.

REMARKS OF MR. STIRLING.

He could not allow the grave to close upon the man whose form it is about to encircle, without testifying in a few words, his estimation of the character of the lamented deceased and his feelings of affection towards him. He would not speak of his public reputation, nor of his abilities as a statesman. It was a gratifying fact, after all the struggles through which we have gone, after all the scenes of division and bloodshed, the influence of which have penetrated all our hearts, to know, with saddened hearts and with feelings chastened to kindness, he proved that here, among the members of the profession, we are always ready to render justice to every man.

He would say a word to the members of the profession in regard to Mr. Davis as a lawyer and a gentleman. Many persons think that he was a hard man. The speaker said that while he was in many respects a proud man, and a man of rapid and quick temper, he was a man destitute of every species of personal meanness and resentment. He testified, from personal knowledge, that of those with whom the deceased differed on subjects which have divided men of the same blood, he always spoke personally in the kindest terms of many who, perhaps, regarded him as little better than an enemy. He would speak of his professional character. It is true that he was made for a statesman, that he had no partiality for the personal contest of cases. He united the utmost rapidity of thought, facility of acquiring information, with a habit of patient investigation. As a lawyer, although he could see quicker than most men, he never contented himself with seeing quicker. In his profession he was a gentleman. He did no mean thing. He marched in the law as he marched in public life, straightforward to accomplish his purpose, and he has left a bright example to the young men of the profession.

Whatever Mr. Davis was in public life, he was in private life, in every sense, a cultivated Christian gentleman. He would not speak about his religion, but he knew that he had planted his faith firm and strong in that Eternal foundation which will last when everything that is crumbling around us is gone to dust; there need not be any anxiety for him. Those who knew him felt that he had gone to a better world, where he would have eternal rest.

In response to these remarks, Judge Martin said:

Before submitting for the consideration of this meeting the resolutions that have just been read, I desire to say that I unite with the bar in deeply lamenting the death of the late Hon. Henry Winter Davis, for several years a successful and distinguished member of the profession,

THE DAVIS OBSEQUIES.

MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE BAR.

Resolutions of Condolence, &c.

MEETING OF THE BALTIMORE BAR.

The obsequies of Hon. Henry Winter Davis, of Maryland, took place yesterday afternoon, at one o'clock, from his late residence on St. Paul street, near Saratoga. During the morning the public were permitted to view the body, as it lay in the front parlor—encased in a plain coffin, which was covered with black cloth and neatly mounted with silver—and hundreds of citizens of both sexes, and of all classes of society, white and colored, availed themselves of the privilege, the throng of visitors continuing without abatement, until the hour