NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY DEC. 28.

☞ The Telegraph informs us that the Slavery debate, on Mr. GOTT's resolution, in Congress, was taken up yesterday and then postponed for two weeks. Mr. SAWYER, it will be seen, complains of Mr. GREELEY's article on Mileage.—"Richelieu" congratulates Mr. GREELEY that SAWYER did not have him expelled.

Postal Reform—Mr. Hobbie's Report.

Our readers have had fair time to read, mark and inwardly digest the Report of Assistant P. M. Gen. Hobbie to his superior on Rates of Postage and Mail Service, and we trust the better portion of them have not neglected so attractive a duty. There are very few men in this country who will not be wiser after reading that Report than they ever were before; and it is one of the excellences of the document that its principles and suggestions reach beyond the cheap and prompt transportation of Letters and Periodicals. There is a mine of useful knowledge in that Report, bearing upon the transaction of extensive business generally.

We have had considerable talk of Mail and Postage Reform ere this, but Mr. HOBBIE has here presented the first comprehensive system of Post Office management. Some of his reforms may not be feasible at this moment, but as a whole they strike us very favorably. We have confidence in their making their way.

It might mortify some of our more wholesale patriots to learn how much we might profitably borrow from England, were they not shielded from such chagrin by their inveterate habit of reading nothing less frothy than partisan Editorials and Fourth of July Orations. Great Britain is a badly governed and shamefully over-taxed country, but when the interests of Business or Trade are affected, her rulers are keenly conscious that misgovernment will not be tolerated. Her commerce is the best guarded and cherished, and her Mail system is the cheapest and best in the world. We are quite unlikely to surpass, but it is high time we began in this respect to imitate her.

We are not yet convinced that a Uniform Rate of Postage for Letters, whether conveyed one mile or five thousand, is the best plan for this country. It has many obvious advantages—simplicity, cheapness, &c—but we cannot quite realize its justice. A New-Yorker has three letters to mail one morning—to Newark, N. J.—Eagle Harbor, Lake Superior—and Castroville, Texas, respectively—is it quite fair to charge the same postage on each of these letters? It does not seem so to us. We believe the British example is too blindly followed among us, unmindful of the vast disparity between the populous compactness of the British Isles and the immense and thinly peopled area of our own country. We would still prefer, as we have already indicated, rates of one, two, three and five cents for distances under ten, two hundred, one thousand and over one thousand miles respectively—each rate to be double on Letters not prepaid, with an extra charge for letters mailed at unseasonable hours or places so as to give extra trouble to the Department. Yet the popular current seems to set so strongly in favor of a uniform rate that we shall probably defer to it and unite in favoring a trial of that plan. If it work badly, we can easily go back to a discriminating schedule of postages. If Uniform Postage is to be tried, we cannot doubt that Mr. Hobbie has hit the proper rate—Three Cents for prepaid letters—we would prefer Five Cents for unpaid. We apprehend Three Cents, especially if there be an additional charge for City Delivery, will keep out of the Post Office many City letters which would otherwise contribute sensibly to the Postage Revenue. In this City alone, if every citizen could drop his letter in at some well-known Sub-Post Office on his own or the next block, paying one or two cents, and be sure of its reaching its destination in any part of the City within an hour or two, so that he might expect an answer in an hour or two farther, with a like delivery radiating to the suburbs, the number of such letters in a year would be immense, beyond computation. Boston and her environs would afford a like revenue; Philadelphia and her suburbs another. But three cents is a high rate for this business. Mr. Hobbie is quite right with regard to the City delivery, but equity and policy require that the reduction he proposes should be extended to the suburbs of each great city as well.

Mr. Hobbie is not liberal enough with regard to Newspaper Circulation. If he will reduce his rates one-half he will treble the Newspapers, &c. circulated through the Mails, and obtain an increase of income without a material increase of expenditure. Especially on Newspapers sent but a few miles—say less than thirty or fifty—his rates are entirely too high. The local or country journals are very hardly used by the present rates and must have some abatement. A county journal often sends out five hundred to a thousand copies within a radius of five to twenty miles of its place of publication, in packages of ten to fifty copies. To charge one cent each—that is, five to ten dollars per week—for merely conveying these papers from the Post Office of the shire-town to eight or ten of the nearest Post Offices, is downright extortion, and must be amended. It gives the City journals, which are conveyed three to seven hundred miles at the same rates, an unjust advantage in circulation. Now we are no believers in sending anything through the Mails free, but we insist that each journal should be delivered within a short distance of its place of publication at the lowest possible rates—not half those charged for longer distances. To charge one cent on each copy is simply to drive them out of the Mails, diminishing at once Newspaper circulation and Post Office revenue, while subjecting the publishers to serious inconvenience and loss. We cannot perceive that any one is correspondingly benefited.

—There are many of Mr. Hobbie's recommendations that we do not feel competent to criticize for want of familiarity with the machinery of Mailing, Transportation, &c. but the whole Report impresses us very favorably, and must prove highly serviceably to the future reformers of our Post Office system.

TELEGRAPHING.—A very large proportion of the matter telegraphed from day to day, and inserted under this head in the newspapers, is absurd and ridiculous. Thus our telegraphic correspondent from Baltimore (see Tribune of Wednesday morning) sends by telegraph this astounding piece of intelligence:

"Christmas Day passed off as pleasantly as usual.—The theaters and other public places of amusement were well attended, and NO serious accident happened to mar the festivities of the day."

And, again—our telegraphic agent for Boston same day writes:

"We have had NO arrivals of importance since Sunday, and NO accounts of any disasters by the late storm. This day's rain has carried off most of the snow."

Did any one ever imagine that the Telegraph was to be used for such stuff as this?

COMMERCE OF MONTREAL.—Whether it is the New York Canals and their cheap transit fares, the Canada drawback act, or both, united to the reduced value of breadstuffs in Europe, that occasion a decline in the trade of Montreal, we do not say; but in 1847 there were exported from that port 281,099 barrels of flour and only 157,583 this year; also, in 1847, of wheat 561,967 bushels, and but 170,207 this year. There is also a great decrease in the exports of lumber, butter, corn, staves, oatmeal, oats, peas, and pork. The tonnage has fallen off 20,341. The decrease in flour this year, as compared with last year, passing down by the Lachine Rapids and Canal, is 224,748 barrels. Export this year, 651,379 barrels.

☞ The Whigs of Kings County celebrate the recent National Victory by a grand festival to-morrow evening at Montague Hall, Brooklyn, at 7 o'clock—Great preparations are being made to have it at least equal to anything of the kind given in any city of the Union.

☞ LETTERS FROM GEN. TAYLOR are numerous now in the papers. Almost in every village a few persons are asking him to take their particular locality in his route to Washington.

By Express and Telegraph to The Tribune.

Thirtieth Congress.

SENATE ...WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

THE OPENING.

The Senate met at the usual hour, when Mr. ATCHISON, President pro tem. took the chair.

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

Numerous memorials and petitions were presented, received, and referred.

NEW LAND OFFICE IN MISSOURI.

Agreeably to previous notice, Mr. BENTON asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill, which was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands. The bill related to the establishment of a new land office in Missouri.

WASHINGTON AND ALEXANDRIA STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

Mr. BENTON also introduced a bill in favor of continuing in force the act incorporating the Washington and Alexandria Steam Packet Company. A debate sprang up, in which various members participated. The bill was then, on motion, postponed.

COAST SURVEY.

Mr. DAVIS submitted a Resolution calling on the President for information as to the amount of expenses incurred in the Coast Survey, which was adopted.

PURCHASE OF LAND.

Mr. JOHNSON moved to take up the bill relating to the purchase of the land on which the Light House stands at the mouth of the Mississippi, which motion was agreed to. Messrs. JOHNSON and BELL spoke in favor of the bill, and Messrs. DIX, WESTCOTT and others in opposition.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The members convened at 12.

The Speaker announced the first thing in order on his table to be Mr. STEWART's (of Mich.) motion to reconsider the vote passing Mr. GOTT's resolution respecting the traffic in slaves in the District of Columbia.

Mr. STEWART being entitled to the floor, addressed the House in opposition to the agitators at the North and South. In his opinion, he said, the question of Abolitionism in the District should rest entirely with the people of the said district. As they had decided, so it should be. He abhorred the Institution, but doubted the power of Congress to destroy the property of the people in the said District. He said that Mr. GOTT's resolution coincided exactly with his own views.

Mr. VINTON moved to postpone the question two weeks.

Mr. WENTWORTH said the motion to reconsider had been debated long enough, and moved to lay it on the table. The yeas and nays were demanded, and resulted in the negative by Yeas 58, Nays 109.

Mr. SMITH of Ind. proposed an amendment to Mr. GOTT's resolution, instructing the Committee on the District of Columbia to inquire into the expediency of framing a law to prevent slaves from being brought from other States into the District and sold.

Mr. VINTON renewed his motion to postpone the question till this day two weeks, which was carried.

SUNDRY BILLS.

The Speaker then signed sundry bills.

TRIBUNE'S MILEAGE STATEMENT.

Mr. SAWYER brought up *The Tribune's* recent statement of Mileage. He said that gross injustice had been done in charging that he had obtained an excess of $200, while Mr. SCHENCK, his colleague, was charged with taking only $2 excess. Much confusion and laughter prevailed, and many explanations and repartees.—Mr. TURNER complained for himself, and of the slander charging the Speaker (Mr. WINTHROP) with petit larceny in taking an excess of $14.

Nonsense.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

There is now three inches of snow upon the ground, and it is still falling.

No action has been taken as yet on LEWIS CASS, Jr.'s nomination. William F. Purcell has been appointed Judge of the Orphan's Court in this City. [That snow fell we should *suppose*. That Purcell is appointed we know by Mail.]

Senator Hannegan, &c.

PITTSBURGH, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

Senator HANNEGAN is at present in our city, detained on account of sickness. A delegation of Chippewa Indians is here, bound for Washington to implore Congress to allow them to remain on the public lands. They promise to become civilized.

Capt. Herron has been nominated by the Whigs of this city for the office of Mayor.

Markets....BALTIMORE, Dec. 27.

Howard-st. FLOUR is held at 4 87½. WHEAT remains unchanged. White CORN is selling pretty freely at 46 cents, and Yellow at 51 cents.

It has been snowing all day, and is now on a level six inches deep.

By Telegraph to the New-York Tribune.

Sailing of the Royal Mail Steamship Niagara.

BOSTON, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

The Royal Mail Steamship Niagara sailed from her wharf at 12 o'clock. She carries 31 passengers for Liverpool, and 2 for Halifax. Among the former is S. Wetmore, jr. lady and servant; McCormack Finlayson Charles Collagan, H. H. Slipper, G. P. Wetmore, and George Roth of New-York. No specie.

Markets....BOSTON, Dec. 27.

The demand for FLOUR to day has been but moderate, the sales not exceeding 1,000 bbls at 5 56@5 75 for the whole assortment of common brands, and $6 @ 6 50 for Fancy Genesee; the market closed firm, with an upward tendency. CORN continues steady and in moderate demand. The supply is not large, and holders do not press the market. RYE and OATS are as before, with small sales. PROVISIONS quiet.

Markets....NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 25.

The demand for COTTON continues fair and quotations steady; the sales of the day reach 2,000 bales.—The market for FLOUR is drooping, and the sales are only for the supply of the regular trade. CORN is in fair request, with sales of 20,000 bushels at 46 cents—In PROVISIONS there is but little movement. MOLASSES is without change to notice and in moderate demand.

Our Foreign Ministers.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1848.

Much has been said of the changes and removals from office which will take place among the functionaries of Government when the new Administration comes in. In no class should there be a more complete change than among the Foreign Ministers, Charges and Consuls, for the reason that we have never had such inefficient diplomatists, to represent us in foreign countries, as at the present time. These posts are, to a great extent, filled by men unqualified by experience, education, or character, to represent the United States. On the contrary, they seem to have been selected wholly with a view to reward them for political services rendered the party. How different are they from the distinguished men who were recalled from their posts by Mr. Polk when he came into office! Where are our Foreign Ministers who can for a moment rank with Henry Wheaton, (the ablest diplomatist we have had in Europe in the last twenty years) with Edward Everett, and Washington Irving? Americans who have been on the Continent have been mortified in finding our representatives held in so little respect. And why should they be? They never acquired fame or respect for their talents here, because they had none; and of course, among the accomplished representatives at foreign Courts, who are invariably men of education and talent, they must make but a poor figure. We doubt whether there is a single Minister or Charge d'Affaires on the Continent of Europe who is familiar with the European languages, and acquainted with the history and diplomacy of the several States of Europe. At the present time, more than at any former period, we require something more than common politicians in France, Prussia, Austria, Russia, Italy, &c. We want men well versed in the history and Government of those countries, and men, too, who are familiar with their languages.

We have not yet heard the names of any one mentioned to fill these places, but there is one man who, if he will consent to go abroad, is fully qualified to fill the place of Minister to the Central Government of Germany, if that body should continue its existence. That man is Hon. GEORGE P. MARSH of Vermont.

Mr. Marsh, it is well known, is one of the most distinguished scholars in our country. He is familiar alike with the language, literature and history of every European State, except Turkey. He had has held conversation at a levee, in this city, where persons of various countries were present, in the German, French, Italian, Danish and Swedish languages. In Scandinavian literature, embracing Icelandic, Swedish and Danish, he unquestionably ranks first in the Union, and has around him, in his native State of Vermont, some 10,000 volumes in the literature of these countries. In German, French and Italian he ranks as high as most scholars among us; but in Spanish and Portuguese literature he holds a rank second to none in the country. These, however, are not all Mr. Marsh's acquirements: for Political Economy, Agriculture, Civil and Military Engineering and the Fine Arts have occupied more or less of his attention. Of the Fine Arts he is not a mere lover, but a *patron*, and there are few men who have around them more that is beautiful in paintings and engravings than Mr. Marsh. All these things, it may be said, are not necessary in a Foreign Minister, but they tend to make the scholar and gentleman, such as we want to see at Foreign Courts, in preference to ignorant political demagogues. JUSTICE.

☞ In our notice of the steamer Panama, yesterday, for *steamer* Crescent City read *schooner* Crescent City, as being spoken by the P.

BY THE MIDNIGHT SOUTHERN MAIL

CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING.—The Secretary of the Senate, and the Clerk of the House, have advertised for Proposals for Printing the Documents of the next Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Prepared for The Tribune.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 26.

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS presented the credentials of Hon. Augustus C. Dodge, elected a Senator in Congress from the new State of Iowa.

Mr. DODGE of Wis. presented the credentials of Hon. George W. Jones, also elected a Senator from Iowa.

Both gentlemen were qualified and took their seats.

Mr. ALLEN submitted resolutions, which were adopted, providing that the Senate will forwith proceed to ascertain the classes to which the two new senators from Iowa belong, pursuant to the act of May, 1790, and the provisions of the Constitution; and directing the Secretary of the Senate to place two ballots in the box, one of these numbered one, and the other three—the Senator drawing one to be assigned to the class whose term of service will expire on the 3d of March, 1849, and to the Senator drawing three to the class whose term of service will expire on the 3d of March, 1853.

Mr. DODGE drew one; Mr. JONES three.

Mr. DODGE is a son of Gen. Dodge, present Senator in Congress from Wisconsin.

Petitions and memorials were presented by Messrs. DICKINSON, BADGER, CALHOUN and STURGEON.

Mr. NILES submitted a resolution, calling on the Secretary of the Navy for a statement of expenditures for supplies, &c. of our squadron in the Pacific on the northwest coast. Adopted.

Mr. FELCH offered a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the Committee on the Public Lands to inquire into the expediency of allowing sales of mineral lands on Lake Superior at the minimum price.

Mr. UNDERWOOD submitted a Resolution, which was adopted, instituting an inquiry into the expediency of establishing one or more Boards of Commissioners, to ascertain the amount of appropriated lands in California and New Mexico, and what disposition should be made of the lands in which gold and other minerals are found.

Mr. JONES of Iowa gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to provide for the construction of a Railroad from the City of Dubuque via the City of Iowa, to Keokuk, in the State of Indiana.

A great number of private bills from the House were read a second time and referred.

A communication was presented from the Treasury Department, with a report from the Surveyor-General of the Land Office in Louisiana, asking that it may be printed in connection with the Annual Report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office. Ordered accordingly.

Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS, pursuant to previous notice, introduced a bill granting a donation of land to Mississippi, for the construction of a railroad from Brandon to the Eastern line of Alabama. Read twice and referred.

Mr. DODGE of Iowa gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to provide for the running and marking the Northern Boundary of Iowa.

A bill to provide for the sale of lands purchased by the United States of the Saginaw tribe of Chippewa Indians in Michigan was taken up, debated, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. BENTON gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to establish a Land Office in Missouri.

A message in writing was received from the President of the United States.

On motion of Mr. UNDERWOOD, the bill for the relief of Col. ROBERT WALLACE, for services performed and losses sustained as Aid to Gen. Hull, was taken up, and, after some debate, was read the third time and passed.

After a brief executive session, the Senate adjourned.

The House was not in session to-day.

Supreme Court of the United States.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26, 1848.

No. 4. George Smith, plaintiff in error, *vs.* Wm. Turner. The cause was argued by Mr. John Van Buren for the defendant in error.

No. 18. Duncan McArthur's heirs, complainant, *vs.* Walter Dun's heirs. The argument of this cause was commenced by Mr. Vinton for the complainants.

No. 28. Pliny Cutler, appellant, *vs.* Wm. A. Rae. This cause was submitted to the Court on the record, and further argued by Mr. Loring for the appellee.

Appointment by the President and Senate.

WILLIAM F. PURCELL of Washington, to be Judge of the Orphans Court for the county of Washington in the District of Columbia, in the place of Nathaniel P. Causin, resigned. [Washington Union.

☞ Mr. MACREADY reads Hamlet in Washington, on Tuesday evening next.

Things in Philadelphia.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

PHILADELPHIA, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

It commenced snowing this morning about 9 o'clock, and up to the hour of closing the mail for New-York, the flakes have been falling steadily. This is the first regular snow storm of the season, and of course is taken advantage of by all who can muster horses and sleighs, not excepting the *belles*.

Hon. Thaddeus Stevens arrived in this city last evening.

The residence of Mr. John Savage, a printer, was entered last evening and robbed of $20 (the saving of weeks of hard work) and a gold heart and cross. The man who would rob a typo must indeed be lost to every sense of feeling and honor.

The beautiful "Floating Church of the Redeemer," built at Bordentown, N. J. for the Churchmen's Missionary Society, reached her station at Dock-st. wharf this afternoon at 4 o'clock, where she was dedicated.

The inclemency of the weather has nearly suspended out door operations, and little or nothing was done to-day. Flour is firmly held at $5 for standard superfine, and this price was refused for good brands. Nothing doing in Rye Flour and Corn Meal. Wheat is quiet at 100 a 107c. Rye sold at 66 a 67c. in store. Corn in demand, with sales of New South Yellow at 55c. Cotton is tending upward, and some small sales are reported at 7½c for Uplands, and 7½c for New-Orleans. No movements in Groceries or Provisions. Whisky sold at 24c for bbls in small lots.

SALES OF STOCKS.—*First Board*—100 State 5's, 78½; 100 do. 78; 400 State 6's, 90; 50 Vicksburg Bank, 12½; 50 Norristown R R, 13½; 50 Morris Canal, 8½; 4.50 Lehigh Coal Scrip, 79½; 5 Girard Bank, 11½; 4 Camden & Amboy R R, 144; 5 Penn Township Bank, 28½; 50 Reading R R, 14½; 18 do, 14½.

Second Board—150 U S Bank, 3; 4 Commercial Bank, 52½; 250 State 6's, 90; 4000 State 5's, 78; 600 City 5's, 64, 82½.

The Southern Caucus.

The Washington Correspondent of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* gives the following as the spirit of Mr. Bayly's resolutions, which were referred to the Committee of Fifteen:

The resolutions declare, first, that the deep attachment of the South to the Union of these States; second, that in case of the violation of the constitutional rights of any portion of the confederacy, it is the privilege and the duty of the States aggrieved thereby, themselves to devise the mode and measure of redress; thirdly, that in case the aggressions on the rights of the South, threatened by the recent action of the House of Representatives on the subject of Slavery, shall be consummated, it shall be the right and the duty of the slaveholding States to devise proper measures to redress their wrongs.

The same correspondent also gives the following as substantially the remarks of Mr. Calhoun at the caucus:

"The resolutions of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Bayly) are good; and considering the length of time which he has had to prepare them, do him great credit, but they are not perfect. They are defective in several particulars. I am, therefore, less unwilling to agree to the motion of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Stephens.) Another consideration strongly impels me to the same course. I am thoroughly impressed with the necessity of harmonious and united action, both on our part and on the part of the Southern community. I am opposed, however, to too great delay, and consequently would prefer that the committee should report to a meeting to be held on the 10th instead of the 15th of January.

"The Legislatures of several of the Southern States are now in session, and it would be well that an address should reach them in time to be acted upon by them before their adjournment. I consider the address indispensable. Whatever action is taken must proceed from the slaveholding States. If the Constitution be violated, and their rights encroached upon, it is for them to determine the mode and measure of redress. We can only suggest and advise.

"We are in the theater of action, the witnesses of the alarming encroachments which have been going on upon the rights of the slaveholding part of the confederacy. We see them plainly—we feel them deeply.—They are rapid and alarming, for who would have believed, seven three years ago, that preparations which have, within a few days past, commanded the support of a majority of the lower House of Congress, would have been tolerated by any respectable portion of either House.

"We are in the midst of events scarcely of less import than those of our Revolutionary era. The question is, are we holding our position in this Confederacy upon the ground of equals, or are we to content ourselves with the condition of Colonial dependence? Sir, it will be worse than Colonial dependence. For who would not prefer to be taxed and governed without presence of representation, than under the forms of representation to be grievously oppressed by measures over which we have no control, and against which our remonstrances are unavailing.

"It is undeniable that the encroachments upon our rights have been rapid and alarming. They must be met. I conceive that no Southern man can entertain for one moment the idea of tame submission. The action of the South should be united, temperate, but decided. Our position must be taken deliberately, but held at every hazard. We wage no war of aggression. We ask only for the constitution and union and government of our fathers. We ask of our Northern brethren to leave us those rights and privileges which our fathers held, and without securing which for their children all knew they would not have entered this Union. These we must maintain.

"It appears to me proper that we, who are on the theater of action, should address our constituents of the slaveholding States, briefly and accurately portray the progress of usurpation and aggression, vividly exhibit the dangers which threaten, and leave it in their hands to mark out the proper line of action. What that should be, it is needless here to discuss. Whatever it is, it should be temperate, united and decided.

"Having expressed these views, I have to say that I make no objection to the motion of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Stephens), to refer the whole matter to a select Committee, to consider maturely, and report to a future meeting; but I would rather prefer an earlier day for that meeting, than the 15th of January. I am, above all, for union, harmony and decision on the part of the South."

Address of Thomas O'Conor.

We publish, with pleasure, from the *Truth Teller*, the following address from the venerable THOMAS O'CONOR, delivered before the Erina Benevolent Society, at their fifteenth annual meeting, preparatory to their second Ball, which will take place on Wednesday, the 3d of January, at the Broadway Assembly Rooms. The proceeds are to be devoted to the support of the orphans under the care of the Sisters of Charity in Princeset:

FELLOW MEMBERS—Your worthy Secretary has kindly notified me that you have lately elected me to preside over your deliberations—an honor often heretofore conferred on me. Feeblness of body, usually accompanied by feebleness of mind, unfits me for the duty your kindness would impose. My own inclination courts retirement; but, considering the prominent usefulness of your beneficent institution, and the tender objects of your solicitude, I am impelled to bow to your will. I have not words suitably to convey what I owe to you. In trite phraseology, I can but say, I thank you. The words may seem frigidly formal, but, believe me, my worthy associates, they proceed from a source that is not cold.

"Your Association has existed uninterruptedly for 15 years; it commenced in the diminutiveness of the mustard seed; it has acquired the magnitude of a tree, and under its outspreading shade, repose, in health, comfort, security, and under Providence, in the road to happiness in this world and the next, the interesting orphans of the Prince-st. Asylum.

"As the twig is bent, so the tree inclines." A healthy education and careful fosterage are as necessary to the happiness, as the absence of these essentials must be detrimental, or may be ruinous, to our children. Happy are those who have guardians or friends to provide and dispense those blessings; woe to those not thus blessed, if Charity comes not to their relief. There is no portion of the human family more helpless, pitiable, than the destitute orphan of tender years. Deprived of natural guardians, the infant plant is exposed to the world's storms. The friendless orphan may be said to stand alone, unknown, or, it may be, disowned, in the midst of the crowd; he looks, keenly, naturally, instinctively, for his kin; he looks in vain; he has no kin, or none of them are there; his little heart sinks within him; he fears to speak; his eyes are silently eloquent, but there is no eye sympathetically to meet his, no heart to sympathise with the orphan boy, nor with the beautiful of God and of Nature, the innocent, the lovely, the interesting orphan girl. Houseless and homeless, no door, possibly, is open to the unknown; no hand stretched forth to succor the wo-stricken, no Christian to beckon the forlorn into the house where Charity should reside; even the professedly humane, recoiling in view of appalling wretchedness, retire to their hearths or to their desks, there to forget, if possible, a sight so difficult to be erased from memory. Alas! this insensibility to sufferings incident to the painful state of destitute orphanage, is but a part, and not the worst, of the calamities that threaten the unprovided orphan. Worse than starvation, worse than death, possibly, awaits the little one; the unprincipled world, lying, prowling in search of prey, discovers the unprotected wanderer in the most condescending of schools, the public street, waylays the unguarded, flings his heath around unsuspicious innocence, and hauls the victim into some den of sin and infamy where all the arcana of the most fiendish immorality are practised and taught. Is not the unfriended orphan of tender age the most destitute, pitiable, helpless, hopeless of the human family?

You are guiltless of the wounds inflicted on the orphan, you would save you would cherish. The object of your Association is to aid in securing the exposed little ones from the perils which environ them, and from the corrupting influences which assail them in their every step. By a moral and sound education you contribute to prepare them for the various stations in which they may, in after years, be called, and to fit them to perform their parts with credit to themselves and with profit to the community, of which they constitute a hopeful part, and in which they may in time become active members or leaders. There is nothing in the Constitution or laws of this free land, or in the temper of the citizens, to forbid or discourage the aspiration.

The discipline of the Prince-st. Asylum fortifies the hope that the children of that institution are in the straight road to the utmost happiness this world affords, as may arrive at that state of indescribable bliss to be attained but beyond the grave. The education imparted by the humble and pious "Sisters of Charity" to the orphans under their charge embraces the purest morality, not fashioned to enable them to speculate on the inexperience of others; they are not initiated into acts of deception, and are unleamed in the subtle science of over reaching; they are taught to do to others as they would that others would do to them. Happily for those orphans the Sisters of Charity, relinquishing for the vain pleasure of mere worldliness, and devoting themselves to the sought happiness of a better world, do not confine education simply to ordinary moral literature, but also inculcate a wholesome religious instruction, that "aromatic which prevents science from becoming corrupt." And so, most assuredly, it should be. There are none so truly happy as the truly virtuous. Could the will of God be done by all upon earth, as it is done by all in Heaven, then would death be but a transition from a lower to a higher Heaven; from an association with the saints of one world to that of the saints and angels in another; from the guardianship of the ministers of God on earth to the presence of God himself in Heaven. "Philosophy fails of its noblest object if it does not lead us to God." Oh! how distinguishingly favored are the people of this happy land, the land of liberty, civil and religious, of justice, of contentment, and of equality—wherein is built up a political structure so beautiful, so perfect, that every attempt at improvement involves an experiment endangering the edifice. The reformers of other nations, resolving to disencumber themselves of the incubus under which they groan, look to the "Model Republic" for materials wherewith to reconstruct their governments.

The great struggle between the Press and the Aristocratical Institutions of Europe indicates an approaching and not distant change in the subsisting forms of civil government in that portion of the world. A struggle, still more important, disturbs a large portion of Europe. Infidelity daringly raises the standard of opposition to Christianity; and, although it can no more ultimately prevail than can rebel-man prevail against the power of Heaven, it may possibly, to some extent, survive the cruel oligarchies of the old world. How happy our lot in this land of peace and right! We have nothing to fear from the puny demonstrations of infidel principles, in whatever shape or under whatever name they may appear or be designated. We have a free Press to mould and direct our energies, a free people to support them, and a benign Providence to guard and to guide us.

Discord is the bane of society; let us close our door against the fiend. Unanimity is the antidote; let us appropriate it. Thus far you are unanimous, and therefore successful and progressively prosperous, every year proving an improvement on the preceeding. It is a happy article in your Constitution which limits the number of your members. Adhere to this as to your sheet anchor. Be unanimous and be successful.

I have, my worthy associates, attained a great age; my years outnumber those usually allotted to man in this world. In the order of Providence, and in course of nature, I must soon be called hence; my life hears its close, the grave yawns at my feet, and I must soon sink into it. Should another year of life be vouchsafed to me, I would be still less able than I am at present to perform the duties of office. The interest of the Orphan, which should hold the first place in your consideration, will be promoted by selecting one of yourselves, other than myself, to preside over your deliberations. Considering the improbability of my meeting with you in future session, and the still greater improbability of my succeeding to a re-election, could I entertain such a desire, I may be permitted to consider this address in the nature of a farewell, so far at least as relates to my present office. This must account for its length. If you suffer inconvenience by reason of your detention, I can but hope that my motive may stand as an acceptable apology, if not as a justification, of the liberty I take.

May all those whose hearts can throb in view of the orphan's destitution, whose hearts are not closed against the orphans' cry, and who are blessed by the orphan's Father with the means of wiping away the orphan's tear, cheerfully contribute to replenish the orphan's exhausted exchequer, and render the benefit you acetow preparing abundant, even beyond the most copious that has preceded it.

DEATH OF A CELEBRATED ASTRONOMER.—It was announced a short time ago that some two or three learned Professors from Rome were to be attached to the Jesuit Catholic College at Georgetown, D. C. We find the following in the *Georgetown Advocate* of Saturday:

"The scientific world will regret to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of the celebrated and learned Jesuit Astronomer, Francis De Vico, who died in England on the 15th ultimo, whither he went on business connected with the Georgetown College. He was for several years Professor of Astronomy in the University of Rome, and Superintendent of the Roman Observatory. It was while holding the latter important office, that he announced to the world his distinguished and brilliant discoveries in astronomical science, for which several gold medals and other marks of honor and distinction, were awarded him by the Academy of Sciences. He is also well known as an author.

"Upon his return from England he intended to accept the chair of astronomy in Georgetown College, D. C., so long and with distinction held by the Rev. Jas. Curley, S. J., the present able and learned Prof. of Natural Philosophy and superintendent of the G. T. College Observatory. We learn also that the corps of Professors has been recently increased by the efficient addition of Dr. Secchi and Prof. Pianciani, late of the University of Rome. The former gentleman will assist Prof. Curly in the discharge of his duties as Adjunct Prof. of Astronomy, and the latter, who has gained a distinguished reputation for the natural sciences in Europe, will assume the chair of Chemistry.

VIRGINIA SLAVERY RESOLUTIONS.—A series of resolutions were reported in the Virginia House of Delegates on Friday, by Mr. J. B. Floyd, Chairman of the Special Committee on the "Wilmot Proviso and kindred subjects, which declares, first, that the institution of Slavery is fully recognized by the Constitution, and that any attempt to abridge the rights of the slaveholder, to prohibit his free emigration, with his slaves, to any portion of any Territory of the United States, is a gross and palpable violation of the Constitution; Secondly, that Virginia cannot, in honor to herself or posterity, think for one moment of a submission to a law of Congress having such an object in view; and thirdly, that Virginia will resist such act of aggression to the last extremity. The fourth resolution empowers the Governor of the State, in case of the passage by Congress of the Wilmot Proviso, or any kindred measure, during the recess of the Legislature, to immediately call an Extra Session, "to take into consideration the evil act, as well as the mode and measure of redress."

☞ The Legislature of KENTUCKY will assemble at Lexington on Saturday, the 30th instant. The election of a Senator in Congress, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Gov. CRITTENDEN, and for the full term of six years from the 4th of March next, will devolve upon the present General Assembly.

CITY ITEMS.

Lectures, Concerts, &c. To-Night.

[*For particulars see Advertising columns.*]

Emmet Guards' Ball—Coliseum—470 Broadway.
Emmet B. B. Society—Assembly Rooms—Chinese Building, Broadway.
The Dinner Dance—Astor House—8 P. M.
Fair of Ladies Seamen's Friend Society—Chatham & Mott—7½ P. M.
Dr. Bronson's Lecture on Geology—Tabernacle—7½ P. M.
Young Bachelors' Assembly—Apollo Rooms, Broadway.
Mr. Wm. Nelson Lecture—Stuyvesant Institute—7½ P. M.
Dodworth's Afro and Eth—National Academy—10 A. M. to 10 P. M.
International Art Union—Broadway, cor. Reade-st.—Day and evening.
American Art Union—Broadway, above Reade—Day and evening.
VanBelzem's Great Exhibition, 294 Broadway—7½ P. M.
Zoological Hall—59 and 57 Bowery—10 A. M. and 7½ to 10 P. M.
Gallery of European Paintings—360 Broadway—10 A. M. to 10 P. M.
Chaney's Minstrels—Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway—8 P. M.
New Orleans Opera Company—Stuyvesant Institute—8 P. M.
The Amphitheater—Next Door to Broadway Theater—7½ P. M.
Burton's Theater—Chambers-st. near Broadway—7½ P. M.
Broadway Theater—Broadway, near Anthony—7½ P. M.
American Museum—Broadway, cor. Ann-st.—Day and evening.

☞ The old year plucked out his white locks and strewed them in handfulls over the earth yesterday, while young hearts grew gay with the anticipated merriment of the grand New-Year Carnival, for which these snowy sacrifices were strewing the way. The Frost-King had bravely done his duty the night before, and the heart of the earth lay scarcely daring to pant within its icy shell, while on the surface everything was preparing to burst out in riotous mirth and festivity.—Steadily, steadily fell the flakes, layer after layer, softly one upon another and melting silently into each other's embraces, while noiselessly grew the spotless drift, swelling ever and expanding as if some invisible spirit of increase lived beneath the surface—making all ready for the joyous, laughing, tingling procession that will launch this morning upon the pure bosom of this Winter sea, its innumerable forms of dainty boats, freighted with gallant men and beautiful women. We hold our breath when we think of the bright smiles and joyous music that will be poured out to day upon this gently-falling snowy tide, that glides down past our weeping window-panes so pensively from heaven. Into such a day is concentrated the life and gladness of a whole year; and in many an hour of sadness and suffering, will the heart fondly turn to the joys of this bright sleighing time—joys which, alas! have melted even sooner than the snow that bore them, and like all bright and glorious things, live only in the memory.

P. S.—It's all up. Last evening our beautiful snow storm turned into a drenching rain, and the fine sleighing we were to enjoy to-day has departed in the direction taken by those chickens which were counted before they were hatched.

SCIENTIFIC LECTURE.—A synopsis of Dr. BOYNTON's second Lecture on Geology will be found in our columns of to-day. If a lecturer can surround with such intense interest as his audience testified, the usually dry subject of the metamorphic rocks, we certainly advise that no one should fail to secure a seat for the remainder of the course which will deal with the more interesting geological periods, after the appearance of vegetable and animal life. His third lecture will be given to-night at the Tabernacle.

A GRAND SPECTACLE.—The romantic Drama of "Monte Christo" at the Broadway Theater is one of the most attractive spectacles ever got up on the American stage, and proves a great card in this festive season. Some of the scenes are of truly Oriental gorgeousness. Everybody goes to see it.

EMMET M. B. B. SOCIETY.—The first annual ball of the Emmet Mutual Benefit and Benevolent Society takes place this evening at the Assembly Rooms of the Chinese Building, Broadway, for charitable purposes. The Society is one of the most worthy of the benevolent Institutions of our City.

THE EMMET GUARDS.—This gallant Company hold their third annual Ball this evening at the Coliseum, 470 Broadway. As the brave deserve the fair a large number of the better part of creation may be expected.

☞ Owing to the severe storm, last night, the meeting of the friends of Mr. WALL, the Blind Harper, was postponed till this evening. Those who were formerly invited are earnestly requested to attend this evening at Chambers-st. Hotel, next door to Burton's Theater.

☞ We understand that the HOHNSTOCK's have, in addition to the other distinguished performers already announced, volunteered their aid to the great Concert at the Tabernacle on Saturday evening, for the relief of the Orchestra of the Park Theater.

FREE ACADEMY.—The examination for candidates will commence on the 15th January, at the Institution, at 9 o'clock.

☞ While thousands in our midst are running mad about California and racking their brains and muscles to obtain the wherewithal to go a golding, others through the legitimate means of industry and enterprise seek to bring the Gold Mines here. The result of the latter course may be seen in the many successful manufacturing and mercantile establishments with which our metropolis abound. Trace the history of our most successful men of business, and it will frequently be found that the pennyless apprentice of yesterday is the flourishing merchant, manufacturer, or capitalist of to-day. So it will ever be where industry, perseverance and integrity are united with business tact. A remarkable exemplification of this fact may be seen in the success of the splendid Hat establishment of GENIN, opposite St. Paul's in Broadway. It is but a few years since Mr. G. commenced business in a very moderate way with his integrity