The Sun.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1870. PRICE TWO CENTS.

WINDING UP THE WAR.

King William's Grip on the Throat of France.

PARIS MUST SURRENDER.

The Smashing of Paladines's Army.

THE TERROR OF THE FRENCH AT TOURS

The Seige of Paris—Ducrot and Trochu Again Penned up—The Capitulation of the City Expected within Three Weeks—Further Details of the Great Sorties.

LONDON, Dec. 6—10 o'clock A. M.—Transmission of the President's message and Mr. Boutwell's report eastward is just concluded, and the cable lines will now be able to accommodate other business. The telegraph lines connecting with Orleans gave out on Sunday, and the lines communicating with Tours were cut by the Prussian cavalry on Monday afternoon. Communication with Tours, partly by carriers, has, however, been reestablished.

The losses of the Germans have been exaggerated.

THE END AT HAND.

Minister Washburn's secretary writes from Paris that according to his information, the French have been beaten at all points but one, and the end is apparently near at hand. The capitulation of Paris will in three weeks is locked for. There have been no cases of starvation reported, although provisions are scarce and dear. Prominent members of the Provisional Government are accused of swindling by means of fraudulent contracts for arms and food

DUCROT DRIVEN BACK.

A despatch from Tours states that the Prussians were attacked at Villiers and Champigny, and after a fight that lasted about six hours the French were compelled to fall back without having accomplished their object. An attack by the Prussians on Fort Nogent was unsuccessful.

DUCROT AGAIN BEHIND THE MARNE.

DRESDEN, Dec. 5—Evening.—The King of Saxony has received a telegram from Prince George to the effect that the enemy retired the day before behind the Marne, and that other offensive movements on the part of the besieged were impossible. He gives the total loss of the Saxons in the late engagements as follows: Officers, 76; rank and file, 2,130.

DUCROT REPORTED KILLED.

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—A despatch from Versailles, dated Monday, announced that an officer was sent from the King's headquarters upon Monday, Dec. 5, into Paris, with a letter to the Government, stating that the city of Orleans had been captured by the Prussians; that the Army of the Loire under Gen. de Palladines had been routed, and had lost thirty guns and several thousand prisoners. Gen. Ducrot is supposed to have been killed in the retreat across the Marne, upon the southeast of Paris.

DUCROT WITHIN THE FORTIFICATIONS.

TOURS, Dec. 6.—On the night of the 3d Gen. Ducrot bivouacked at Vincennes [within the French fortifications]. Up to that time he had taken about 400 prisoners.

TROCHU'S PROCLAMATION.

Evening.—A balloon from Paris brings copies of a bulletin by Gen. Trochu, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Paris, issued upon the 2d instant. Gen. Trochu adverts to his previous proclamation, announcing the sortie by Ducrot and the indecisive fighting of Tuesday and Wednesday. He then states:

"Upon Friday, December 2, the Prussians in enormous force attacked the French positions at Champigny and Brie-sur-Marne, which had been captured previously from the Prussians, but the Prussians were repulsed. The French then returned the Prussian attack and carried the Prussian positions. The Prussians, however, continued to mass troops in overwhelming numbers from the northeast, south, and southeast, encircling the bends of the Marne, and closing in upon Ducrot. Upon Saturday morning, Dec. 3, Gen. Ducrot recrossed the Marne at Point Tremblay, and opposite Champigny, removing the bridges, and concentrating his forces in the woods of Vincennes, in order to give effect to further operations."

THE SEINE FILLED WITH FLOATING ICE.

Another balloon from Paris has lately landed in this neighborhood. It brought dates from the beleaguered city to the 4th inst. The news received previously of the favorable state of affairs in Paris is fully confirmed. The carrier pigeons sent from Tours with the messages of the Government were arriving regularly.

The cold continues intense. The river Seine was full of floating ice. The *morale* of the troops was excellent. The Mobiles and National Guards fought bravely in the sorties on the 29th and 30th of November. The troops were actively employed in healthful exercise.

THE ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

How the Prussians Smashed Paladines' Army—The French Official Reports—The Prussians Making the Whole French Nation Prisoners of War.

TOURS, Dec. 6.—The official reports of the battles near Orleans show that the Prussians attacked each *corps d'armee* separately in greater force, thus repulsing the left of the Army of the Loire, and turning Orleans so as to render the evacuation of the town necessary.

M. Gambetta has issued a circular to Prefects, saying the situation of the army is good. Heavy reinforcements of artillery are arriving, and the forward movement will soon be resumed. The Opposition are attempting the circulating of false rumors to discourage and demoralize; but their assertions may be confidently denied.

FORTY MILLIONS OF PRISONERS.

Yesterday the right wing of the Army of the Loire had successful engagements with the Prussians near Montargis.

The Prussian Prefects of the departments occupied by the invaders have issued decrees that all men between the ages of 18 and 40 years will be considered as prisoners of war, and that they will be shot if they endeavor to escape. In spite of this decree great numbers manage to escape to the French lines, filled by the people, where they enlist in the French ranks.

There are no signs of the Government leaving Tours.

PALADINES COURT-MARTIALED.

Dec. 5—*Evening.*—The Government is in receipt of numerous despatches from Gen. D. Aurelles de Paladines. He announces that his retreat was completed in good order. He lost neither munitions nor provisions. There is much dissatisfaction with the General for having evacuated Orleans; and in order to give him an opportunity to defend himself, the Minister of War has charged three commissioners to inquire into the matter.

EXODUS FROM TOURS.

A great number of citizens have left Tours, fearing an attack by the Prussians. Most of the journals have also been removed to places of safety. The Government, however, has thus far evinced no intention of leaving.

THE OLD STORY.

Dec. 6—Gen. D'Aurelle de Paladines retreated from Orleans with a force believed to be two hundred thousand strong. He had five hundred cannon. The Government authorities wished him to remain at Orleans and receive the Prussian attack, but they are way to the General's opinion that the place was untenable. Subsequently, the General fought to the utmost, but was powerless to effect anything. At half past 11, the Germans demanded the evacuation of the city, threatening to bombard it in case of refusal. The Prussians captured but few prisoners, and no ammunition.

EVERYTHING AT SEA.

The Committee of Defence are uninformed as to the movements of the Army of the Loire. Their proclamation is considered as a charge of incapacity or treachery against Gen. D'Aurelles de Palladines. Upon evacuating Orleans the French spiked their batteries and destroyed all their war material. The army retired across the Loire. Gen. D'Aurelles de Palladines is bitterly assailed and denounced upon all sides.

THE LONDON STORY.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Despatches from Tours, dated Dec. 5, state that the Government is in receipt of a number of despatches from Gen. Paladines. He announces that the retreat was conducted in good order; he lost neither ammunition nor stores.

Though the removals from the city are numerous, including all the newspaper offices, the Government shows no intention of leaving.

THE OCCUPATION OF ORLEANS.

DRESDEN, Dec. 6.—The city of Orleans was evacuated by the French at five o'clock this morning.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The occupation of Orleans by the Prussians is confirmed.

THE ARMY OF THE NORTH.

Rashness of Two Prussian Officers—The French Troops again on the Move.

LILLE, Dec. 5.—Yesterday, two Prussian officers appeared before the town of Peronne, in the Department of Somme, and demanded its surrender. They alleged that a Prussian army corps was encamped in the rear of the town. They were promptly arrested and locked up. The railway to Albert will be restored at once. A great movement of troops is in progress at Lille.

PARIS AND ITS POSTAL SERVICE.

Letters Reduced by Microscopic Photography, and Sent by Carrier Pigeons—The German Earthworks Greatly Injured by Rains—The Manufacture of War Material Going on Briskly.

We have received the Paris *Lettre Journal* of the 16th and 19th of November. The following is a synopsis of some of its contents:

The Parisians have invented a new method of rendering more efficient the postal service by the photographic system. According to this method, four questions are allowed to be asked in a letter from Paris. These questions must be answered by the receiver, "Yes," or "No." These questions are numbered in their proper order, and the answers must be sent in precisely the same order.

To prevent confusion in this matter, the Post Office Department has prepared little printed cards called *dépêche reponse* to be inclosed in the letters, and upon which correspondents abroad can place their answers in the proper columns. The postage of the *dépêche reponse* is fixed at one franc. The inhabitants of the departments are also permitted to send to Paris by this same process despatches of not more than fifty words at the rate of 50 centimes (about ten cents) a word, and they can also send money orders for sums not exceeding 300 francs by paying 3 francs in addition to the original charge. These despatches and orders must be brought by the sender to the nearest post office where the agent in charge sends them to the agent of the Paris Chief Postmaster at Clermont-Ferrand where they undergo

THE PROCESS OF MICROSCOPIC PHOTOGRAPHY,

and are sent by carrier pigeons or by balloon to Paris. Of course it is impossible to guarantee regularity of transmission of the mails by this curious process; but the authorities are doing their best to secure for the people of Paris all the benefits expected to be realized by the experiment. The simple answers "Yes," or "No," will doubtless prove a great satisfaction to poor people in the provinces who cannot afford to pay for despatch letters to their friends in Paris; but this cheap method will hardly be resorted to by persons able to pay for despatch letters, on account of the errors which must frequently occur in the numbering of the questions and answers.

On the 12th of November the French occupied Creteil, which they placed in a state of defense. On the 13th, Capt. Neveriée, an officer under Gen. Ducrot, captured with a small body of men a German patrol. The German soldiers resisted desperately, and five or six of them

WERE KILLED WITH BAYONETS.

All the unmarried men, from the ages of 25 to 35 have been called into active service in the department of the Seine. The earthworks of the Germans have been greatly injured by rain, and many of them totally destroyed by the heavy rains. Some of the wives and families of soldiers belonging to the landwehr are said to have entered the German camps before Paris.

The work of making cannon and mitrailleurs goes on with extraordinary activity. Private gun factories are exclusively engaged in aiding the Government arsenals in the manufacture of ordnance. One house alone, that of Cail, has never less on hands at a time than fifty or sixty cannon and seventy mitrailleurs, and of this number it manages to turn out from eight to ten cannons a day. Six thousand ladies are constantly engaged in making cartridges. They complete eight hundred thousand of these daily. The forts keep up incessant fire upon the enemy. Sorties on a small scale are of almost daily occurrence, and are said to be generally attended with success.

Measures have been taken by the Government for the revictualing of the city. An agent has been sent into the provinces to purchase large quantities of supplies, which are to be sent into Paris at the earliest opportunity. The supplies still remaining are plentiful.

The articles in the *Lettre Journal* upon the present situation of affairs are full of confidence.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Khedive Preparing an Army of 100,000 Men—Getting Ready a Russian Fleet for the Black Sea—Turkey will Accept a Conference.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The feeling of insecurity caused by the demand of Russia relative to the Paris treaty has almost entirely vanished.

THE KHEDIVE ARMING.

It is reported by telegrams from Alexandria that the Khedive of Egypt will be prepared within a few days to arm one hundred thousand men with breech-loaders.

A RUSSIAN FLEET FOR THE BLACK SEA.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 6.—Immediately after the publication of Prince Gortchakoff's note to Earl Granville, private subscriptions were opened here for the purpose of building a fleet to operate on the Black Sea. The *Regierungsbote* ("Government Messenger," official newspaper) published an editorial saying the scheme was not necessary, as the defences were secure, and this was a time of peace. It is understood the subscriptions have been prohibited by the Government.

TURKEY AND THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—A despatch from Constantinople announces that the Sublime Porte has signified his willingness to accept a conference for the settlement of the questions raised by Russia relating to the Black Sea, provided the discussion is confined exclusively to this topic.

The Alabama Deadlock.

Ex-Gov. Smith of Alabama, who still holds the executive chamber, was summoned to appear before Judge Smith, of the Circuit Court, yesterday, to show cause for withholding the books and papers and other State documents from Gov. Lindsay. At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon Smith appeared in court. Pending the argument the Court adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning, the Judge ordering the Sheriff to take possession of all the state property mentioned in the warrant of arrest until the Court meets.

Marshal Sharpe's Special Deputies as first-class Burglars.

Henry Leo's store at 433 Canal street was robbed of over $1,500 worth of furs some nights ago. Capt. Charles McDonnell yesterday captured Myer Stolf, James Reed, and Richard Jones. They all acknowledged their guilt. Reed said he was a clerk, Jones claimed to be a cartman, and Stolf (with a wink at the officer) said he was a *house agent.* Papers found on Reed and Jones showed that they were deputies of Marshal Sharpe on election day.

The Newest Fraud.

Nicholas Conlan has been semi-officially connected with the Corporation Attorney's office for two years, although he has had no appointment. His principal occupation has been the levying of blackmail on his own account. He called upon merchants, exhibited a deputy marshal's badge, and extorted money for permits to block up the sidewalk with goods. Messrs. Hayes & Lee, of 320 Seventh avenue, who had been thus swindled by Conlan, entered complaint, and he was yesterday sent to State Prison for three years. This conviction came of an exposure which was made by one of THE SUN'S reporter's.

The New Senator from Alabama.

MONTGOMERY, Dec. 7.—In the joint convention to-day Goldthwaite, Democrat, received 65 votes; Warner, Republican, 50; and Haralson, Republican, 14. Goldthwaite was declared elected. One Democrat was absent on account of sickness, and two Republicans did not vote. Goldthwaite has been Judge of the Circuit and Supreme Courts, and is an able lawyer. He has been a citizen of Montgomery over forty years. The disabilities of Goldthwaite, Senator elect, were removed by act of Congress.

Fun in the General Sessions.

District Attorney Fellows (questioning a witness in the General Sessions)—What is your name?

Witness—Henry Weston.

Fellows—Are you the great pedestrian, Mr. Weston?

Witness (excitedly)—No, sir; I never made a failure in all my life.

The Railroad Highwaymen.

John Peck and William H. Ballard, who had been arrested on a charge of robbing emigrants on the Hudson River Railroad cars in this city, were committed to prison yesterday by Justice Cox in default of $400 bail. Peck was once a policeman.

THE GREAT COAL STRIKE.

THIRTY THOUSAND MEN THROWN OUT BY THE MONOPOLISTS.

Suspension throughout the Anthracite Coal Region—Enormous Stock of Coal on the Market—The Capitalists' Conspiracy to Raise the Price of Coal in the City.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 7.—Following the course of the great coal strike, after a hurried visit to Hyde Park and Pittston, I arrived here this afternoon, and found the Executive Committee of the Luzerne county miners in secret session. The debates have not been made known; but sufficient has been gleaned to verify my despatch of yesterday, notwithstanding the declaration of the agent of the Associated Press at Scranton. The news of the action of the Grand Council who were in session at Hyde Park yesterday has had the effect predicted by THE SUN. Fourteen hundred men stopped work at Pittston this morning on learning the facts. The largest coal company in this part of the State is the Delaware and Hudson Canal Coal Company, which owns and works eighteen mines in Luzerne county. Five of these mines are within a radius of one mile from the Court House of Wilkesbarre. They employed over

EIGHT THOUSAND MEN,

not one of whom is at work. This Company reduced the wages forty-five cents per car for mining coal, and forty cents a day for laborers. Hence the suspension of work all over the anthracite region, as fast as the other companies announced similar reductions. This suspension was exactly what the Company wanted, as they knew that the men would strike, and relieve the employers of the responsibility of discharging workmen at this season. From the best attainable sources I find that the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company has on hand between Philadelphia and New York the enormous amount of nearly 250,000 tons of coal. So long as the coal market remains glutted, there can be no resumption of work in the mines, because the companies will not pay good wages while their black diamonds sell at ruinous prices. The Wilkesbarre Coal and Iron Company owns eight mines, and works

THREE THOUSAND MEN,

all of whom have struck. The Avondale mine, four miles distant from this place, is idle. Eight hundred men informed the Superintendent of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Company that they affiliated with their brethren, as likewise did two hundred employed in B. B. Hillman's mine, two hundred and forty in the Bowkley mine, and about two hundred in the Mineral Spring mine. The Shickshinny mine was abandoned to-day, and

VIOLENT THREATS

have been made that unless the men employed in the three mines owned by J. H. Swoyer join the strikers violence may result. Thus will another thousand men be added to the aggregate of strikers, which now numbers over thirty thousand.

Some idea of the amount of coal shipped may be imagined from the fact that during the week ending November 23, 232,976 tons of coal were shipped by rail and canal from the carboniferous regions of Pennsylvania. It is but fifty years since the first shipment of coal in the United States. Then 365 tons supplied the city of Philadelphia; and in 1828 6,000 tons supplied the whole seaboard of the United States. Now the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company alone, when working their full force, turn out for shipment

TEN THOUSAND TONS OF COAL

a day. No doubt is expressed that the strike will become general, and that there will be no resumption of work before next spring. The miners are comparatively well off. As a rule they can subsist a whole winter without work, and the laborers who are members of the Benevolent Union will not suffer, as they will draw a weekly allowance from that institution. A well informed miner, member of the Executive Committee, informed me to-day that there was over a quarter of a million dollars in the treasury, and that rather than go to work at the rates offered they will sacrifice their last dollar and die of starvation. Their determination can better be imagined than described. Their conduct so far is unexceptionable, and although this town is full of strangers from the neighboring mines, the same spirit pervades all.

BUT VIOLENCE WILL RESULT

if any miners or laborers when officially informed of the strike continue to work. The citizens here do not sympathize as much with the people at Scranton; for it must be remembered that all the news in this region derive their whole support from the mines and miners. As long as the strike continues the beautiful Lehigh, Lackawanna, Wyoming, and Susquehanna valleys will be surrounded by shapeless mills of untold wealth, valueless to the country, and of no interest to the tourist except as relics of the time when they were fathomed to incredible depths by workmen who lived one-half their lives in the bowels of the earth. This state of affairs has alone been brought about by the

WEALTHY MONOPOLISTS,

who would not be better pleased than to see coal selling at a fabulous price in New York and Philadelphia, regardless of the suffering which must inevitably ensue.

Other counties take action to-morrow, and the step taken by the Grand Council at Hyde Park will be approved, and the whole coal region of the State will be at the mercy of the forty thousand miners and laborers who have been forced to suspend work at the opening of winter, because their employers value their labor in proportion to the price of coal.

10:45 P. M.—The Executive Council is still in session; nothing definite of their action can be learned. Crowds of miners are walking about the streets, but all is quiet. Important developments may be expected to-morrow.

Midnight.—The Pittston and Elmira Coal Co. at Pittston have acceded to the demands of the men, and 500 return to work to-morrow morning on the Twin Ravine, Seneca, and Rough and Ready shafts. The Forest City Coal Co., also of Pittston, working 21 mines, and employing over 5,000 hands, say they will not submit. They were the first to reduce the wages in that section.

Andrew Quigley and Jas. O'Halloran, president and secretary of the Luzerne county Miners' Association, gave me a report that the miners have struck for higher wages to be contradicted. The men simply object to a reduction, and are willing to resume work any day at former rates.

The Capitalists' Side of the Story.

From the New York Evening Post.

In regard to the stoppage of operations in the Pennsylvania coal mines, the officers of the companies concerned say that coal has been steadily decreasing in price for several months, and that it is impossible to cover cost at the present rates of labor. The production, too, it is claimed, has much increased during the past year, without a corresponding improvement of consumption.

The companies did not consider it expedient to decrease wages during the busy summer and fall season, but have now concluded to take the risk of doing so. They have each a large quantity of unshipped coal on hand. In order to pay a fair profit at present rates of wages, coal, according to their statement, should bring $5 a ton instead of $4, as at present.

In respect to a statement that a miner is reduced to $1.10 a day, after paying his laborers, the companies assert that their reduction of thirty per cent. upon the $4.25 a day lately obtained by him would be but $1.27, leaving a balance of about $3 for a day's profits.

The present strike may more properly be termed a stoppage, inasmuch as the strikers will await the orders of their Grand Council, which will not be promulgated until Saturday next.

A Burglar Captured by a Policeman!

Yesterday morning at 5:30 Officer Bowers saw a horse and wagon in front of Thomas B. Wiley & Co.'s clothing store, at 515 Hudson street. Looking into the wagon he found a small stock of cloth. Then he went to the back door and found three men, each with their arms full of goods. On his approach, the thieves dropped their booty and tried to escape, but the officer captured one of them, James Thompson. They left the horse and wagon, and cloth in the wagon valued at $3,000.

How Dodge Came to be a Banker.

Mr. William E. Dodge told the bank clerks last night how he became a banker. He was once passing through a village in Connecticut when, at the door of a small brick house, he saw a man sitting whittling a shingle. He was the idlest fellow he had ever seen, and on inquiry, Mr. Dodge learned that he was the cashier of the village bank. Mr. Dodge thought that if bankers could sit in the sun all day and whittle shingles, he would like to be a banker too.

Yost's Style of Courtship.

Theodore Yost, a middle-aged German, of forbidding aspect, was put on trial for attempting to kill Louisa Stolts. Louisa, who is a rosy, bright young German girl, testified that Yost told her he wanted to tell her something, and then stabbed her four times in the breast and shoulder. She and Yost had came from Germany together. He wanted her to live with him, but would not marry her, and she therefore declined. Yost got five years in Sing Sing.

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

The Tariff to be Tinkered—Another Plan for a Return to Specie Payments—Inquiry Concerning the St. Domingo Job—A Dash at the Franking Abuse.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Senator CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) without committing himself to the measure, introduced a bill to encourage and promote telegraphic communication between America, Asia, and Europe. The bill gives the American and East India Telegraph Company the exclusive right for twenty-one years to construct and maintain a line or lines of telegraph cable on the Pacific coast of the United States to connect the American and Asiatic coasts, provided the Company shall begin to lay the cable within one year, and complete it within three years from the passage of the act.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO AMERICAN COMMERCE.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) introduced a bill to secure eligibility to American ships for foreign trade, and to encourage ship building in the United States. It provides for the appointment, by the Secretary of the Treasury, of a commission to establish a standard for rating ships, and allowing the managing owner of every American built ship, desiring to employ his vessel in foreign trade, to have it rated. When such vessel shall have delivered her cargo of dutiable goods in any port of the United States, the owner of such goods is to be entitled to a drawback on duties. The bill also allows to owners of ships yards a drawback equal to the amount of duties on materials used in the manufacture of machinery designed solely for protecting and cheapening ship construction.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) introduced a bill to secure wages to seamen in case of wreck, entitling every seaman to his wages up to the period of the wreck, provided he has previously exerted himself to the utmost to save the ship, cargo, and stores; the master of the vessel to be a competent witness on this question. All stipulations by which seamen shall consent to abandon their wages in case of the wreck of a vessel, or of the failure to earn freight are made void.

House of Representatives.

Mr. LYNCH (Rep., Me.) introduced a bill for the gradual resumption of specie payments. It provides for the destruction of all United States notes as they are received in the regular course of business into the Treasury, and the issuing of a like amount, to be paid out as required for disbursement, payable in specie after six months from date; National Banks to redeem in the new United States notes; the new United States notes to be received for duties on imports after they have become redeemable in coin.

THE EASTERN FISHERY WAR.

Mr. BUFFINTON (Rep., Mass.) offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of State for information relative to the seizure of the schooner Granada, of Provincetown, Mass., by a British cutter in the harbor of Port Hood, N. S., on the pretext that she had on board too much provisions for a two months' fishing voyage. Adopted.

Mr. MUNGEN (Dem., Ohio) offered a resolution reciting the paragraph in the President's message relative to the European project to make

THE BAY OF SAMANA

a free port, and declaring that Congress should regard any such attempt as unfriendly to the United States, and in contravention to the Monroe policy, and requesting the President to transmit to Congress any correspondence in possession of the Administration going to show the ground on which his belief is based.

Mr. CREBS (Dem., Ill.), reciting that the recent elections have developed the fact that a decrease in the tariff duties, especially on the necessaries of life, is demanded by the country, and instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to report immediately a bill so amending the tariff laws as to

REDUCE THE DUTIES

on tea, coffee, sugar, and salt to 15 per cent. ad valorem, on Bessemer steel to 20 per cent., on pig iron to $2.50 per ton, and such general reduction on all other articles as will in the main correspond with the duties imposed by the tariff law of 1846, framing the law for the purpose of revenue only, and not for protection.

Mr. FARNSWORTH (Rep., Ill.) reported a bill to revise, consolidate, and amend the statutes relating to

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Considerable discussion took place on the section which declares that it shall not be lawful to convey by mail, or deposit in a post office to be sent by mail, any letters or circulars concerning lotteries, so-called gift concerts, or other similar enterprises offering prizes or concerning schemes devised and intended to deceive and defraud the people or the purpose of obtaining money under false pretences, and that any such letters or circulars shall be detained by the postmaster at the office of mailing or delivery, and disposed of under the instructions of the Postmaster General. The section was amended on motion of Mr. Brooks (Dem., N. Y.) by providing a penalty of not less than $100, nor more than $500.

Mr. HILL (Rep., N. J.) moved to reduce letter postage to two cents. Rejected.

Mr. HILL also moved that the Postmaster General be authorized to issue one cent correspondence or postage cards as recently introduced in Germany and England, and as recommended in the late report of the Postmaster General. Rejected.

Mr. FARNSWORTH offered an amendment abolishing

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

From and after the 1st of July, 1871, newspapers, periodicals, and magazines, reciprocally interchanged between publishers and weekly newspapers, one copy to each actual subscriber within the county, to go free as heretofore; stamping machines to be provided for the President, each head of a department, and the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, with which to stamp their official correspondence, including speeches of Senators and members, and which when so stamped are to be carried free through the mails, the postage thereon to be charged by the Post Office Department against the various departments and Congress, and $100 to be allowed to each member and Senator to pay postage on their correspondence for each session.

THE GREENWOOD CEMETERY RING.

Absurdities in the Laws of the Association—How Certain Men may Perpetuate themselves in Office.

The election of Greenwood Cemetery Trustees resulted in the reflection of William H. Aspinwall, James W. Beekman, Arthur W. Benson, Benjamin H. Field, and Alexander M. White. Complaints have been made that the existing mode of election continues the present trustees in office indefinitely. A provision in the by-laws makes three equal classes of the fifteen trustees, one class to be elected every two years for a term of six years. These trustees are to be elected by the lot owners from among their own number; but if one-third of the lot owners are not present at any election, either in person or by proxy, then they shall be elected by a majority of the existing trustees.

About 20,000 persons own lots in Greenwood, and any one can see that it would be impossible to get one-third of that number to attend an election, either in person or by proxy. To appear in person would be impossible, as the room in which the annual meetings are held would not accommodate over fifty persons.

Another equally just cause of complaint is the arbitrary disposal of a widow's rights in her deceased husband's lot. Under the rules and regulations of the Corporation, if the owner of a lot dies, making no disposition of the lot by will, it descends to his heirs at law. The wife has therefore no rights in the lot after her husband's death; she can neither dispose of it nor order interments to be made in it. To entitle her to any control of a lot, her name must be inserted with her husband's in the deed, or he must convey to her by deed or devise by will an interest in it.

Erie's Hoboken Quarrel.

The Erie Railroad difficulty in Hoboken is likely to be satisfactorily settled. The Land and Improvement Company, it is said, had secured the privilege of laying a track through Seventeenth street, subject to removal by the City Council. The Company leased the right of way to the Erie Road, and have been realizing a large sum from the contract. No further action is to be taken by the Council until Mr. Fisk can be served with a notice.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mrs. Abbie McFarland read from the poets in the church at Woodside, N. J., on Monday evening.

Marshal Bazaine has been nervously prostrated since the capitulation of Metz, and is seriously ill.

Three jundred base ball players gave Mr. W. H. Kelly, Jr., a handsome set of resolutions on his retirement from the Presidency of the National Association.

The clerks of the Park National Bank last evening serenaded Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Worth on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of their wedding. A large silver dish, suitably inscribed, was presented to the couple.

The Dry Goods Clerks' Early Closing Association last night elected Charles Lowrie, President; L. Welsh, Vice-President; Wm. A. Hamilton, Recording Secretary; J. H. Cox, Corresponding Secretary; Jas. E. Cody, Financial secretary; Wm. Lewis, Treasurer.

Second Lieutenant Thomas Barrington, of Company E, Seventh Regiment, was married to Miss Annie R. Drake yesterday afternoon in Trinity M. E. Church, in West Thirty-fourth street. The edifice was crowded. Lieut. Barrington did not turn out with the Shandley Legion.

The Hon. Abel J. Smith, of North Bergen, N. J., Member of Assembly from the Fifth District, was married in New Brunswick yesterday to Miss Howell, daughter of Martin A. Howell, Esq., of the latter place. A large number of distinguished men of the State were present, and over $5,000 in gifts were tendered the bride.

THE CATS AND THE MILK.

THE LAWYERS LAPPING UP MR. FOX'S FINE FORTUNE.

The Scene in Surrogate Hutchings's Court Yesterday—$300,000 for the Attorneys—Old Jake Hardenburgh's Conundrum.

For many long months there has been a lively contest between the United States on the one hand and two private citizens on the other, for the possession of a valuable property left by an old resident of New York, who died some time during the last year. The property consists of a number of lots on Third avenue and a large accumulation of money and bonds, the whole variously estimated at from $300,000 to $500,000.

THE DEAD MAN'S SINGULAR WILL.

The owner of this nice plum was Charles Fox, an old gentleman, who had spent much of his long life, but little of his ash, in the acquisition of wealth. Before he passed away from the scene of his toil he made a will, in which he bequeathed the fruit of his labor and economy to the United States as sole legatee, the proceeds to be devoted to the payment of the debt incurred by the Government "in the war for the subjugation of the rebellion in the Southern States." Mr. Fox left neither wife nor child behind him to mourn his loss or to enjoy his gains. But when his will was propounded for probate, and Uncle Sam felt confident that there was no one to say nay when he should demand the bequest, behold two nephews of the testator appeared, and filed a petition to have the will of their uncle in favor of our Uncle set aside. They then commenced an action on this petition, basing their claim on the statement that Chas. Fox was insane when he made his will.

THE REVEL OF THE LAWYERS.

Since the commencement of the action in March, thirty full days have been already consumed in the examination of witnesses and the hearing of arguments in this remarkable case. The question of the testator's insanity has been very thoroughly studied, and from the testimony of a cloud of witnesses on either side it would appear that the deceased Fox was at least very eccentric. First, because he was both virtuous and patriotic; secondly, because he had an abiding faith that, even after filtering through the hands of the law and being committed to the keeping of Government agents, the proceeds of his bequest would ultimately be applied to the liquidation of the national debt.

SCENE IN SURROGATE HUTCHINGS' COURT.

Yesterday another hearing of the case was had before Surrogate Hutchings, several of the leading lawyers of the city being attentive and interested listeners to the arguments of counsel. The Government was represented by Judge Pierrepont, and the contestants of the will by Samuel Hand, Esq., official reporter for the State Court of Appeals. Senator Hardenburgh, also for the contestants, was present, but owing to ill health did not take an active part in the debate.

Mr. Hand, in a remarkably clear and concise argument, held that the United States cannot take real estate by devise without the consent of the Legislature of the State. The United States is a corporation whose charter is the Constitution, in which there is not one word about holding real by devise. If were as sensible to admit the right of the republic of France to claim hold real estate in New York as to concede the right to the Federal Government. It would be

AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY.

Grant the privilege to bequeath the land within our bailiwick to foreign powers, and we might soon have every acre in the State held in fee by alien devisees. The bequest of the testator in this case is accompanied with instructions as to how it shall be applied. It is to be devoted to the payment of the national debt. Now, that debt cannot be paid with land; so we are to infer that the property is to be sold and converted into money. But the United States have not the right to hold real estate within the limits of any State except for arsenals, forts, or other public buildings.

The United States cannot even hold the property in trust, for the reason that no court has the power to call the trustee to account. In the case of the will of Commodore Levy, who devised his Monticello farm in Virginia in trust to the United States, for the benefit of the half-orphans of warrant officers of the United States Army, Judge Wright decided that the United States could not be a trustee.

If the United States take this property they have no right to sell it. Therefore there could be no process with which to pay the debt incurred in carrying on the war.

CAN THE UNITED STATES HOLD ANYTHING?

Judge Pierrepont replied for contestants. The will must be admitted to probate if any of its provisions are valid. It is only the illegal provisions too will that can be condemned. No one will deny that a man has the right to present money to the Government. If I give to the Treasury my Five-Twenties, and die an hour afterward, can my heirs recover? Suppose, instead, I direct in my will that my heirs shall give the bonds, is there any law, statute, or custom by which they can be prevented from carrying out the provisions of my will? The United States, in right of its sovereignty, can not only take personal property by devise, but can bring suit to recover in the courts of the States and of the United States. This is nothing more than an inherent right. No constitution or statute is needed to enforce this rights of sovereignty. When the son of the Duke of Northumberland bequeathed his great estates to the United States, the heirs sought to set his will aside on the ground that it was illegal to allow the wealth of

AN ANCIENT HOUSE

to leave the country. The argument had no weight in English courts. How much less should attach to the argument of counsel for the contestants. According to the statute law of this State, every male of 18 and every female of 16 who is of sound mind, may bequeath his or her personal property; and there is no restriction as to the devisee. And according to law "all persons except idiots and persons of unsound mind may devise real estate," Section 1 says: "Such devise may be made to any person capable by law of holding real estate;" and a restriction is put upon certain corporations; "But no devise shall be valid except such be authorized by its charter."

The case of giving property to the Republic of France is different in that of devising property to the United States. One is giving away the power over our own soil, which cannot be done; for no foreign potentate can, under any circumstances, hold real estate in the United States. The other case is simply placing in the hands of our own Government the means of partially liquidating a debt incurred for the benefit of the country.

A CONUNDRUM.

Senator Hardenburgh—Can I devise my forty acres of New York land to the State of New Jersey?

Judge Pierrepont—That is a question to which I have never paid any attention. I believe it has never before been raised. To answer it I must have time to study it.

Here the care rested. It will be called up again at 12 o'clock to-day.

Spain's Work in New York.

It is said that one of the men enlisted by Gen. Jordan for the Cuban service gave the information which led the Grand Jury to indict the Cuban General Ruyaz. The informer's name is withheld by the United States District Attorney. Gen Ruyaz is accused of fitting out a Cuban expedition, which was to have sailed from this port last October. Several of the agents of the Spanish Consul were closeted with the District Attorney yesterday.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The Senate Committees have all been harmoniously reconstructed. No change has been made with Schurz. They are to be reported to-morrow.

There is greater hostility to the repeal of the act providing for a session of Congress on March 5, than was supposed. The senate favors repeal, but the action of the House is doubtful.

The Supreme Court yesterday, in a suit on a distilled spirit which was not in the form prescribed by the statute, decided that as the bond was voluntarily entered into and contained nothing in itself illegal, it was valid and binding. This renders valid a number of similar bonds which have been in suit in different parts of the country, and which many Circuit Judges have declared to be void.

SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.

The canals close on the 10th inst.

Snow fell in Richmond yesterday.

Senator Robertson is reelected from South Carolina.

The crew of the steamship Mariposa have been picked up off Key West.

Mrs. F. W. Lander made her first appearance as a Shakespearian reader before the Boston Lyceum last night.

Within two days the North Carolina House of Representatives will demand of the Senate the impeachment of Gov. Holden.

Four cigar stores were seized in Poughkeepsie yesterday for alleged revenue frauds, making six that have been seized within a week.

The sleeping room of W. G. Bodenhamer, Receiver of the United States Land Office at Springfield, Mo., was robbed on Tuesday night of $5,000.

In Augusta, Ga., yesterday the Democrats elected their Mayor by about 300 majority. Troops were sent from Atlanta and stationed near the polls.

The Ontario Parliament was opened yesterday by the Lieutenant-Governor, who congratulated the members on the increased prosperity of the province.

A man supposed to be Anthony Brinnigan, of 19 Washington street, New York, was drowned in Albany last evening by falling overboard from the steamer Connecticut.

The Republican Convention at Philadelphia yesterday nominated Joseph R. Lyndall for State Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Watt. The election takes place on the 20th.

Maine's portion of the certificates of indebtedness issued by the United States in payment of the interest of Massachusetts war claim of 1812 has been transferred to the European and North American Railway Company.

JOHN SURRATT'S STORY.

The Conspiracy to Kidnap the President—Wilkes Booth's First Failure—The Confederate Government Exonerated—Surratt's Ignorance of the Deed.

John H. Surratt delivered a lecture last night in Rockville, Md., in the course of which he said that he was introduced to J. Wilkes Booth in the fall of 1864, and that after meeting several times, Booth proposed to him a plan to effect an exchange of prisoners, which, he said, the United States Government had refused to make. The plan was to kidnap President Lincoln, and carry him to Richmond. Surratt, after two days' reflection, informed Booth of his willingness to join in the plot; but such a thing as

ASSASSINATION WAS NEVER SPOKEN OF

by any of the party.

Months passed before an opportunity was presented to attempt the seizure; however, all arrangements were perfected, and boats even were in readiness to convey the captive and the captors across the Potomac into Virginia. One day information was received that President Lincoln would visit Seventh street hospital, for the purpose of attending an entertainment to be given for the benefit of the wounded soldiers. The report reached them only about three quarters of an hour before the time appointed; but so perfect was their communication, that they were instantly in their saddles and on their way to the hospital. This was between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It was their intention to

SEIZE THE CARRIAGE,