THE NEW YORK SUN.

SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 24, 1859.

The Debates in Congress.

THE debate in the House of Representatives, yesterday, took a more lively and interesting turn. Mr. FARNSWORTH, speaking for the Republicans, brought out views which show distinctly enough where parties stand. The Republicans are opposed to slavery, not only as regards the extension in new territory, but to its existence in any part of the Republic. The Southern Democrats defend the institution, but they profess allegiance to the laws prohibiting the African slave trade, and repudiate the charge that, as members of the Democratic party, they are in favor of re-opening the condemned trade.

So far have the debates, preliminary to the organization of the House, brought us. We begin to see where Southern men actually stand. They are, in heart, for the Union, for the Constitution, and for the maintenance of the laws passed under the Constitution. Yesterday's debate shows that "the impending crisis" is past. Southern representatives speak of the dissolution of the Union only as a possible and distant contingency. The South will not make the endorsement of slavery, or the re-opening of the African slave trade, test questions in the next Presidential campaign. It will not present these questions as tests of Democratic faith at the Charleston Convention.

The Republicans, on their part, while avowing their Anti Slavery sentiments, declare themselves opposed to any violent or unconstitutional interference with the domestic institutions of the South. Thus the lines are plainly drawn, and the conflict of parties can go on without danger to the Union. It is, for the present, safe.

Helper and his "Impending Crisis."

IT appears that HELPER, whose book has been so extensively advertised by the debates in Congress, is a recent convert to Abolitionviews. In 1855 he published a book called "The Land of Gold," and dedicated it to Hon. JOHN M. MOREHEAD, of North Carolina. What he thought of Slavery then may be gathered from the following extracts:

"Slavery can never fulfil its destiny, until it introduces negro slavery; nothing but slave labor can ever subdue its forests or cultivate its unimbedded land. * * May we not safely calculate that negro slavery will be introduced into this country before the lapse of many years? We think so."

"Louisiana and Texas may at some future time, for in the future, find it to their interest to adopt the white slavery system of the North."

"They are to the same situation as their brethren in New York and Massachusetts—slaves to no single individual, but to the entire community. Like free negroes every where else, they inhabit the worst parts of the towns in California, and live commonly in characteristic filth and degradation."

"It is true that on their arrival here (in California), they (slaves) have the power of claiming their freedom; but such is their attachment to their masters that this is rarely done. Instances have occurred in which they have been enticed away by meddling Abolitionists, but, disgusted with a freedom which was of no value to them, they have been eager to return again to their masters."

We have, as a general rule, little faith in converts or perverts either in politics or religion; and the importance which has been given to HELPER's last book, by the debates in Congress, only exposes the insanity and folly of the men who represent the country in its national legislature. Who cares what HELPER writes, either for or against the institutions of the South? An electioneering pamphlet or book is unworthy the attention of men charged with the care and great interests of the Union.

The News by Telegraph.

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

THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.—Senate.

Washington Friday, Dec 23.—Mr. PUGH introduced a bill relative to the Louisville and Portland Canal.

Mr. DAVIS introduced a bill to provide for a temporary Government, and to create the office of Surveyor General for the Territory of Arizona; also, a bill directing the manner in which the testimony of certain judges of circuits may be taken for the use of United States Courts. Executive Session, after which the Senate adjourned till Tuesday.

House of Representatives.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, being entitled to the floor, said that he was willing to give way for a motion to proceed to vote.

Mr. BURNS and other Democratic members objected, insisting on Mr. FARNSWORTH either proceeding with his remarks or abandoning the floor altogether.

Mr. FARNSWORTH said he made the proposition in good faith. He did not desire to pass any impediment in the way of organization. He and his Republican friends had been for a nearly three weeks, anxious and anxious to vote for a Speaker. They had no disposition to discuss the slavery question now, but would wait till an organization was effected. He spoke for himself, and did not want the Republican party held responsible for his utterances. He said they had been met here with speeches and resolutions in regard to HELPER's pamphlet and a speech of Gov. SEWARD. Those things were turned in their face with a threatened dissolution of the Union on their accession, and it was even threatened here that if a Republican Speaker be elected, the Union will be severed instantly. He proceeded to read from the Richmond *Enquirer*—a leading Democratic paper, edited by Messrs. RITCHIE, PRESTON and DUNKERSWAY—of June 1857, and May and June, 1858, to show that that journal had uttered "irrepressible conflict" doctrines, and pronounced free society a failure; and had said that a war between the two systems will rage everywhere until the one conquers and the other is extermination. Mr. SEWARD, he said, never uttered "irrepressible conflict" doctrines half so strong as that Senator HAMMOND, he added, had presented similar sentiments in regard to such a conflict. He denied the authority of any members holding him responsible for endorsing HELPER's book. It was none of their business. He read such books as he pleased. There was nothing in his part of the country which would lead him to restrict free discussion and criticism. He proceeded to arraign the Democratic party for endorsing a book called "Black Liamonia," written by Mr. BALLARD, of Virginia, and caused to be read various resolutions in its favor, adding that the writer advocates the going into Africa and seizing and deceiving the natives to gain their consent to be shipped to this country by the middle passage, as apprentices, and after getting them here to induce them to live in perpetual bondage. The writer admits it would be an infraction and a violation of the laws of the United States, but justifies it by the necessities of the case, and that the Union could be preserved only by this so-called conservative policy. Is this the sentiment of the Democratic party?

Mr. GROW—I reciprocate the re-opening of the slave trade. Now, will you speak out and say whether you endorse HELPER's book.

Mr. FARNSWORTH would like to ask Mr. MILLS the question whether he endorses those sentiments.

Mr. MILLS replied he most heartily, utterly, and from the bottom of his heart deprecated any evasion of the law. (Applause.) He recognized the higher law of conscience and honor, which compelled him to obey the Constitution.

Mr. FARNSWORTH wanted to know whether he was in favor of re-opening the trade by a repeal of the laws.

Mr MILLS replied that he was not prepared to say whether he was in favor of re-opening the slave trade at some future time; but as the laws of the land forbid engaging in the traffic, he believed it useless to discuss the question so long as the South remains in the confederacy. No man there believed in the present union. The slave trade can be re-opened legally, and no one advocates re-opening it illegally. He should like to ask Mr. FARNSWORTH whether he was in favor of the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law.

Mr. FARNSWORTH replied he would answer that question by and by.

Mr. REAGAN remarked that he had come out of the convention on that issue and was opposed to the re-opening of the slave trade, in or out of the Union, and in favor of law, order and justice, now do you endorse the doctrines of HELPER's book? Answer like a man. [Applause.]

The Clerk checked the manifestations.

Mr. STANTON felt it his duty to say for himself and those he represented, that so far as HELPER's book admires serviceable insurrection, he utterly abhorred and detested it. There were not as many men out even the Penitentiary of Ohio, who would tolerate it for a moment.

Mr. KILLOGG expressed his gratification at the turn the discussion had taken. He thought it could now be said, that his colleague could proceed with his remarks. He knew his colleague would be frank and plain.

Mr. BOWMAN said the act of 1820 which characterized the slave trade as piracy, was a blot on the statute book and ought to be expunged; but he knew of no party in the South in favor of having the law of 1820 repealed. There was no considerable part of the South or the Democratic party who agitated the question of re-opening the trade. It can never be done in the parliamentary. As to whether he was in favor of re-opening the trade at a future time, he had not reflected to say.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—Does the gentleman endorse the sentiments in the book to the "Democrats" for the revival of the slave trade by law?

Mr. BOWMAN—It is immaterial. I do not stand in the presence of one who endorses the violation of any chapter law.

Mr. FARNSWORTH asked Mr. MILLER whether he endorsed the sentiments?

Mr. MILLER—As an individual I am in favor of re-opening the trade, but this is not the position of the Democratic party in Mississippi or any other Southern State. He was, however, for the faithful execution of the laws as they stand, against the reopening of the trade.

Mr. FARNSWORTH did not think such a design could be charged upon Democrats any more than that they had changed that the Republicans entertain Brown.

Mr. MILLER believed he was the only member of Democratic party in Mississippi, who entertained that opinion.

Mr. FARNSWORTH asked Mr. CRAWFORD if he endorsed the re-opening of the slave trade as recommended in "Black Diamonds."

Mr. CRAWFORD replied that he had never read that book.

Mr. FARNSWORTH asked whether he was in favor of re-opening the Slave trade.

Mr. CRAWFORD replied that under a particular state of circumstances he would, but at present he opposed it as did the Democratic party of Georgia.

Mr. FARNSWORTH said it had been asked whether he endorsed Helper's book. He had never read it entirely, and had never seen a copy till it came to the House. So far as any page in that book could be fairly construed into recommending insurrection and emancipation of slaves by violence, he did not endorse it. He was, however, in favor of the publication of such doctrines as lead to peaceful emancipation. He thought some passages of that book badly expressed and worded, and that they could not be justified. But so far as that book quotes the language of JEFFERSON, MADISON, MASON, LEE, HENRY, PINCKNEY, and other great lights of the Revolution, he endorsed it. So far as slavery exists in the States, he did not believe in the constitutional power to legislate concerning it.

Mr BURNS called attention to the fact that it was only this morning that he read a copy of a letter to Gov. WISE, stating that some abolitionists in Chicago had actually been in correspondence with persons in Ohio and the New England States, to go to the rescue of old John BROWN.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—Will you give the name of the writer of the letter?

Mr. BURNS—If I had it I could not give it, for the letter might have been confidentially written. The gentleman had said that there was not one of his constituents who would make a raid in Virginia, and hence I referred to the fact of such a letter being written.

Mr. FARNSWORTH replied that the letter might be a hoax.

After some further colloquy on this point, Mr. LEHMAN said he always had been opposed to the reopening of the African slave trade. He was in the Senate when Mr. SEWARD announced the doctrine which had such a startling effect on the South, that as soon as this anti institution shall pass away the Abolitionists would get control to overthrow Southern institutions, and remodel the Supreme Court, so that its decisions should be against the interests of the South. Mr. SEWARD said he expected that in his lifetime there would not be the foot of a single slave on this continent. While Mr. SEWARD uttered this as his deliberate opinion, his form dilated, and his pale face was expressive of hard and malignant passions, and his eyes glared as if the fire of hell were burning in his breast.

Mr. FARNSWORTH (earnestly): God grant that I, too, may see the day when the foot of a slave will not rest on this continent.

Mr. BOWMAN (in his seat): You'll never see it.

Mr. FARNSWORTH said it was the wish of WASHINGTON—it was the doctrine of the men who made the Republic, and of the men who will continue the Republic's existence. But this did not endorse the raid of JOHN BROWN. As to the Fugitive Slave law, he and his people would not pursue the fleeing negro. They would leave that dirty work to others. He asked whether any Southern gentleman was willing to turn out and chase a fugitive slave? He understood that in the part of Illinois called Egypt, the people catch black men, and instead of advertising them as runaways, advertise for their masters.

Mr. LOGAN (who represents Egypt) said that any imputation that his constituents violate the law, was false. It was right that such runaways should be arrested.

Mr. FARNSWORTH explained; saying that he spoke for a large number of Republicans. Not one of them would step out of his way in pursuit of man, woman or child, for the purpose of restoring them to slavery. But in saying this, he did not say that they would place themselves in resistance to the fugitive law. They would pursue a course such as has been suggested—of masterly inactivity. He believed the fugitive slave law unconstitutional, and inhuman in some of its provisions; but neither himself nor his party would offer armed resistance to it.

Mr. BALLARD SMITH—The constitution provides for the rendition of fugitive slaves, and to the extent that you will not obey it—to that extent you violate your oath to support the constitution.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—You mistake; the constitution does not provide that I should render up fugitive slaves.

Mr BARKSDALE: It provides for a rendition and you as a citizen of this country are bound to carry it out, and unless you do it you are a traitor. (Applause; especially in the galleries.)

The Clerk stated that having been clothed with power to enforce order, he should, on the next manifestation of applause, direct the Sergeant-at-arms to clear the galleries.

Voices: "Do it now."

Mr. FARNSWORTH referred to an editorial in the *States and Union* of this city, in which, he said it was stated, that the election of Mr. SHERMAN would be a sufficient cause for the dissolution of the Union. This he understood was the DOUGLAS organ.

Mr. ADRAIN stated that so far as his knowledge extended, it was not the organ of Mr. DOUGLAS, and did not speak for him.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—It claims to speak for Virginia.

Mr. BOYKIN.—Virginia is here to speak for herself and she can speak for herself.

Mr. FARNSWORTH defended the Republican party from the charge of sectionalism. He had no fears for a dissolution of the Union; it had been said so often that the people had got used to these threats. If the Union was to be dissolved, he hoped they would do it during the administration of Mr. BUCHANAN, so that the disgrace would not attach to a Republican administration. Let the Democrats elect whom they please, the Republicans will submit, and when they get into power, the Democrats must submit. A Republican administration will try to take care of the Union, and will take care of the purse.

A Voice—"I have no doubt you will." (Laughter)

Mr FARNSWORTH—If we squander any more money than JAMES BUCHANAN has, God grant that we may never elect another Republican President.—(Renewed laughter.) Dissolve the Union because a majority of the people of the United States, in a constitutional and peaceful manner, elect a man President of the United States! Great God! what an idea that is. What is the intent of this government? what the use of a constitution?

Mr. MILLS—It is to restrain majorities.

Mr. FARNSWORTH.—The Constitution has never provided that the minorities shall rule majorities. Dissolve this Union! What are you going to do with it? Have you never read BROWN's novel, "What will he do with it?" Are you going to divide the Mississippi river? If so, how much are you going to give us? Ain't you going to let our boys float their rafts down? What are you going to do with "Yankee Doodle?"—divide that too. (Excessive laughter). What part of the Fourth of July are you going to give us, and what will you take? What are you going to do with the grave of Washington, and those of the men of the Revolution, who fought side by side with him in the battles of the Revolution? Dissolve the Union! For God's sake, don't let us hear any more of this miserable cry about dissolving the Union. These men who fill the galleries, *claquers* for disunion sentiments, don't they know that if the Union is dissolved these marble palaces will become the habitation of bats and rats will become stone quarries, where marble will be cheap? You might as well talk about dissolving the Revolutionary hills, as dissolving the Union. (Laughter.)

Mr. ENGLISH sent to the Chair the proceedings of a public meeting in Chicago, expressing sympathy with JOHN BROWN, to show that Mr. FARNSWORTH's statement of that matter was incorrect.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—I designed to say that no person sympathized with the objects BROWN had in view.

Clerk read the proceedings.

The Clerk read them.

Mr. ENGLISH remarked that such a meeting having been held in Chicago, it was eminently proper that the Republicans should select that place to hold their national convention.

Mr. FARNSWORTH referred that it was just as proper for the Democracy, having endorsed the sentiments of CALHOUN, to select Charleston as the place for running the old Democratic machine into the ground.

Mr. MCCLERNAND said JOHN WENTWORTH was the founder of the Republican party in Illinois—their *Jupiter Tonans*—and, in his paper, he classes JOHN BROWN with KOSCIUSKO, GARIBALDI, and other heroes.

Mr. FARNSWORTH replied that it was true that WENTWORTH had been an efficient worker in the Republican party, but it was unfair to hold the Republican party responsible for the sentiments of any one man, especially when we only have an extract from an article, without the context. The South Carolina Legislature had had a resolution before it for the appropriation of $300,000 to buy arms, on the ground that federal relations are now closely dissolved between the North and South. He might with the same propriety charge that on the Democratic party.

Mr. LOGAN read an account of a Republican meeting, held in AURORA, Illinois, sympathizing with BROWN.

Mr. WILLIAM SMITH, of Va, obtained the floor, but yielded it for a personal explanation to Mr. NELSON, who denounced certain statements in the *States and Union* newspaper, as wilful and malicious falsehoods. He had hitherto taken no notice of the matter, deeming it better to tolerate lies—courses than to restrict the freedom of the press. He stated that his speech had been highly commended in various States by American and Democratic, as well as Republican newspapers.

Mr. GARTRELL hoped Mr SMITH would permit a vote to be taken for Speaker.

Mr. SMITH consented, claiming the floor for to-morrow.

After a call of the House, a ballot was taken, with the following result:

Whole number of votes	219
Necessary to a choice	107
SHERMAN	108
MILLSON	85
GILMER	27
BOCOCK	19
Scattering	10
	68

Adjourned.

Union Meeting at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 23.—A Union meeting was held here to-night, and it was attended by from 400 to 500 persons.

Resolutions were offered denunciatory of the Fire Eaters of the South and the Fanatics of the North, and proposing as a remedy for the present evil, to rally around the Constitution and the Union.

A substitute was then offered, declaring that this meeting is inopportune and unnecessary, which the majority favored.

There was much confusion throughout the proceedings, and the meeting separated in disorder to the music of a full band.

The falling of the platform with many gentlemen upon it, was among the incidents.

Marine Disaster.

Wood's Hole, Mass, Dec. 23.—The brig Mechanic, FRANKLIN, from Crosse Island for Portland, with oats, went ashore yesterday at West Chop, and remains there this morning.

Fire.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—LUTHER ROLLS' carriage establishment, in this city, was destroyed by fire last night. A number of carriages and buggies were consumed. The fire was the work of an incendiary. The loss is insured in the Southern Mutual Company.

From Washington.

Washington, Dec 23.—A Postal Convention has been executed between the Postmaster General and the Minister of Belgium, establishing a regular exchange of correspondence in closed mails, between the United States and Belgium, to be conveyed via England once a week, or oftener, and in intermediate, as far as practible, with the regular sailing of the Angl-American steamers. The single rate for letters and samples of merchandise is limiting in the United States, and destined for Belgium, or vice versa, is fixed at 27 cents; of which, pre-pay ment is optional in either country. There are also provisions for printed matter. The transmission of closed mails under this Convention is to commence on the 21st of January next. Provision is also made for the direct exchange of mails between the two countries by means of direct lines of mail steamers, which may hereafter be established between the United States and Belgium, at the combined single rate of 15 cents for each letter or packet not exceeding half an ounce in weight, and pre-payment being optional.

The difficulty between Senator JOHNSON, of Arkansas, and Representative HINDMAN, which it was supposed a few days ago would lead to a hostile meeting, has been amicably settled through Messrs. TOOMBS and BOCOCK.

The Hon. Judge MASON, of Iowa, late Commissioner of Patents, has become connected with the *New York Scientific American*.

The Augusta *Constitutionalist*, of the 21st, says that the Medical College of Georgia has resolved to invite Southern students at the North to finish their course of instruction there free. A bill has passed both branches of the Legislature of South Carolina, suspending, till June, 1861, the law requiring one dollar in specie to be in the vaults of the Banks in the State to every dollar in circulation.

Washington, Dec 23—In the Democratic Senatorial caucus to-day, after a full discussion of the charges against General BOWMAN, of the *Constitution* newspaper, he was nominated as Printer to the body, by a vote of 26 against 5.

The Senate in Executive Session to-day confirmed the following nominations: N. B. BROWNE, Postmaster at Philadelphia; ISRAEL T. HATCH, Postmaster at Buffalo; Mr. VARNUM, Postmaster at Cincinnati, and Mr. BUNNER, Commissioner of Patents.

The indications are that there will be no quorum in the Senate until Tuesday week, the 27 of January, and consequently it is not probable that the President's Message will be communicated prior to that time.

Mr. BARING and several others of the most prominent bank-ers in London have made a joint appeal to the British Cabinet, to recognize the constitutional government of Mexico. Lord JOHN RUSSELL appointed the 6th of December for an official interview with these gentlemen, and it was believed that the British Government would favorably listen to the appeal.

The Legislature of Virginia, by a joint resolution, has accepted the flag presented that commonwealth by the citizens of Philadelphia, receiving it as a renewal of the evidence of his heroic donors' devoted patriotism.

The vote for Speaker to-day, showed that Mr. SHERMAN, as heretofore, lacked 4 votes of an election. Fifty others votes were scattered among 24 gentlemen, none of whom received more than 8 votes, and 14 of them only 1 each.

Col. DAVIS and staff have arrived here with a large amount of ordnance stores on the way to Richmond. Only one company remains on guard at Charlestown, Va. Quiet is entirely restored.

Arrival of the Overland Mail.

Malloy's Station, Mo., Dec. 23.—The Overland mail with San Francisco dates to Dec. 3d, arrived at this station at half past eleven o'clock on Tuesday night. The news is unimportant.

Union Meeting at Newark.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 23.—In response to an extensively signed call, a large and enthusiastic Union meeting was held here this evening. Mayor BUSHLOW presided. The resolutions were comprehensive and soundly Democratic. They were unanimously passed. Eloquent addresses were made, deprecating agitation, by Messrs. T. F. FRELINGHUYSEN, WM. K. MACDONALD, GARRETT D. WALL, and other distinguished citizens of New Jersey. A great number of letters were received from prominent public men by the Committee.

A Monster Cannon.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 25—A monster cannon for the Government was cast this morning at the Fort Pitt foundry, under the superintendence of Lieutenant Rodman, and was a complete success. It weighs over thirty-five tons and is called the Floyd. The metal is from the Bloomfield furnace and Messrs. KNAPP & WADE were the contractors.

Murder at Sea.

Boston, Dec. 23.—WM. HARRIS steward of the ship Gold Rein Sultan, has been convicted in the U. S. District Court at Salem, of the murder of Capt. EDWARDS, a passenger on the voyage home.

Execution.

Harrisburg, Pa, Dec. 23.—HULSINGER, the negro, convicted some time since of the murder of his wife, was executed this morning.

New Publications.

HISTORY OF PETER THE GREAT. *By Jacob Abbott.* With engravings. New York: HARPER & BROTHERS.

The name of the author is a sufficient guarantee of this work. It is written in his usual attractive style, and will prove a source of deep interest to our young friends particularly.

HARPY'S SUMMER IN ASSOCIOT. With illustrations. New York: HARPER & BROTHERS.

Parents will find this a valuable book to put into the hands of their children. From it children will learn many lessons that will be of value to them in after years.

We have received the December number of Blackwood. New York: LEONARD, SCOTT & Co. Also, Fireman's Almanac for 1860. DEXTER & Co., New York. Also, Daily Memorandum Book and Almanac for 1860. FRANCIS & LOUTREL. The Annual Report of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for 1859 is published.

THE Geographical Society of Paris has just proposed a prize of 6000f. to the first traveller who shall perform the journey from Algeria to Senegal, *vice versa*, passing by Timbuctoo.

A LETTER has just been received in Glasgow from Gen. GARIBALDI, of which the following is a translation: "I charge you to present to the generous sons of Scotland, in the name of Italy, the most warm sense of gratitude for their chivalrous demonstration of sympathy to the cause of our country. I pray you to assure them that if an eminent grade has been offered me by the magnanimous VICTOR EMMANUEL, I have thought better than to accept."

"BARON DE MENEVAL, French Minister at Munich," says the *Nord*, "has resigned his post. This diplomatist, not being able to overcome his grief at the loss of his wife, is about to proceed to Rome, where, after a certain time of preparation, he will enter into holy orders."

THE family of Prince CZARTORYSKI, the Polish emigration, and indeed, the whole of Poland, has suffered a painful loss by the death of the Princess ANNA SAPIEHA mother-in-law of Prince ADAM CZARTORYSKI. This noble lady breathed her last in Paris on the 26th of November, in the 86th year of her age.

THE *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa publishes two documents found in the archives of Bologna, and referring to acts of the Government before the war in Italy. In the first, Cardinal SACRATI gives orders that the political prisoners shall be removed to distant and unhealthy localities; and in the second, Cardinal PISTOLA directs that the bastinado shall be employed as a means of correction for children sent to prison on a charge of vagrancy.

THE *Univers* says it is intended to erect a splendid altar at Cologne, to contain the precious relics of DUNS SCOTUS, the great champion of the doctrine of the immaculate conception, which are preserved in one of the many churches of that city. A. M. SCHARZ has given 40 000 halers towards the work. On the original monument of DUNS SCOTUS was the well-known inscription—"Scotia me genuit; Anglia me suscepit; Gallia me docuit; Colonia me tenet."

CITY NEWS.

FIRE IN CLARK STREET.—Yesterday noon a fire broke out in the basement of the tenement house near of No. 7 Clark street. The alarm was given for the Third District, but some citizens and the police extinguished the flames before the firemen arrived. The flames originated in the department of John LYNCH. It appears that the wife of Mr. LYNCH went out to make some purchases, and left two children, aged respectively three years and sixteen months, locked up in one of the rooms, and she had not been away but a few minutes before smoke was discovered issuing from the room, and on the neighbors breaking in the door, they found the eldest child burnt to a crisp. It is supposed the eldest child went too near the grate, setting its clothes on fire.

FIRE IN EAST TWELFTH STREET.—An accidental fire broke out at 9½ o'clock last evening, in a row of frame stables in the rear of No. 293 East Twelfth street. The stables owned by PATRICK MCGINN, valued at $200, were destroyed. The loss to hay and feed was about $200. At the time the fire broke out, there were in the stables, fifteen horses, owned by carmen, and they were all saved except four, valued at $450, owned by John MCGINN, JOHN BEARN, WILLIAM BURNEM AND PETER COTLIN. There was no insurance either on the horses or stables. The fire was caused by the carelessness of one of the tenants giving him the stables with a lighted candle.

FIRE IN SEVENTH AVENUE.—The frame building No. 18 Seventh avenue, owned and occupied by EDWARD HOQUARD, was damaged by fire yesterday morning between 10 and 11 o'clock.

UNION CHAPEL.—At the recent Tea Meeting given by the ladies of this congregation, their pastor, Rev. H. MATTESON, was presented with a testimonial consisting of $600 in cash.

DEATH OF ANOTHER POLICEMAN.—JOHN BEARN, a patrolman of the 7th precinct, died of small pox on Thursday, and was buried yesterday. He leaves a wife and three children unprovided for, and the sum of $343 was contributed yesterday by the officers of the 7th Ward to provide relief for their present necessities.

DEATH OF CAPT. A. C. MARSHALL.—We regret to announce the death of Capt. A. C. MARSHALL, one of the oldest and most experienced sea captains of this port. Many years of the life of Capt. MARSHALL were spent in the employ of the Old Black Ball line of packets. He was a brother of CHARLES H. MARSHALL, Esq., the well known shipping merchant of this city. His funeral takes place to-day from his late residence in Monroe Place, Brooklyn.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.—Last evening an old German gentleman, named J. R. RINGE, called at the Police Head Quarters with a small plain box, which he stated had been received by him yesterday afternoon, and which on being opened was found to contain portions of a human skull. The box was marked

JOHN R. RINGE,
15 Delancy street.
(Care of H. STRAUS), New York.
(Adams' Express).

In pencil mark there was "$1 06," marked on it, and that amount was collected by the person who brought it it to 15 Delancy street. The skull was apparently quite old and dry, and between the eyes it was of a greenish color, as though it had been painted. There was no express label on the box. Mr RINGE is quite an old gentleman, and is unable to understand English, and through his interpreter he stated to Deputy Superintendent CARPENTER that he knew no person who would send him anything of that kind in the way of a joke.

ELECTION OF AN ASSISTANT ENGINEER FOR HARLEM.—The returns of votes from the different Fire Companies for an Assistant Engineer for the Harlem District, were received at the Chief Engineer's Office last evening. The following is the result:

J. A. MCCOSKER	1,610
W. T. MAWHET	1,409
Majority for Mr. MCCOSKER	201

THE WHOLE NATION.—The first *Union Ball* of the season in our metropolis, took place last night, with unusual and perhaps unprecedented splendor, at the Lafarge Hotel. Gentlemen or ladies were present, we were informed, from every State in the Union.

A statement has been made to the effect that Police Superintendent FIREBURY has been engaged for several days in making up the Annual Report of the Albany Penitentiary, of which, it is alleged, he is still the Superintendent. The report is probably without foundation.

SOME time since, we noticed the invention of a new style of revolver, calculated to fire twelve shots from six barrels. The inventor was a gentleman named WALCH. Since then, a Mr. LINDSAY has produced a new application of the same principle, in the shape of a single barreled pistol, carrying two loads, one above the other, as in the twelve shooter. The balls used are shaped like the former pistol, and of the same weight as the Derringer arm, so that there is, in fact, a double Derringer in a single barrel. The cost is but little over half that of the Derringers, as sold in pairs.

COUNTERFEIT 5's, on the Wooster Bank, at Danby, Ct., were out last night.

Inquests, Accidents, &c.

A BRAKEMAN KILLED.—WM. HINMAN, 19 years of age, brakeman on the Hudson River Railroad, accidentally fell between the cars on Friday morning, while they were in the vicinity of Stryker's bay, and was instantly crushed to death. His body was brought to the 31st street Depot of the Company, and Coroner GARNER there held an inquest upon it. Verdict, "Accidental death."

BURNED TO DEATH.—ELLEN LYNCH, a child 4 years of age, was burned to death on Friday afternoon, at the residence of her parents, No. 7 Clark street, her clothes having, as supposed, taken fire from a grate, while she was alone with an infant sister in the room. Coroner O KEEFE held an inquest upon the body.

An inquest was held by Coroner SCHERMERHORN, at No. 249 East 13th street, upon the body of MARGARET SMITH, a child six years old, who died from burns received on Saturday last. The child, it appears, was running the film with her dress when the flames commenced to lick the dress, and she was soon enveloped with them, and totally burned.

FATAL RESULT OF A FALL.—Coroner SCHERMERHORN held an inquest on Friday, at 237 Third avenue, upon the body of MARTIN BRENNAN, a native of Germany, 60 years of age, who died from paralysis induced by injuries received on Monday, by accidentally falling backward into the cellar of his residence, as above.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—SAMUEL COMPTON, a well-known butcher of Fulton market, while riding on the platform of a 4th avenue car, last evening, accidentally fell off when in Grand st, near the Bowery. The car passed over his body, and he died in a short time. An inquest will be held to-day.

Police Intelligence, &c.

ROBBING A THIEF.—JAMES MOONEY, a registered, about 16 years of age, was arrested on Friday, charged with breaking open a trunk in the house of Mr. EMMERINE, in 43d street, near 10th Avenue, and stealing therefrom $79 in bank bills. The accused, it is alleged, was seen by a son of Mr. EMMERINE in the act of robbing the trunk, and when the latter threatened to inform his mother, Mooney choked him and then ran off. The prisoner was brought before Justice QUACKENBUSH, who locked him up to answer.

LARCENY BY A SERVANT.—MARGARET VANDERMOSS, a servant in the employ of Mrs. BLANCHARD, of No 266 West 34th street, was arrested on Friday, charged with stealing a gold watch and chain valued at $65, from her employer. The accused, who is said to be an old offender, was locked up by Justice QUACKENBUSH to await examination.

FEMALE PICKPOCKETS CAUGHT.—Detective RADFORD watched for some time, yesterday afternoon, the well-known female pickpockets, named MARGARET COURTNEY, and BRIDGET CASSIDY, who were in Broadway. Eventually, the officer detected them in the act of picking the pocket of a Mrs. VANDERMUTE, who was looking in the window of Maillard's Saloon, near Houston street. They were then arrested, and on the person of MARGARET COURTNEY, the Officer found Mrs. VANDERMUTE's pocket book, containing $69 68. The pickpockets were locked up at the Police Head quarters.

We have been shown affidavits made by Messrs. BROOKS & STRAIN, whose names were given as having complained of Mr. THOMAS MONAHAN for keeping a disorderly house. These gentlemen deny the genuiness of their signatures to the complaint, so that the complaint against Mr. MONAHAN seems to be the malicious work of unknown parties.

COMMUNICATION.—*To the Editor of the Sun:* In your issue of the 21st inst., I see myself misrepresented. Under the head of *Police Intelligence*, you stated that a man by the name of GUSTAVE FACHOLERI (which shld read TUCHOLERI) was arrested. Please correct by stating that I, on that day, had the man George Brown alias CHARLES KEARY, arrested in one of the East Broadway Omnibuses for committing larceny at my premises, on the 21st day of March, 1858, for which he was held on strong bail, and never heard of since, until this week, when I had him re-arrested. By stating these facts in your valuable paper, you will put my character right before my friends and the community at large.

Respectfully yours,
GUSTAVE TUCHOLERI, 297 Division st.

Commissioners of Police.

The following facts were furnished yesterday to our reporters as being the business transacted at the secret session of the Board of Police:

The widow of John STEWARD, of the First Precinct who was killed at the Broad street catastrophe, was placed on the pension list, and will receive $128 annually, being the interest on $2,560.

The resignation of patrolman W. H. BURNS, of the Third Precinct, Brooklyn, was received and accepted.

Mayor TIEMANN submitted the following resolution:

"That the Board of Police appoint none others than the members of the old force to damp one the number of patrolmen fixed by the late resolution of the Supervisors."

The resolution was passed by the following vote: —*Affirmative*—Mayor TIEMANN and POWELL, and Commissioners BAILEY and ULSHOEFFER. *Negative*—Commissioners BOWEN, STILLMAN and SCHERMERHORN.

The following members of the municipal police were then appointed on condition that they would resign all claims for back pay: R. COUGHLIN, WM. MCGRATH and D. MCGUIRE, of the Sixth Ward; D. MAHY, F. WAGNER, J. VAN BRUNT, GEORGE S. BURROWS, J. B. TOWNS, T. DUNCOMB and LEROY T. CLARK, of the Seventh Ward; J. L. MCCULLOUGH and JOHN W. BLEDSOE, of the Third Ward; JOHN T. WEBB and PETER MCINTYRE, of the Twenty first Ward; A. B. MOONEY, M. D. UNDERHILL and T. MORRAM, of the Twentieth Ward; G. JACKSON and J. L. DOWNES, of the Second Ward; J. TUCKER, Eighth Ward; J. MCDONNEY, Seventeenth Ward; T. D. CORSTVET, Fifth Ward; W. C. HAYNES, Sixteenth Ward; JOHN FLYNN, Fourteenth Ward; and T. CHANNEL, Eighteenth Ward.

The Board then adjourned.

LEGAL REPORTS—TERMS.

Supreme Court.

The Matter of Secret Service.—David Rowan vs. the Mayor, &c.—This is the new proceeding out of the celebrated investigation into the affairs of the Police Department, by the Board of Aldermen in 1857. As will be remembered, the Committee of the Board who conducted the investigation, was assisted by Alderman Belger, and the counsel employed was Benedict, now Secretary and Executive Officer to the Gov. In that investigation the Committee and the Board also, thought it necessary to have Counsel, and accordingly a resolution of the Board authorized the Committee to employ it. The Corporation Counsel did not feel inclined to serve, although he was requested by the Board to do so, and the Committee employed Mr. Alderman Nash to assist them in their onerous labors. Mr. Nash served, and sent in his bill for $681, which was not at once responded to, whereupon he assigned the bill over to the plaintiff, who brought suit to collect it. On the trial in the court below, the counsel, Mr. Platt, claimed that he was called upon and invited to act as such counsel, by Messrs. Benedict and Briggs, thereby showing that he was entitled to his pay, having been engaged by the committee acting under a resolution of the Board. On that ground the defendants obtained a verdict in their favor. The plaintiff then appealed to the General Term, contending that the city could hereafter employ other counsel than the Corporation Counsel, although he was elected and paid for such services, if it became necessary. The matter was argued at the General Term at great length, and now that Court renders the following decision, affirming the judgment of the Court below: "The Act of 1849 having declared that all the law business of the Corporation shall be transacted by and conducted by the 'Law Department,' and that the head of that department shall be elected by the people, and that by the Common Council, the resolution of the Common Council authorizing a Committee of Aldermen to employ counsel not so elected, without limit as to number or expense, 'as in their judgment should be required,' was illegal and void; and the employment, by the Committee, of Mr. Alderman Nash, and other counsel, under it, created no charge upon the city, and no cause of action, unless against the individual members who violated the law. The judgment against the plaintiff, must therefore be affirmed with costs. In case of proceedings against the Law Department itself, the Statute provides that they shall be conducted by the District Attorney of the County, under the direction of the Governor of the state."

The Law of Assignment. James Holroyd vs. William Platt, Et al.—The parties in this action were originally partners in the hardware trade in Pearl street, and the suit was brought by the plaintiff to get aside an assignment made by the defendant. He alleging that the property assigned by the defendant was partnership property, and belonging to said firm; that the firm was greatly indebted (its liabilities being about $60,000,) and that those debts ought to have had priority of payment out of said property; that Platt had made preferences in the assignment for the benefit of some of his individual creditors. The defence was, that the plaintiff had no interest or right in the property assigned that the firm had been dissolved prior to the assignment, by mutual consent. Holroyd having, sold all his interest to one Cheesman, who, subsequently, with Platt, divided the property in severalty; that the portion received by Platt had thus become his own individual property, and was assignable to whomever he chose to prefer.

Messrs. Carpenter and Beach proved to have the assignment cancelled; whereupon the case was referred, and the referree reported in favor of the defendant; that the assignment was valid, and he entitled to judgment; and now on motion by A. S. Sullivan, the report of the referree was confirmed and judgment ordered for defendant.

Decree Clements vs. Clements—Report of referree confirmed, and judgment of divorce granted.

Court of General Sessions.

But two cases were tried to-day. The first was that of Patrick Kirby, charged with a felonious assault, with intent to kill. Two little girls, named Ella and Adeline Wood, were picking coal on the Delaney street dock, when Kirby, who is a canal boatman, fired a pistol at them, to scare them. Little Eva received a wound from a ball, which confined her to her bed for twelve days. The defendant stated that he did not intend to injure the child, that he held the pistol so as to discharge it in the air, and that the ball fell upon the child. He was convicted of simple assault, and recommended to the mercy of the Court. As he had already been three weeks in the City Prison, he was sentenced to ten days more in the same establishment.

Edward Netherouit was convicted of grand larceny, and remanded.

The Grand Jury were discharged for the term. They made a brief presentment, stating that they had acted on 140 cases, a very large proportion of which were of minor character