THE NEW YORK SUN.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 13, 1859.

The Defences of New York.

A recent inspection of the harbor defences of New York, by competent officers of the U. S. Army and of the State Militia, resulted in the conviction that the forts at present erected are inadequate for the protection of our harbor and city against the naval forces of any of the great maritime powers. This certainly is a matter which, in the present warlike temper of the great powers of the Old World, should engage the attention of our citizens and of Government. If—and the thing is not improbable—we should, within a year or so be involved in a war with England or France, either could send a steam fleet that might in one night lay the principal part of our city in ruins and destroy an immense amount of property.

New York is approachable by sea in two directions—by the Narrows and by the East River. Both approaches are defended by forts of considerable power, but it is the opinion of military men, whose judgment is entitled to confidence, that these forts are not adequate to the purpose for which they are intended. In a letter which Adjutant General TOWNSEND, has written on the subject, he thus states the strength of the defences on the Narrows approach:

Castle William, having of channel bearing guns	78
Fort Columbus, having of channel bearing guns	91
South Battery, having of channel bearing guns	18
Shelter's Island (Fort Wood) having of channel bearing guns	67
Ellis' Island, having of channel bearing guns	19
Castle Clinton, having of channel bearing guns	28
Fort Hamilton, having of channel bearing guns	88
Fort Lafayette, having of channel bearing guns	17
Fort Richmond, having o' channel bearing guns	140
Batteries Hudson and Morton, having of channel bearing guns	60
In all of channel bearing guns	654

But for the complete defence of this approach, the following additional works are deemed necessary:

Additional Batteries for Fort Hamilton	100 guns
New-water Battery (Jaw Bone), St. Island	70 guns
Extension of open Batteries	60 guns
Fort Tompkins	40 guns
Work on Robbin's Reef	100 guns
Work on West Bank	100 guns
Work on Rose's Shoal	100 guns
Work on Sandy Hook	276 guns
In all	946 guns

Thus instead of a defending power of only 654 guns, there ought to be 1.500 guns in position. On the East River approach there is but Fort Schuyler, having of channel-bearing guns, 186, but for the purpose of complete defence there ought to be a work at Willet's Point, opposite Fort Schuyler, mounting 150 guns. It may be said that in the event of war we could speedily devise additional means of defence, and, if necessary, block up the passage at the Narrows; but by adopting the latter resort we should shut ourselves in and practically establish a blockade of our port.

Against a land attack, we could more easily provide in any sudden emergency, but since steam and the introduction of guns of great calibre, range and precision have altered the conditions of naval warfare, we cannot improvise effective defences against a sea attack. Only permanent and powerful forts erected at the right points can successfully resist a hostile fleet. It certainly is a plain argument that if the present harbor defences are entirely inadequate to prevent an attack upon the city by sea, they should be augmented as speedily as possible, so that, in the event of war with a great naval power, our city, with its great wealth and extensive commerce, might not be at the enemy's mercy or invite his attack.

Congressmen and the Newspapers.

MEMBERS of Congress do not add to their own dignity, or to the dignity of the National Legislature, by turning aside from their legitimate duties to engage in controversies with editors and correspondents of newspapers, who impugn their motives or criticise their public acts. Still less do they gain in reputation when they descend to the use of opprobrious epithets, and waste the public time in delivering diatribes which are but the expression of their own personal feeling. By noticing personal attacks in newspapers they encourage their repetition, and contribute to the degradation of journalism.

It is the glory of a Washington correspondent to succeed in provoking a denunciatory speech from a Senator or Representative in Congress, because the speech is telegraphed over the whole country, and he thereby acquires a notoriety which he accepts as fame. There is also a class of newspapers which systematically assail public men in coarse and vituperative language with the very object of provoking rejoinders, and every success incites them to more virulent attacks.

Public men should be content to be judged by their acts, rather than by what they can say in their own behalf. Let them act fearlessly and honestly, and they may despise the malignant assaults of unprincipled partisans. We, therefore, deprecate the practice, becoming too common in Congress, of members occupying the public time in making undignified replies to newspaper criticisms.

The Board of Canvassers.

Alderman, sitting as a Board of Canvassers, discovered some irregularities in the vote cast at the late election, illustrate the defective character of the governing elections. When the returns of the 22nd Ward were opened, it was found there was no return from the 4th election district, and Alderman SEAGRIST explained that the clerks were drunk on the night of the election and were unable to make the returns. They had also lost the tally. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter, and in their report they say:

That they had two Canvassers of the above election district before them, and have examined the same, and find that Mr. COBB, one of the poll clerks in said district, was intoxicated at the time of the canvass, and that the other clerk was totally incapable of acting in such capacity, he being unable to write or spell correctly. The Canvassers further state that upon examination of the poll lists kept at the said election, there appears a discrepancy between the tallies of the poll clerks in their several books, one of the books showing 564 names, and the other 561 names.

The Canvassers further stated that, when canvassing the votes of the City and County box, they found 556 ballots contained therein, being a discrepancy of 35 votes, as shown by the book of one of the clerks, and 43 votes, as shown by the book of the other clerk, and upon the amount of the first, the outsiders intimidated the Canvassers. Finding it impossible to canvass the votes, the Canvassers then placed the ballots back in their respective boxes, sealed them up and took them to the station house.

Your Committee would further state that, while the Canvassers were counting the ballots, the said ballots were handled by persons who were not Canvassers.

The effect of this gross misconduct will probably be to disfranchise the voters in the district. The poll clerks were appointed by the Police Commissioners, but if they were incompetent, it was the duty of the Canvassers to keep the tally and make out the returns. The affair is altogether of a disgraceful character.

New Publications.

PRENTICEANA, or Wit and Humor in Paragraphs. *By the Editor of the Louisville Journal.* New York: DERBY & JACKSON.

This is a handsomely bound volume, 12mo., of over 300 pages, and contains any quantity of those gems of humor for which PRENTICE is justly celebrated. Its perusal cannot fail to keep the reader's face wreathed in smiles, and not unfrequently, a hearty laugh gives evidence of the reader's appreciation of the wit and humor of the author.

We have received the January number of GODEY'S Lady's Book.

Later from St. Domingo.

The brig H. C. Brooks, Captain SHERRILL, from Gonaives, November 30, arrived at this port yesterday morning. She reports that the Gonaives market for provisions was well supplied. The coffee crop was very late, although reported good. Sales were being made at $131 to $135 currency per 100 pounds. Logwood $36 to $40 per 1,000 pounds. There was no political news of importance.

CALIFORNIA AFFAIRS

Seven Days Later Intelligence.

Arrival of the Atlantic.

Return of General Scott.

The steamship Atlantic, from Aspinwall, Dec. 26, arrived at this port last evening, bringing $1,865,499 88 in treasure, and San Francisco dates of the 21st of November. We are indebted to WELLS, FARGO & Co., for news favors.

LIEUTENANT-General SCOTT and staff came passengers in the Atlantic. His return was entirely unexpected, and no demonstration was made upon his arrival. He came directly from San Juan, making no stay at San Francisco, nor communicating anything with regard to the results of his mission. It is said, however, that he has made arrangements which will prevent any collision until the two Governments have concluded their negotiations.

TREASURE LIST.

H Cohn & Co	$ 70 000	Robert & Williams	10,000
E C Knight & Co	1,850	Bush & Comstock	15,000
Order	8,000	August Belmont & Co	198,000
Thos D Cornell	1,000	Jas Patrick & Co	60 000
Wm Kelley & Co	15,000	Wm Hayes	2,681
Espinager & Co	4,000	Tuttle McCahill & Co	90 000
H Unger & Co	7 400	John Durand & Co	7,084
Order	4,000	A S Rosenbaum & Co	19 000
J H Cosbill	6,000	Amer Ex Bank	50 000
A Rich & Bro	10,000	Richd Patrick	45,900
Schelle & Bro	22,000	Harbeck & Co	9,000
Order	1,000	Chas W Grosby	8,000
F Curtis & Co	4,190	Metropolitan Bank	25,000
Jacob Hecht Bro & Co	6,000	Do	96,911
J Goldsmith & Co	17,000	Eugene Kelly & Co	68,000
H E Griffin	3,497	Conroy & O'Conner	10,000
Kenly Byrne & Co	5 000	Amer Exch Bank	95,000
Wm Falconer & Co	7,000	Roberts Morrison & Co	90 000
J Strauss Bro & Co	65,000	P. Taylor	10,000
J G Parker & Son	3 000	Jennings & Brewster	16,000
J Hiller & Bro	17,601	Duncan Sherman & Co	14,985
Treadwell & Co	15,000	Do	226,784
Wm Bellgman & Co	58 500	Amer Exch Bank	60,000
Order	2,900	W Hoge & Co	35 000
Do	5,000	Freeman & Co	23,000
E Meeder & O Adams	8 500	Do	15 700
De Witt Kissick & Co	20,000	Do	13,357
Jacob Cohen & Co	10 000	Wells Fargo & Co	162,500
J B Newton & Co	12,000	Do	107 800
Order	5,000	Do	9,500
Howland & Aspinwall	2 819	Amer Exch Bank	10,000
Eugene Kelly & Co	20,000		
Z Einstein & Bro	10,000		
Baker & Morrill	5,446		
Wm T Coleman & Co	100,000		
Do	7,000		
		Total	$1,865,499

Judge TERRY has been indicted in San Mateo county for fighting a duel with, and killing Senator BRODERICK.

The girl LOUISA PAULLIN, who ran off on the steamer Uncle Sam with GEORGE SEWARD, had been brought back on the Golden Gate. She was transferred from one steamer to the other at Acapulco. There was a great excitement on the Uncle Sam about the matter, and considerable talk was made about lynching SEWARD.

The BRODERICK Engine Co., No. 1, of San Francisco, purposed forwarding to New York, by the steamer of Dec 5th, a bust of the late Senator BRODERICK, together with a copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Company, when its name was changed from that of Empire, No. 1. The resolutions are to be placed in an elegant frame, and the whole is intended for a present to Howard Engine Co., No. 34, of New York city, to which organization Mr. BRODERICK belonged, at the time of his departure for California.

A horrible murder and suicide had been committed at New Westminster. The *British Colonist* states that the town had been for a day or two in great excitement on account of the murder of three Italians by some Indians. The news of the murder turned the brain of a Mrs. OSORN, and she was heard to say that sooner than the Indians should kill her children, she would kill them herself. During the night she appeared uneasy, getting in and out of bed many times; and when her husband left for his work, she locked the door, and attacked first her little son, about eight years of age, who was putting on his shoes and stockings. She cut him with a razor in the leg, side, and back of the neck, and he was so stunned by the attack that he lay still. She then crossed the room, razor in hand, and cut the throat of her little daughter, a pretty child of three years old, with long flaxen hair, which lay dabbled in her life's blood, when seen by the Jury. She nearly cut her head from her body. She then made a cut at her infant, but did not cut deep, and it will perhaps live. Last of all, she cut her own throat, and unlocked the door, rushing on the balcony, wringing her hands, and gurgling, "I have done it!" Assistance immediately came, but she died in three-quarters of an hour.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

By way of Panama we have later dates from the South American States. The news is not of marked interest.

Mr. BIGLER, the United States Minister to Chile, had succeeded in finally settling the affair of the American ship Franklin, now some thirty years in dispute. Capt. MCGUIRE takes home the money in payment of the claim. There is a fair prospect of the other questions pending betwe n the United States and Chile Governments being speedily settled.

The damages done by the earthquake at Coptapo are estimated at one and a half million of dollars.

From Bolivia we learn that Gen. ESMENIQUE continues recruiting an army for the purpose of invading Peru.

The troubles between Ecuador and Peru, appear to be drawing to a crisis. On the 7th Nov. Gen CASTILLA sailed from Pasta for Guayaquil, with nearly 10 000 men, and fourteen vessels of war, with the intention of invading the country.

The revolution in Carthagena progresses, and the Liberals had captured the towns of Mompos and Corozal.

BY OVERLAND MAIL FROM CALIFORNIA.

St. Louis, Dec. 12,—The Overland Mail, with San Francisco dates of the 18th ult., arrived last night.

The steamship Cortes, with New York mails and passengers of Oct. 20, had not arrived at San Francisco, when the mail left. [The Cortes was delayed by the accident to the North Star, and was not due at the departure of the mail. Rep.]

The steamer Northerner was several days overdue from Puget Sound, but it was presumed Gen. SCOTT had detained her. The tax on goods owned abroad and sold by San Francisco commission merchants had been decided to be unconstitutional. Twenty thousand francs worth of diamonds recently smuggled into San Francisco, had been forfeited to the Government. In the case of BOGGS vs The Merced Mining Co., involving the title to Col. FREMONT's estate, and exclusive right to the minerals contained therein, the Supreme Court have decided that the charge of fraud in the survey is not substantiated, and argue that if there had been fraud it would not invalidate the patent. The Court only partially meet the point as to the ownership of the minerals, but substantially give the gold at well as the land to Col. FREMONT, and clearly decide that private grants of land are not open to the public to search for minerals.

Accounts from Carson Valley say that the election on the 19th ult., for delegate to Congress from Nevada territory, resulted, as far as heard from, in the unanimous election of JOHN J. MILTON. The *Territorial Enterprise*, published at Geneva, says a rich silver lode, supposed to be a continuation of the COMSTOCK vein, had been discovered just East of that place, and a stampede of the entire population of Geneva and Carson Valley had taken place.

A steady trade was doing at San Francisco, but transactions were confined to small lots, without change in rates. Money comes in sparingly from the country, and the remittance by the steamer of the 21st would be light. Gold bars were scarce and high.

A dispatch from San Francisco to Gilroy, six hours later than the mail dates, says that "the cargo of the barque Comet was sold at auction to day (15th), and high prices were realized for black teas, the range being from 40 to 75 cents. The sugars and rice did not meet the wants of importers. The demand for money for the steamer of to morrow continues good and bars are scarce and high.

The Arizona correspondent of the *Republican* says: "Advices from Sonora state that Capt. EWELL has met with complete success in his interview with Governor PESQUIERA, the latter agreeing to allow Capt. STONE to continue his survey without interruption. He also states that PESQUIERA has resigned in favor of the JUAREZ Government, and refers the whole matter to the latter for confirmation. Capt. POSTER celebrated the event by a ball on board the St. Mary's, in the harbor of Guaymas, and there was a general rejoicing among the Americans at the result.

The News by Telegraph.

Magnetic Telegraph Offices, No. 43 Wall street, and Astor House, main entrance.

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS—Senate.

Washington, Dec. 12.—On motion of Mr. DAVIS a resolution was adopted appointing a committee to wait on the President, and inform him that the Senate was ready to receive communications, in order that he may have opportunity to send nominations and executive business, previous to the organization of the House.

On motion of Mr. BROWN it was resolved to proceed with the election of Chaplain on Tuesday next.

Mr. IVERSON said that he had been misunderstood by the *Constitution* newspaper, in a remark made the other day about the Democratic party, when he said he believed the Democratic party, if not corrupt were at least corruptible. He did not accuse them of complicity or sympathy with JOHN BROWN, but simply wished to say that on the question of territorial rights of the Southern people, a great portion of the Northern Democracy are unsound. This was a vital question to the rights and interest of the South, and on this question he believed that a large portion, if not the whole, of the Northern Democracy are unsound. He believed, and the Southern people believed, that under the constitution they had a right to emigrate to any of the territories with their slave property, and when there have a right to the protection of the law in the enjoyment of that property, and Congress has the power to give such protection, and it is its duty to do it. It cannot be disputed that it is not the position of the Northern Democracy, at least that portion of it who follow DOUGLAS. They deny the power of Congress over the subject; they deny that Congress can exercise jurisdiction so as to give that protection. They say that the power belongs to the people of the territories themselves in their territorial form, and that when a sufficient number of people go into a territory to form a political community, they have complete power to regulate the subject of Slavery as they please, and that neither Congress nor any other human tribunal has power to interfere. He contended that position was as unsound.

Mr. BIGLER, was surprised to hear the remarks of the Senator the other day. He thought he did the Democratic party of the North great injustice, for he seemingly used strong language, and went on at some length, to say they were as rotten and corrupt on this subject as the Republican party. Mr. BIGLER would tell him that such a declaration had no foundation in fact. Not only have no portion of the Democratic party sympathized with BROWN, in his atrocious onslaught upon Virginia, but as little do they sympathize with abolitionists. He was gratified with the Senator's disclaimer, as far as it went, but justice required him to declare that the Northern Democracy had labored day after day in season, and out of season in defence of the rights of the South.

Mr. IVERSON—I said that very thing in my remarks, but in the other case I referred to the portion of the Democratic party which, under the lead of Mr. DOUGLAS, has denied the rights of the Southern people.

Mr. BIGLER said the Senator from Georgia could hardly realize how the expression of the rottenness of the Democratic party fell on his ears. At the North, Democrats were called doughfaces, because they stood up for the rights of the South. There were different opinions among Democrats with regard to the question of territorial rights, and he would not say they would all agree with Mr. IVERSON; but they had no sympathy with the abolition party, and every Democratic paper in the country has denounced JOHN BROWN's raid. His own opinion on this question was this:—we don't claim that the Constitution establishes slavery or prohibits it anywhere, but the Constitution expressly declares, that the States are perfectly equal, and provides that new States shall come into the Union on terms of perfect equality with the old States. It is not denied that the territories are the property of the States in common, and Congress is simply their trustee. It is upon this principle of perfect equality, equity and justice, that these owners have an equal right to the occupancy and enjoyment of a territory, so long as its territorial existence remained. He believed the common law of this country, with the fugitive slave law, would afford all the protection the owners of slaves would require in any territory; whenever it is alleged that the territorial Legislature had transcended its legitimate authority to the detriment of private rights, that is a question for the judiciary, and when the judiciary give judgment in such a case, the whole power of the federal government must be employed to carry out the law thus defined. It is simply that broad doctrine of allowing the people of a territory to exercise just that authority which they may exercise under the constitution and law; when a dispute arises as to whether they transcend their authority, that is a question not for Congress, but for the courts. Holding that opinion, I don't believe I am an abolitionist, nor those I represent. I dont seek in any way to disturb the rights of my Southern brethren. He could not sit still under such imputations as the Senator has hurled on the Democratic party without telling him that it had been done injustice. The Northern Democracy has stood like a bulwark between the South and the Abolitionist. Break us down at your peril!

Mr. PUGH was glad Mr. IVERSON had made this explanation. He would give notice that on some convenient occasion he would have something to say on the subject.

After some remarks from Mr. PUGH, Mr. JOHNSON (Tenn.) then proceeded to discuss Mr. MASON's resolution, replying to Mr. TRUMBULL's defence of the Republican platform. He denied that Congress possessed any sovereign power over the Territories. Its powers were merely those given by the States and Constitution. He asked Mr. TRUMBULL what he would do with the black population when it goes into the Territories? Would he let free colored people who emigrate there have an equal footing with the white population? Let us reduce their theory to practice, and see how it will operate.

Mr. TRUMBULL explained that it was an abstract truth that all men were created equal, but when we come to form governments and organize society, all persons don't have equal rights. The assertion in the Republican platform, as copied from the Declaration of Independence, was merely the enunciation of a great national truth.

Mr. JOHNSON asked him if Arizona were colonized and filled up altogether with free colored people, would he be willing to admit it as a State upon an equal footing with the other States of the confederacy?

Mr. TRUMBULL answered that he did not believe the black and white races could live happily and peacefully together, enjoying equal rights, without one dominering over the other; and, therefore, he advocated the policy of separating those races, by adopting a system to rid the country of the black race as it becomes free.

Mr. JOHNSON then proceeded to show whence JOHN BROWN's foray originated, and read extracts from JEFFERSON's works and other documents, showing that both the elder ADAMS and JOHN QUINCY ADAMS contemplated the idea of dissolving the Union. JOHN ADAMS refused to contribute to an institution of learning in the Southern State, because when the Union would be dissolved it would not be in his section.

Mr JOHNSON criticised Mr. SEWARD's Rochester speech. He spoke eloquently on the defence of the Union, and said he would rather see this country involved in hostilities with every country on the face of the earth, than engaged in a civil or servile war. He then went on to show that amount JOHN BROWN in strong terms as a horse thief and murderer in Kansas, and he was surprised to hear Mr. DOOLITTLE apologise for him the other day.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said he made no apology for justification of JOHN BROWN's acts. The people of the North have no sympathy for his crime, but many sympathise with the individual himself.

Mr. DAVIS reported that a Committee had waited on the President, who had informed them that he would send in an executive communication to-morrow.

House of Representatives.

Mr. KILGORE said that on consulting with his friends, he found that they were almost unanimous in a wish to proceed with the ballot in order to bring about organization. The Administration was almost without money as well as without friends, and he wanted to provide for the former. He wished to tell the gentlemen on the other side, that the Republicans will not shrink from the discussion at the proper time. They would debate the question which had been introduced until all parties were satisfied; and he would take the first opportunity to examine the condition of things at the North and South. They had been informed that there would be a dissolution of copartnership. He wished to examine how the account stood and who has been doing wrong.

Mr. MAYNARD said they had been engaged a week and taken only three votes for Speaker. Much of the time has been occupied, as in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, discussing a question necessarily incident to the attempt to effect an organization. They had seen the bad consequences of neglect of organization in the interruption and disturbance coming from the galleries, without a presiding officer to preserve order. Under these circumstances, he offered a resolution, that the oldest member of this House, by consecutive service therein, be appointed Chairman till the House elect a Speaker.

Mr. KILGORE objected, on the ground that the resolution was not in order. Several other gentlemen also objected.

Mr. MAYNARD referred to precedents in support of his resolution, and showed that JOHN QUINCY ADAMS was once appointed chairman till a Speaker could be elected. His proposition was simply for the preservation of the order, dignity, and self respect of this body, while the eyes of a great nation and the world were on the representatives of the people. Mr. STEWART, of Maryland, said it was necessary there should be a comparison of views, while at the same time the order and dignity of the house should be preserved. National men had voted for Mr. BOCOCK, while the candidate of the Republican party was unsupported by members from the Southern States. The latter were standing on a sectional platform, and how could it be expected that a Southerner would give those gentlemen their support. Mr. BURNHAM had signed a recommendation of HELPER's book, which would stick to him like the shirt of Nessus. He never could consent to vote for the adoption of the plurality rule. The union meetings at the North amount to nothing. They are a delusion, unless accompanied by corresponding healthful action.

Mr. KILGORE asked him, whether he was not in favor of the majority ruling?

Mr. STEWART replied, he was, but under the limitation of the Constitution.

Mr. KILGORE inquired, whether, if Mr. SEWARD should be elected, the candidate of the Democrats would consider that a sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union?

Mr. STEWART replied, that whenever the Republican candidate would submit to be catechized, that question would be answered on the other side.

Mr. KILGORE said, he has answered.

Mr. STEWART remarked, he was not Mr. BOCOCK's organ, and therefore could not say what he would do.

Mr. KILGORE said, if Mr. BOCOCK answered the following questions to his satisfaction, he might vote for him, namely:—Are you in favor of Congressional legislation protecting slave property in the Territories? Are you in favor of popular sovereignty in the Territories, and its right to admit or exclude Slavery therefrom? Mr. KILGORE was ready to answer these questions for his candidate.

Mr. STEWART replied, the Democrats were acting on broad national grounds.

Mr. HASKIN proceeded to pay his respects to the newspaper, the *Constitution* of this city, which he said was the home organ of the President. A rumor, he said, assigned to the President and Attorney General BLACK the writing of editorials for that paper. BROWNE, whose name appears as editor, was not a relative of JOHN BROWN, who was a truthful and a brave man, but was an imported Englishman, who for several years, was a penny-a-liner of the *Journal of Commerce*, which was started by LEWIS TAPPAN and other original Abolitionists, the support of which the Administration purchased by its patronage, and which was also sustained by the patronage of merchants in the Southern trade. Mr. BROWNE, in 1858, took the stump in opposition to his (HASKIN's) re-election, and made a speech in the town of Morrisania, and the effect of it was, in that largely Democratic town, a majority of 2 4 votes for him (HASKIN)

He emphatically and indignantly denied that he had entered into a combination to elect FORNEY Clerk and SHERMAN Speaker, as alleged, and vindicated himself from the charge that he had been false to his pledges. He stood by the doctrine of non-intervention, and for that reason objected to the resolution of Mr. CLARK, of Missouri, which reopened the slavery agitation before the organization of the House, and excited the country throughout its length and breadth. He was charged with being actuated by motives of revenge against the Administration, because, it was said, the President would not let him control certain federal patronage. He would reply to the President himself, that he never asked him for the appointment of a single man to office, and only recommend those whom his colleagues had recommended, and he believed they were appointed. The charge was as malicious as it was infamous. In reply to Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, he said, that with him (HASKIN) an organization under this administration was an instrument of tyranny and proscription. He denied that any organization there was a test of his Democracy. He recognized the Cincinnati platform as affording a test of Democracy, but not a Congressional caucus, and what the President can make and unmake

The *Constitution* said he favored the election of FORNEY as Clerk. He admitted himself FORNEY's friend. There could be no more effective rebuke of the administration's extravagance, proscription and fanaticism than the election of FORNEY, who did more than any other man to give PENNIMAN to Mr. BUCHANAN, and who helped in 1856 to place the seal of condemnation of that consummate wealth on its old favorite son by a majority of 70,000. He had been challenged to prove the administration guilty of corruption, and when the House organized, he trusted a committee would be appointed to make investigations. There were corruptionists in the Fort Sterling and New Bedford property cases, in the supplies for Utah, and in the Pensacola speculation, by which last the government sustained losses, and rendered us ridiculous forever. He referred to this connection to coal agents and past office blunders. As to old JOHN BROWN, there were not a thousand men in the Free States who justify his act of infamy. He had heard nobody defend it, hanging him. He was elected as an independent man. He sympathized with Mr. DOUGLAS, and would not vote for him if he was present.

Mr. HOUSE said that there were men who were retained upon the final abolition of Slavery, and proceeded to discuss the relative powers of general and State governments.

M. HICKMAN continued at some length in explanation of his position, and then, without taking a vote, the House adjourned.

Mail and Telegraph to San Francisco.

Malloy's Station, Mo., Dec. 12.—The telegraph line is now completed from Malloy's Station on the Butterfield Overland California Mail route. This station is on the Ozark Mountains, eighteen miles north of Springfield, Mo., and 250 miles from St. Louis. The operator here will receive dispatches up to the evening of the second day after the departure of the Overland Mail from St. Louis, and send them forward, either direct to parties in California, or to the Eastern end of the telegraph line on the other side, which is now finished for two hundred and fifty miles this way from San Francisco. The dispatches will be telegraphed from that point to their destination. The Overland Mail leaves St. Louis every Monday and Thursday morning. The tariff from St. Louis to Malloy's Station is one dollar for ten words, and ten cents for each additional word.

Municipal Election in Worcester.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 12.—Our municipal election to-day, resulted in the choice of Hon. W. W. RICE, Republican, for Mayor. The full board of Aldermen elect and a large majority of the Common Councilmen are also on the Republican ticket.

Election of J. C. Breckenridge to the U. S. Senate.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 12.—The Legislature to day elected Hon. JOHN C. BRECKENRIDGE U. S. Senator from this State, in place of Hon. JOHN J. CRITTENDEN, by 29 majority, on joint ballot.

Acquittal of Henry Jumpertz.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—HENRY JUMPERTZ, who has been on trial for the last twenty days, for the murder of SOPHIE WEMUM, whose remains were found in a barrel at the Hudson River Railroad depot in New York, in the spring of 1856, was acquitted today.

Post Office Robbery and Arrest.

Augusta, Geo., Dec. 12.—D. PALMER, Jr., from St. Louis, an ambrotypist, robbed the Post office at Athens, Ga., on Friday, and attempted to fire the building. He was arrested, and confessed his guilt. The money and stamps stolen have been recovered. PALMER is in jail.

ABOUT 100 rafts came down the Delaware last Fall. Among the number was a mammoth raft, shipped by THOMAS BARNES, 195 feet long, 62 feet wide, and drawing 3½ feet water. The raft was manned by eight men, and was composed of the following timber: 8,000 railroad ties, 6,000 hoop poles, 35,000 feet of joist, 108,000 feet wharf timber, 2,500 feet tie timber, 10 ship knees. This is the largest raft, and drawing more water, than ever before came down the Delaware.

CITY NEWS.

FIRE IN WORTH STREET.—Yesterday afternoon, at 3½ o'clock, an alarm for the Eighth District was given in consequence of fire among a large quantity of coal, in the coal yard of SAMUEL S. THORP, Jr. No. 105 Worth street. A large number of fire apparatus responded to the call, but were ordered away about 5 o'clock, by the Chief Engineer, and after that hour the steam engine "John G. Storm," was fired up and brought to the fire. The steamer put two large streams on to the fire, and it was thought would have it out by this morning. The loss will probably amount to about $600, and not insured. The coal yard adjoining the rear portion of the store of Messrs. PEMBER, BAMS & Co, No. 340 Broadway, and it is supposed the fire was caused by their hot air furnace flue. The fire was first discovered on Friday last, and two hydrant streams were thrown upon it, until it was presumed the flames were extinguished, but the fire reappeared yesterday afternoon as above stated.

ANOTHER RIDICULOUS ELECTION BET.—Before the late municipal election, a bet was made between NICHOLAS SCHENK and J. W. COU, on the result of the contest, Schenk betting on Mr. HAVEMEYER's election and Cou on Mr. WOOD's, the loser to walk barefoot, preceded by music, from the St. Nicholas Hotel to the Astor House, or else pay a forfeit of $300. The pedestrian portion of the bet, if chosen by the loser in preference to the forfeiture of the $300, was to be performed yesterday afternoon at half past one o'clock. The neighborhood of the St. Nicholas at that hour, was densely crowded—omnibuses were stopped by the multitude and their roofs used as observatories, notwithstanding the earnest protestations of the drivers. Lamp posts were covered, awning frames supported scores of people, and a great degree of excitement prevailed. Precisely at the appointed time, Mr. SCHENK made his appearance, preceded by a drum and fife, and was greeted with loud cheers and roars of laughter. He had previously offered $100 to be released, but the winner of the bet held him sternly to the "pound of flesh" required by the contract. Mr. S. was preceded by a body of about two hundred friends, marching two abreast, and on reaching the end of his pilgrimage the drum and fife performers were dismissed, and he was placed in a carriage, which rolled quickly away amid the shouts of a multitude of not less than five thousand persons.

CITY MORTALITY.—The number of deaths in this city for the week ending the 10th inst, were 411, being an increase of 30 over the previous week. Of this number 86 were men, 87 women, 119 boys, 125 girls. Adults, 167, children, 244, males 199, females 212, colored persons 7. The principal diseases were, apoplexy, 7; bronchitis, 9; congestion of the brain, 7; congestion of the lungs, 10, consumption, 70; convulsions infantile, 22; croup, 20; debility, adult, 6; debility, infantile, 7; dropsy in the head, 13; scarlet fever, 27; typhoid fever, 8; heart disease, 9, inflammation of the brain, 12; inflammation of the lungs, 32; inflammation of the stomach, 3; marasmus, infantile, 20; measles, 6; palsy, 5; teething, 7; causes not dependant on climate or season, 37; violent causes, 19. Ages, 1 year and under, 106; 1 to 5, 109; 5 to 10, 15; 10 to 20, 15; 20 to 30, 35; 30 to 40, 39; 40 to 50, 35; 50 to 60, 38; 60 to 70, 19; 70 to 80, 14; 80 to 90, 4; 90 to 100, 1. Nativities, United States, 295; Ireland, 67; Germany, 25; England, 9; Scotland, 6; British America, Holland, 2 each, and France, Prussia, South America, Sweden, West Indies, 1 each. At the public institutions, 42.

LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.—A lecture was delivered in the Cooper Institute last evening, by Capt. JOHN MASON, on the History of Scotland. About five hundred persons were in the Hall, and at 8 o'clock the Caledonian Club, in full Highland costume, entered the room, marching to the shrill tones of the bagpipe. They were seated on the platform, and Capt. MASON was introduced. The lecturer commenced by remarking that all the earlier histories of nations of great antiquity were, to a great extent, fabulous. It was so in Scotland, whose earliest reliable history was from the year 839 A. D. These early records were gathered by an industrious historian who embodied them in the *Scottish Chronicle* in the year 1418. It appears that Scotland was originally settled by a small body of Grecian warriors, who were driven from Athens to Egypt, from thence they went to Spain, from Spain to Ireland, and from thence to Scotland. The speaker then traced rapidly the history of Scotland from that time down to the invasion of the country by the Romans, who found the Gaelic warriors their most formidable enemies. From thence down to the tragic history of MACBETH the speaker's progress was rapid. Through the stirring scenes preceding WALLACE's daring exploits, the lecturer passed on to EDWARD's struggle and the religious strife of the Reformation.

THE BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES of the Fire Department, last evening held their annual meeting at the Firemen's Hall, in Mercer street. Mr. DAVID MILLIKEN, in the chair. Mr. JONAS A. PHILLIPS presented the annual report of the Trustees, which was read by the Secretary and ordered printed. It was then resolved to adjourn two weeks from Wednesday, to hear the report of the Committee on Fire Warden law, and also to tender the thanks of the assemblage to Mr. MILLIKEN, who had declined renomination, for the faithful discharge of his duties during the past three years he has held his office.

The Board elected the following officers for the ensuing year:—Mr. WM. A. WOODHULL, of Hose Co. No. 36, President; WM. D. WICKHAM, of Hook & Ladder Co. No. 18, Vice President; Mr. CHAS. L. CUMMS, of Hook & Ladder Co. No. 4, Secretary; Mr. JOHN S. GILES, Treasurer. This gentleman has now filled the office for the past eighteen years. Mr. DAVID A. TEBALL was re-elected Collector; and Messrs. JONAS A. PHILLIPS, A. F. OCHSENBAUMBER and GEO. F. NESBEY, were chosen Trustees for the next three years.

FUNERAL OF MRS. FERNANDO WOOD.—The funeral of Mrs. FERNANDO WOOD, was attended yesterday morning by Mayor TIEMANN and the members of the City Council, who, at half past ten o'clock proceeded in carriages from the City Hall to the residence of the Mayor elect, in Bloomingdale. When they reached the house there were fully five thousand persons in and about it, most of whom were members of political organizations which had done service in Mr. WOOD's behalf, in the late campaign, and charitable and other societies which sympathized with him in his affliction. One club present, the "National Volunteer Association," wore, besides the usual badge of mourning, a white rose and green leaves, emblematic of the truth and purity of the deceased. Among the prominent personages, officials and others present, were—Mayor TIEMANN, General Superintendent PILSBURY, ex-Chief of Police MATSELL, Col. ALEXANDER BENS, THOMAS W. MCMAHON, Judge RUSSELL and lady, Dr. SAYRE and lady, Police Commissioner BAILEY, Gov. P. G. MOLONY, Mr. J. B. AULD, D. T. VALENTINE, Clerk to Common Council; CHAS. T. MCCLENNAHAN, Clerk to Board of Councilmen; HENRY ARCULARIUS, A. V. STOUT, WM. COVERTY, H. WARDELL, Hon. JOHN WHEELER, Member Congress; Hon. RICHARD SCHELL, Hon. JAMES GREEN, Hon. JAMES J. ROOSEVELT, Hon. HENRY E. DAVIES, Hon. JOSIAH SUTHERLAND, ex Sheriff WILLETT, JAMES T. SOULTER, CHARLES O'CONNOR, STEPHEN P. RUSSELL, JOHN M. HARMONSON, JULIUS JOHNSTON, a number of ex-Aldermen and Councilmen, and a majority of the acting members of the Common Council.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. Dr. TYNG proceeded to read the burial service of the Church of England, and afterwards to deliver an impressive address. He alluded feelingly to the loss so recently sustained by the family of deceased, and prayed that God's love might be the comfort of the desolate household. He had for ten years known, in his pastoral capacity, the character of deceased, and felt himself justified in speaking of her as a woman of rare truth and devotion, and a bright example to her family. Her last request was that her infant might be dedicated to God, a request which was complied with that morning. She was, he said, a model wife and mother, and whose loss left a void in the desolate home which nothing else could fill. During all his long acquaintance with her, he (Dr. TYNG) had only learned to respect her more and more, for her eminently christian virtues, and these virtues had left their marks in the lives of her children. To the bereaved husband, her memory would be, amid the cares of office, like a placid evening star, leading him on to an incorruptible inheritance. He concluded by an earnest exhortation to his hearers to ask themselves "what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world but lose his own soul," and prayed that the love of God might on this sad occasion, comfort the afflicted, and sanctify them for a better inheritance.

After the conclusion of the burial services, the friends were allowed, one by one, to pass through the room, and gain a last view of the deceased. This occupied over an hour and a half. At two o'clock, the procession was formed in the following order:

Lewis H. Lent, Undertaker.
Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D.D., and other Clergy in Carriages.
Pallbearers.
A. V. Williams, M. D., and others in carriages.

PALL BEARERS.

Hon. Josiah Sutherland,	Hon. James J. Roosevelt,
Hon. Henry E. Davies,	Hon. Gilbert Deane,
James Soulter, Esq.,	Charles O'Conner, Esq.,
James C. Willett, Esq.,	Stephen P. Russell, Esq.

SIDE BEARERS.

Six carriages with mourners.