

NEWS SUMMARY.

City Affairs. -The Haytien ram Triumph (formerly Atlanta), while proceeding down the bay on Sunday afternoon, broke the boiler plate of her condenser, and was towed back to Chester for repairs. -Yesterday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, Michael Carver was struck by a train on the Germantown Railroad, at School lane, and seriously injured. -The Finance Committee of Councils held a meeting last evening for the purpose of considering appropriation bills. The Prison Inspectors asked an appropriation of \$138,689 for 1870. The committee reduced the amount to \$132,383. The Guaranty of the Poor estimated their expenses for 1870 at \$454,700; this was reduced to \$417,000. -Yesterday afternoon a fire occurred in the newly fitted up store of Messrs. Peterson & Carpenter, No. 914 Chesnut street, agents for Wheeler & Wilson's sewing machines. The fire was first discovered in a lot of paper in the corner of the back basement, and it was fortunately extinguished before any damage was done to the building. Boxes containing sewing machines were flooded with water, but the extent of damage could not be ascertained last evening. -The residence of Mr. Henry Starr, on Broad street, near Passyunk road, was entered on Saturday morning about 4 o'clock, the thieves using a pair of nippers on the front door key. When inside the house, they entered the room in which Mr. Starr was sleeping, and carried off all his clothing. He was aroused by the noise the burglars made, but could not follow them for the want of apparel. Mr. Starr's residence is below the police limits, and is in a portion of the city in which no depredateions have been committed within a few weeks. -A general meeting of the engrain carpet weavers was held last evening at the hall, Front and Master streets, when votes were received in relation to the price of labor, 117 voting for the full price, 23 for 25 cents per yard, and 10 for the reduction. Thirty-one men were reported as not having voted. A resolution inviting the co-operation of employers with the employees, in order to arrive at some amicable adjustment of the difficulties existing at the present time, was laid on the table. It has been resolved that no one should accept employment at a reduced price. -Saturday night, the 4th of the present month, a Mr. Rogers was killed by being shot through the head on a road in the vicinity of Richmond. A man named John Bowles was charged with being his murderer, but a search failed to find him. In a house on Thirteenth street, near Wood, Detective David Gordon found Bowles yesterday working at shoemaking, and arrested him. While in custody Bowles admitted having been riding with Mr. Rogers on the night in question, but alleged that he left him two miles from the place where he was found. Consenting to go without a requisition, he was handed over to Chief of Police Egbert, and they left for Richmond. Bowles has a bad reputation, and has been recently discharged from prison. -A meeting of the Classes of the German Reformed Churches of Philadelphia took place yesterday afternoon at the Second Reformed Church, Seventh street, above Broad, for the purpose of making arrangements for the receiving of Rev. Isaac S. Hartley, of New York, who has recently accepted a call to the pastorate of this church. -Rev. Dr. De Haen, of Bucks county, presided. After the usual opening services a committee was appointed to make arrangements for the installation of Rev. Mr. Hartley, who reported the following as the order of exercises for the occasion:—The installation to take place on the first Sunday in January, 1870. Rev. Dr. J. F. Berg to preach the sermon, Rev. Mr. Orr to deliver the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Dr. Wadsworth to deliver an address to the congregation. Rev. Mr. Hartley was present during the proceedings. -Rev. P. Stricker Talmage, pastor of the Bethune Memorial Church, Twelfth street and Montgomery avenue, having accepted of a call from the Reformed Church at Manayunk, was dismissed from his old charge. The committee appointed to make arrangements for his installation reported the following:—The service to take place on Thursday evening, December 30, Rev. Charles Collins, Rev. Dr. Clark, and Rev. Dr. Wadsworth will take part in the exercises. Arrangements for the installation of Rev. Dr. Wadsworth as pastor of the Third Reformed Church, Tenth and Filbert streets, was deferred until an adjourned meeting of the Classes. -Assistant Assessors William H. Johnson and William Dixey, seized eight barrels of contraband whisky, on the premises No. 4112 Locust street, West Philadelphia, yesterday morning. The barrels were concealed under a pile of manure. -A lad named Mitchell, aged about 11 years, was attacked by two negroes at Juniper and Cherry streets, yesterday morning, and one of them pulling out a knife, nearly severed the boy's under lip. The two villains then fled, while the boy was taken to a neighboring drug store and the wound dressed. -Domestic Affairs. -Gold closed yesterday at 122 1/2. -Secretary Robeson has returned to Washington. -The Senate Finance Committee holds its first meeting to-day. -Congress will adjourn over from December 22 to January 5. -A number of post office changes were made in this State yesterday. -Three murderers were arraigned in the Supreme Court at Boston, yesterday. -The internal revenue receipts were three-quarters of a million dollars yesterday. -The administration is in daily expectation of St. Domingo voting itself into the Union. -Assistant Assessor Tene, of Marianna, Fla., it is reported, was murdered on the night of December 4. -Justice Grier, of the Supreme Court, will send his letter of resignation to the President to-morrow. -A remonstrance has been sent to Washington, from Schuylkill county, against the repeal of the duty on iron. -The evidence taken this summer in the contested election case of Covode vs. Foster, gives the former 410 majority. -Real sentence of death, for the murder of Officer Smedick, was affirmed by two out of three of the New York Supreme Court judges. -In San Joaquin county, Cal., on Thursday night, a house was entered and a man and his wife and two children murdered. A few nights previously another store was broken into and two men killed. -A man named Dennison, residing at Elmira, N. Y., on Saturday night, was shot by the officer. Wounded as he was, the town-house officials put him in a cell and left him utterly uncare for until morning, when he was found dead. -The Alabama Senate was engaged yesterday discussing a bill giving equal privileges in travel to colored persons, but separate accommodation was proposed and supported by the only colored Senator, who denounced the bill as a piece of demagogism. -The following were the proceedings in Congress yesterday, after the reading of our report:—In the Senate Mr. Carpenter, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to perfect the reconstruction of Georgia. It reconvenes the old Legislature, including the colored members, and excludes those disabled by the fourteenth amendment. Mr. Corbett introduced a bill to fund the public debt, which provides for \$1000 bonds to the extent of \$1,000,000, to run for thirty-five years, each bond to bear 6 per cent. interest for the first three years, 5 per cent. for the six years following, 4 1/2 per cent. for the next six years, and 4 per cent. for the following twenty years. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to regulate the importation of emigrants under labor contracts. Mr. Carpenter introduced a bill providing for retirement of judges of the Supreme Court, when incapacitated for any cause, at full salaries for life. He also offered a resolution declaring that the Spanish galleons should not be allowed to sail from the United States, which was laid upon the table by his request, he saying that he would call it up on Wednesday. Mr. Trumbull, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the bill to relieve Congressmen from the impurity of office-seekers. The bill to define the jurisdiction of courts of the United States was taken up, advocated by Mr. Drake, and referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill restricting the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was considered and laid over. After an executive session the Senate adjourned. In the House, Mr. Cox offered a resolution declaring for resumption of specie payments, quoting the words of the President's message, and several members rising to debate it, it went over. A resolution offered by Mr. Fox and modified by Mr. Schenck, directing the Banking and Currency Committee to investigate the recent currency in New York, was adopted. A petition of over 73,000 New Yorkers, asking the recognition of Cuba, was referred to the Foreign Committee. Mr. Cox offered a resolution repealing the tariff on coal, but objection being made it was not received. Mr. Kelley offered a resolution, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The House adjourned. -Foreign Affairs. -The Ecumenical Council meets to-day, simply for the purpose of completing its organization. -Mr. Burlingame's treaty between England and China has been ratified by the Chinese Government. -The trial of the directors of the banking concern of Overend, Gurney & Co., for conspiracy to defraud the shareholders, commenced in London yesterday. -The Austrian Reichsrath was opened in Vienna yesterday by the Emperor, who announced that important concessions would be made to the different nationalities. -Madrid wears a threatening aspect in Portugal. Extensive military movements have been commenced by the Duke of Saldanha, between whom and the King the breach is daily widening. The resignation of the Ministry is momentarily expected. -Yesterday the remains of George Peabody were received on board the British man-of-war Monarch, with every honor. Minister Motley was on board, and formally handed over the remains to the captain of the Monarch, who accepted the trust in a happy little speech. -THE LEAGUE. -Annual Meeting of the Union League Election of Officers. -Last evening the annual meeting of the Union League of Philadelphia was held at the League House, Broad and Sanson streets. After the transaction of the usual routine of business, the annual report was read, of which the following is an abstract:—The report commences with an eulogy of General Grant, and expresses satisfaction that no single act of the President looks like a departure from the strictest principles of the Union party. The policy of General Grant's administration is then adverted to, and it is claimed that it is characterized by honesty, economy, impartiality, and wisdom. The report states:—If the promises which the administration now gives be verified—and it needs little more than adherence to the present policy to bring that about—who may calculate the wealth, the power, the political solidity, and the supremacy of the world's affairs to which our country will attain within the life of a generation of men? The bonds which hold together these States are stronger to-day than they have ever been since the adoption of the Federal Constitution. As far as the eye may look, we can see no cause, however distant, that may again threaten the Union. We have had reason to rejoice, with our fellow members of the Union party, at three important events which have taken place in our State since the last annual meeting of the League; the passage of a constitutional Registry law, the decision of the courts in the contested election cases, and the re-election of our Governor and Supreme Judges. In the early part of the summer a single point of public interest invited and received the attention of the board. The banishment of the heads of Washington and Jackson from the post-office stamps most in use, and the remarkable substitution of the representations of a locomotive engine and a mounted post-boy in their places, had been publicly criticized in the League with great dissatisfaction and regret, and subsequently the subject was brought before the attention of the board. In such an unworthy change we were satisfied the administration of President Grant had taken no part. The new stamps had been prepared by the contractors under President Johnson. A committee was appointed to communicate to the Postmaster-General what the board believed to be the general feeling in the League on the subject, and such a representation was accordingly made. The miscarriage of his letter appears to have deprived the Board of the receipt of the Postmaster-General's acknowledgment of our communication. We learn, however, that the memorial of the committee was received, and its suggestions carefully considered. We have reason to suppose that our views coincided with those of the Postmaster-General, as we see that the satisfaction tax new dies are now in preparation, and five profile and five full face heads of Washington, Hamilton, Franklin, Jackson, and Lincoln are to be substituted for the ten denominations of stamps, and that the present stamps are to be withdrawn as soon as possible. The report of the Library Committee exhibits a sensible and proper activity in that department. Last year the Board of Directors made an appropriation of two thousand dollars for the purchase of books, and this year they have appropriated twenty-five hundred dollars for the same purpose. With these appropriations the foundations of a library have been laid. The total number of volumes now in the library amounts to twenty-six hundred and eighty-two. The roll of the League, on the first day of December, 1869, contained the names of one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight members. Of this number, ninety-three were elected since the date of the last report. We have lost since that date, sixty-eight members by resignation, twenty by death, and thirty-nine were suspended for non-payment of their annual dues. The reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditors for the year 1869 are now upon the table for examination. The income of the League for the year ending on the first of December, 1869, was fifty thousand and eighty-two dollars and fifty-eight cents, which, added to the surplus of the previous year, amounts to sixty-seven thousand, nine hundred and sixty-two dollars and thirty-five cents. The disbursements for the same period were forty-seven thousand, five hundred and ninety-eight dollars and one cent, leaving a surplus of twenty thousand, three hundred and sixty-four dollars and thirty-five cents. There is no indebtedness outstanding to diminish this amount. Taking into consideration the flourishing condition of our treasury, the directors have fixed the annual tax for the following year at twenty-five dollars. An election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and after an exciting contest the following ticket was elected:— PRESIDENT, Horace Binney, Jr. VOICE-PRESIDENTS, Adolph E. Borie, J. Gilliam Gill, Morton McMichael, Charles Gibbons. DIRECTORS, George H. Baker, James E. Claghorn, George H. Orne, Edward S. Clarke, Stephen A. Caldwell, John F. Verree, Edward C. Knight, Henry Lewis, Edwin C. Perkins, Richard Wright, Joseph Trimble, John Rice, Alfred D. Jessup, J. Fraley Smith. -The President's message was telegraphed in full to the leading papers in Canada.

Called Back to Life. -How a Man Dying to be Hanged Received From the Buffalo Express, Dec 11. -Messer, the Rochester wife-murderer, narrowly escaped hanging yesterday, and, even with the respect, it is altogether probable that he would not have been hanged at all, had it not been for the timely intervention of the sheriff, with members of the press, and a few friends of the prisoner, went to the cell in which he is confined. He was being dressed, and a member of the party of the turkeys of the jail, and as the party entered was assisting the turnkey to button the man's vest; his coat was laid across a chair near by, and on the window ledge lay an open book of devotion, printed in German, and a photograph of a picture of the Virgin Mary. The unlocking of the door did not appear to attract his attention, but the tramping of many feet caused him to turn around with a quick, spasmodic motion; his eyes were fixed on the floor, and his teeth chattered as he evidently thought they intended to lead him to his death. He held out his hand to the sheriff without a word, but expressing by his manner that he recognized the duty imposed upon that official. The sheriff, almost too excited to speak aloud, whispered in his ear, "A rope has come; a stay of proceedings has been granted." Messer replied with a puzzled look, as though he did not understand, upon which Sheriff Sutherland said to him, "You still live. You will not be hanged to-day." Like an electric flash the looks, manner, and bearing of the man changed; he relaxed, the eyes, schooled to hardness, betrayed his emotions, and the blood receded from his cheeks. His whole aspect seemed to droop; and slowly turning away, he dropped into a chair, with his back to the bystanders. Presently he roused himself, and, while shaking hands with the people who surrounded him with congratulations, he said that he did not expect the respite; that he was prepared to die; and that he was even anxious for it in two or three months. The sheriff, almost too excited to speak aloud, whispered in his ear, "A rope has come; a stay of proceedings has been granted." Messer replied with a puzzled look, as though he did not understand, upon which Sheriff Sutherland said to him, "You still live. You will not be hanged to-day." Like an electric flash the looks, manner, and bearing of the man changed; he relaxed, the eyes, schooled to hardness, betrayed his emotions, and the blood receded from his cheeks. His whole aspect seemed to droop; and slowly turning away, he dropped into a chair, with his back to the bystanders. 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