THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6332. MORNING EDITION—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1853. PRICE TWO CENTS.

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICA AT HALIFAX.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Victories of the Turks in Asia.

Reported Defeat and Slaughter of the Russians in Various Battles.

ALL QUIET ON THE DANUBE.

FURTHER PEACE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FOUR GREAT NEUTRAL POWERS.

AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

STATE OF THE MARKETS, &c., &c., &c.

BY THE NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK LINES TO CALAIS, THENCE TO BOSTON BY THE MAINE TELEGRAPH, OFFICE CORNER OF STATE AND CONGRESS STREETS BOSTON, AND THENCE TO NEW YORK BY HOUSE'S PRINTING TELEGRAPH, OFFICE NO. 21 WALL STREET.

HALIFAX, Dec. 22, 1853.

The steamship America, Captain Lang, from Liverpool, on Saturday afternoon, December 10, arrived at this port at 8½ o'clock this morning. She brings fifty-one passengers and a partial freight. She sailed again at 11 A. M., with the weather calm and clear, for Boston, where she will be due on Friday night.

The steamer Hermann sailed from Southampton on the afternoon of the 7th December, with a full cargo, and 150 passengers. When the Hermann left Bremerhaven, ice was closing the river.

The Collins steamer Pacific arrived at Liverpool on Wednesday morning, December 7th, at 8 o'clock.

The America's news is not very exciting. With regard to the Eastern question, it is certain that the Four Powers have resumed their joint action in favor of peace, and that they have recognized, by a formal protocol, the paramount importance of preserving the present territorial arrangements of Europe. On this basis, measures have been taken to hold a joint conference, which is to be open to the representatives of Russia and Turkey, thus making a conference of six commissioners. As yet, nothing further has transpired touching this matter. The proposition, however, is eagerly grasped at by the Russian partisans, but is unfavorably looked upon by the liberal press and party, who think that Turkey has a right to claim something more than the mere *statu quo ante bellum*. They insist that the present opportunity should be seized to obtain the free navigation of the Danube and Black Sea, and the abandonment of all Russian claims against Turkey.

In the absence of any symptom that the Czar will abate his pretensions or the Sultan recede, not much prospect presently appears of a settlement.

Progress of the War.

Constantinople papers of Nov. 24 state that the Turkish government refused to submit to a three months armistice, demanded by England. On the refusal the English Minister had five hours audience of the Sultan, and an extraordinary meeting of the Divan was forthwith summoned.

At an entertainment to the English and French admirals, given on board the Turkish flag ship Mahommoudie, those officers were presented to the Sultan, and Ambassador Stratford made a speech, in which the promised aid of Britain was coupled with a strong recommendation to conclude an honorable peace.

The Sultan replied that he desired peace if Turkish honor and his sovereign rights were respected, but not otherwise.

Meanwhile we hear of more Turkish victories in Asia.

The Russians, after three sanguinary engagements, have been driven back from Zoblia, and the fortresses of Seffa and Akistan have been taken by assault by Selim Pacha.

The Russians had attacked the entrenched camp at Bayazid, but were beaten back. The Russians also failed in their last attempt to retake the fortress of San Nicholas.

In the direction of Akaska, on the 4th, an engagement of magnitude was fought, and the Russians were defeated, leaving several hundred dead and wounded on the field.

The Turks have also taken Akhalzikh, a Russian city in Georgia.

So hard pressed are the Russians in Asia, that 16,000 men who had been hastily sent to relieve that part of General Luder's corps that occupied Galatz and Ibrail, are ordered to march back into Bessarabia—supposed to have connection with the contemplated operations to relieve the hard pressed forces in the Caucasus.

On the line of the Danube no new movements of importance have been made.

The weather at the last advices was again mild, and the river falling.

The Turks hold Kalefat only on the North bank, and are fortifying it. They hold also the Island of Moknana, opposite Girurgevo.

The Turkish division of the fleet ordered to cruise in the Black Sea, returned on the 19th to the Bosphorus, and resumed its position before Bajukbere.

The Turks are brim full of exultation—the spirits of the people and army being alike elated to the highest pitch.

The Turkish army continues plentifully supplied with provisions, unopened magazines at Warna, are paid regularly, and have an abundance of clothing and shoes.

The Russians continue to suffer badly from sickness.

Some Americans, names not given, had joined the Turkish camp.

Six hundred Circassians have assembled at Constantinople to form a legion under Sefer Bey. They will be conveyed with the Polish legion, in steamers of the allied fleets.

The gold recently drawn from London by the Czar is sent to Vienna, being nearer for remittance to the army.

A Russian manifesto permits neutral vessels still to load grain at Brailou and Galatz, provided they hold no communication with the Turkish side of the river.

The Russian General Uruzoff has been removed from the command in Moldavia, and is succeeded by Gortschakoff.

The Patriarch of Constantinople has requested permission to accompany the Sultan to the army, to prove that the Greek Church prefers Turkish to Russian protection.

A despatch from Belgrade, of the 24th November, says that the recent collision between the Turks and Servians was less important than at first stated, only fifty being killed.

THE LATEST DESPATCHES.

CATTARO, Nov. 25, 1853.

Encounters have occurred between the Montenegrins and Turks, with loss of life on both sides.

VIENNA, Dec. 6, 1853.

The Russian troops in Little Wallachia have retired before Ismael Pacha's renewed demonstrations.

General Fishback, in command at Krajova, is ordered to unite his forces with Dannenburg at Bucharest.

VIENNA, Friday evening, Dec. 9, 1853.

Bucharest advices to the 5th, and Kalefat to the 3d, bring nothing new.

General Osten Sacken cannot reach Moldavia before the end of the month.

The Cabinet messenger with the proposal of the Powers to the Porte did not leave till Wednesday, the 7th inst.

Abbi Pacha had entered Georgiana, and his army is marching on Toulis.

Sir Edmund Lyons arrived at Constantinople on the 28th of November.

The *Morning Post* says it is believed that Austria and Prussia have so far committed themselves to the views of the Western Powers, that in the event of a collision with Russia the German Powers will, at least, remain completely neutral.

The Porte expresses with regret its opinion that a war between the Western Powers and Russia, confined in all probability to the Black Sea and the Turkish territories, seems inevitable.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 1, 1853.

The recent severe frost has been suddenly followed by mild weather and rain.

ODESSA, Nov. 28, 1853.

A very active business has of late been going on in wheat, but a frost has set in, and the port is now frozen up.

PARIS, Friday.

The article in the *Moniteur* made a favorable impression, and the funds rose considerably. The closing rates are—3 per cents, 76f 8c.; 4½ per cents, 102f. 15c.

HAMBURG—The report of the money market is favorable. Rate of discount 3½ a 3¾ per cent.

BY SUB-MARINE TELEGRAPH.

Two companies of Wallachia militia have deserted, with important information to Omer Pacha. Their report is that the Russian army is very inefficient from sickness and disaffection.

A small Turkish steamer, the Mejedia, was captured by a Russian ship, but a Turkish frigate coming up, attacked the Russian vessel and retook the steamer, and as night came on both vessels drew off.

Great Britain.

LOSS OF THE BRIG HYPERION AND EIGHT LIVES, ETC.

There is no political news of importance.

The ship Edward Everett, arrived in the Downs, from Baltimore, rescued the master, two mates, and two seamen of the brig Hyperion, bound to Jamaica, after they had been fifty-seven hours on a part of the wreck, the Hyperion having sunk with eight men.

The Buenos Ayres bond holders have sent out a commissioner to effect an adjustment of the debt. It is contended that the dividends should be resumed on terms not less favorable than Chili pays. The commissioner is James Giro.

Captain Warner, the inventor of the long range, died suddenly.

Dense fogs continued to prevail throughout Great Britain.

The French Empire.

EXPLANATION OF AUSTRIA CONCERNING PERSIA, ETC.

The French Minister at Vienna was instructed to demand from the Austrian government an explanation as to the alleged part of the Emperor of Austria in the recent Persian arrangements. The explanation is said to have been satisfactory.

The indemnity is now being paid to the Paris bakers for the loss on bread sold under cost in October last. It amounts to 619,000 francs.

A draft decree is now under consideration to pay the city of Paris 5,000,000 francs compensation for damage done in 1848.

Marshal Ney's statue was inaugurated at Paris on the 7th instant.

The weather in Paris was unusually foggy. Some cholera prevailed in the suburbs.

Italy.

The Piedmont, Genoa and Turkey Railway was opened on the 6th inst.

At Rome twenty young men have been arrested on a charge of belonging to a London secret society.

The question of receiving the English ambassador at the Roman court was discussed more favorably.

The treaty regulating the navigation between British and Papal ports is on the eve of publication.

An aeronaut had been frozen to death in a balloon.

The price of bread in Rome was still on the rise.

Naples.

The King has dismissed the quarantine officers implicated in the recent insult to the French envoy. It is believed that this terminates the affair.

The Neapolitan army is to be augmented 12,000 men.

Spain.

From Bayonne reports come of movements on the part of Cabrera and other Carlist chiefs.

Germany.

The secret negotiations long going on between Austria and Saxony, and Bavaria, closed on the 30th, and the Austrian and Saxon agents left Munich.

Denmark.

The result of the past harvest is officially reported thus:—Produce of the harvest of 1853 compared with the previous year, as to quantity, is not so satisfactory, but the quality of grain is superior. The present year's harvest is therefore regarded as little inferior to the average.

Greece.

The election resulted favorably to the government, and it decides to remain neutral, fearing that France and England would occupy Greece if it acted otherwise.

Commercial Affairs.

THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

Messrs. Herman, Cox & Co.'s circular quoted money easier, and no fear of an advance in the bank's rate of discount. The imports of gold were larger than expected, and foreign exchanges were again better. The British funds had improved. Consols for account closed at 95½ ex. div. Bar silver and dollars nominal.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Messrs. Bell, Son & Co. make no report. Messrs. Baring Brothers quote the demand not improved, and quotations nominal, the sales being confined to Pennsylvania Railroad bonds, at 90. Boston City Four and a Half per Cents, 101 a 103. Canada Six per Cents, 112 ex. div.

BY TELEGRAPH FROM PARIS.

PARIS BOURSE, Friday evening, Dec. 9, 1853.

The Three per Cents closed at 76f. Four and a Half per Cents, at 102f. 10c. Bank, 29f. 15c.

THE LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

The principal circulars report a uniform demand during the week of about 6,000 bales daily, but without animation. The late imports of new cotton afford a selection to buyers of the better grades, which the previous scarcity of such qualities, together with their comparative dearness, had lately driven a portion of the demand on to the lower sorts. Home consumption is still curtailed, so that spinners do not require a large supply, and only buy for immediate wants. The market, therefore, closes quiet at unchanged quotations, namely:—

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	6¾	6
Mobile	6½	5⅞
Uplands	6⅞	5⅞

Inferior, 3½d. a 4d.; ordinary, 4½d. a 5½d.. The week's sales foot up 39,080 bales, including 4,250 on speculation, and 2,222 for export. Stock on hand, 629,961, including 302,690 bales of American. The public sales of Sea Island, passed off heavily; only 500 bales sold at 2d. a 3d. decline.

On Saturday the 10th, the sales were 6,000 bales, the market closing firm at the quotations.

THE LIVERPOOL CORN MARKETS.

Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co. report that a speculative inquiry had again sprung up, causing an advance on wheat of 2d. a 4d., and on flour of 1s. a 1s. 6d., with a large business doing. Indian corn was unchanged. The following were the quotations:—White wheat, 9s. 10d. a 10s 4d., red, 9s. 3d. a 10s; Western canal flour, 35s. a 36s 6d.; Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Ohio, 36s. 6d.; sour, 31s. 6d. a 33s. 2d.; white Indian corn, 45s.; mixed, 43s.; yellow, 41c. The *Broker's Circular* quotes Indian corn 1s. lower. The Baltic ports are closed by ice.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.

Messrs. Gardner & Co. and others say that beef remained without improvement, notwithstanding the high prices in America. The sales were trifling. The first arrival of new Chicago was received, but had not been offered.

PORK was dull, and tending downward. Some arrivals of new American and French were reported. Bacon and shoulders were rather more active, at former rates.

CHEESE was unchanged in price, but sold readily. The imports were light.

APPLES.—There were but few arrivals. Newtown pippins fetched 35s. a 50s.

LARD was 6d. a 1s lower, without leading to any increase in the demand,—quotations were nominal at 57s. a 58s. The sales for spring delivery are again reported at 52s.

TALLOW was flat. Petersburg Y. C. nominally 56s. 6d. a 57s. South American 55s. a 56s. Linseed cake 5s. per ton lower.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.

CLOVER SEED was more inquired for.

QUERCITRON BARK retailed slowly at 7s. 3d. for Baltimore.

ASHES were steady at 32s. for pots, and 29s. for pearls—the demand was limited.

NAVAL STORES.—No sales were reported in turpentine, tar, or rosin—250 bbls. of American spirits of turpentine sold at 66s.

OILS—1,000 tons palm, to arrive, sold at £40 10s. a £41; on the spot; 200 tons sold at £40 a £41. Olive oil in limited demand, at unchanged prices. Seal—40 tons sold at former rates; 80 tons of cod on the spot, and to arrive, fetched £34; and 10 tons of sperm, £88 a £90. Pale rape in moderate demand.

DYEWOODS—27 tons of Sapan wood sold at £12 12s. 6d. a £12 15s.; a small parcel of Lima wood sold at £13 17s. 6d. Sales of 20 tons of Nicaragua wood at £10 10s. a £11; 150 tons of fustic changed hands at £6 10s. a £6 12s. 6d.

TEA was quiet throughout the week. Some small parcels of common congou, sold rather easier; other qualities were unchanged. At auction, 1,000 packages, with all their faults, sold with spirit at good prices.

SUGARS were steady and without change. No sales of molasses.

COFFEE was in active demand at full rates, but the limited supply checked business.

RICE was quiet.

PEPPER.—Small sales of Singapore pepper had been made at 4½d. per lb.

FREIGHTS—From Liverpool to the United States are rather quiet, with a slight decline in rates. Steerage passengers are not abundant.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

Messrs. Baring Brothers report the colonial and foreign market generally quiet, but firm.

COFFEE was in steady demand. The stock in first hands was much reduced.

SUGAR was in moderate demand at steady prices.

TEA was again quiet. Common congou 1s. 3d. a 1s. 2½d.; medium to good, 1s. 5d. a 1s. 9d. Public sales are advertised for the 30th.

RICE dull, and fully 6d. cheaper.

NAVAL STORES.—Rough turpentine, 14s.; American spirits, 55s.

LINSEED CAKES were unchanged.

TALLOW quiet. Petersburg, on the spot, 55s. 9d.; Buenos Ayres 44s a 57s.

BREADSTUFFS were generally dull, but holders firm. American red wheat, 68s. a 70s. per quarter; white, 72s. a 78s; Western Canal flour, 36s. a 38s.; Baltimore and Ohio, 38s a 39s.

WHALEBONE was quiet, at £210 a £215 for Polar.

LONDON METAL MARKET.

Messrs. Baring Brothers quote iron in improved demand, makers unwilling to accept orders at £8 10s. a £8 15s. for common bars, and £8 5s. a £8 10s. for rails, F. O. B., Wales; Scotch pig, 78s. a 79s. for common; American brands, 82s. a 85s.; Swedish, £11 15 a £12; Russian C. C. N. D., £17; Archangel, £12 15. Copper in active demand, with reduced supply of foreign ore and metal. Tile and cake, £126; best selected, £129. Sheathings, 14d. Yellow metal 12d. The market is cleared of all the foreign. Lead in request: common pig, £23 5s. a £23 10s.; refined, £25 a £25 10s.; sheet, £24 5s.; Spanish, £22 10s. Spelter advanced to £24 on the spot, and likely to be dearer. Sheet zinc, £31. Tin—British has advanced 3s.; present rates are, block, 125s.; refined, £128s. Plates firmer; cake, 27s. 6d.; charcoal, 33s. 6d.

STATE OF TRADE IN MANCHESTER.

Cloths and yarns were very dull, and business, both home and foreign, extremely limited. Prices, however, kept tolerably steady, owing to the reduced production.

HAVRE MARKETS.

The week's sales of cotton to the 7th inst., inclusive, were 5,460 bales; the stock on hand was 38,000. New Orleans ranged from 71f a 106f; Mobiles, 72f. a 93; Uplands, 77f a 94f. Ashes were well supported. Coffee was in limited request, but firm. Rice was in extensive demand, but rates not higher; the stock consisted of 60,000 bags of Bengal, and 2,000 tierces of Carolina. Sugar was animated, and higher.

A telegraphic despatch, dated Havre, Friday evening, Dec. 9, says:—Cotton continues in regular demand; Orleans, 97f. Flour is active, and advancing.

Passengers by the America.

Messrs Handley, Stevens, Jardine, Snelling, Levant, Suthe, Nesbit, Caniston, Gothie, Clarke, J G Brown, G and S Hammond, Tissent, Rhodes, Woodhouse, Butcher, Henry Fischer, Cotton, Bertenshaw, Kedy, Speer, Rumingel, Beetman, Richards, Knight, Rev Mr Seville, Captains Welch and Midetlear, Mr and Mrs Holeen, Mr Shibley and lady, Mr and Mrs Bunnie, Mr and Mrs Roy, Miss Blaxnem, Hon Major Bellome, Lt Col Durban, Dep Ass't Com Gen Shiel, and others.

Shipping Intelligence.

Arr from New York—5th, Jean Georges, 7th, President Fillmore, at Havre; 29th, Clarissa, Cadiz.

Arr from Boston—8th, Parliament, at Liverpool.

Arr from Baltimore—4th, Alba, at Gluckstadt; 8th, Edward Everett, at Deal; Lelia, at Gravesend.

Arr from Charleston—7th, G A Hopley, 8th, Waltham, at Liverpool.

Arr from NYork—8th, Chasca, at Liverpool.

Sld for NYork—7th, Flora, and 8th, Jacob A Westervelt, from Liverpool.

Sld for Boston—7th, Arivum, from Deal; 8th, Staffordshire, from Liverpool.

Sld for Philadelphia—7th, steamship City of Manchester, from Liverpool.

Sld for Baltimore—7th, Scotia, from Liverpool.

Sld for Charleston—7th, Cleopatra, Lady Hobart, and Snewden, from Liverpool.

Sld for NOrleans—7th, Conqueror, Liverpool.

RETURNED—The New York packet ship E Z had put back to Liverpool, (cause not stated).

AFFAIRS AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

BUSINESS IN CONGRESS.

Debate in the Senate on the Lieutenant Generalship Proposition.

ENGROSSMENT OF THE RESOLUTION.

Exciting Controversy in the House.

The Slavery Question and the War on the Administration.

Curious Official Movements Against the Railroad Company at Erie.

SHIPWRECKS—THE WEATHER—MARKETS &c., &c., &c.

The News from Washington.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

THE LIEUTENANT GENERALSHIP—CONGRESSMEN AND THE HOLIDAYS—EXPLANATION CONCERNING THE INCREASED PAY OF THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—6 P. M.

The Senate resolution creating the title of Brevet Lieutenant General, will doubtless pass the House without much difficulty. It should have passed Congress long ago. It is at best but a poor tribute to the eminent services of our great General, and no man with a spark of patriotism or justice in his composition would seek to delay it a single day.

Several members have left town already, for the holidays, and it is evident no question of any interest will be decided till after New Years. Meantime, the Committee of the Whole furnishes gentlemen an opportunity of making speeches upon abstract topics, which, however interesting to themselves, read remarkably stupid to the rest of the world.

You stated the other day that you had been informed by a correspondent that, in order to pay the increased salaries of the several heads of departments, a fund had been used in violation of law. The truth is, that Congress, at the last session, passed a law imperative in its terms, increasing the salaries of the Cabinet officers; but, through an oversight, no appropriation was made to carry out the law. Under these circumstances the Secretary of the Treasury decided that the increase could properly be paid out of an appropriation annually made by Congress, under the head of "for claims not otherwise provided for." The amount of this appropriation is small, but sufficient to meet the increase in question. There can be no doubt of the propriety of this decision, as the law made the increase imperative and absolute.

It seems to be understood if the House passes the joint resolution with regard to the Assistant Secretaryship of the Treasury, that Mr. Guthrie will resign his position in the Cabinet. X. Y. Z.

THE CHARGES AGAINST GOVERNOR GORMAN—CONSUL TO GLASGOW—THE IMPORTANT NOMINATIONS WITHHELD FROM THE SENATE, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—8½ P. M.

I mentioned several weeks since, that serious charges were preferred against Governor Gorman, of Minnesota, and that it was understood the President had determined not to send his nomination to the Senate for confirmation unless the charges were disproved. It is now said that Governor Gorman has, thus far, failed to do so, and that he will be immediately superseded.

The Consul to Glasgow was confirmed to-day.

No important nominations have yet been sent in; and it is now probable all the doubtful ones will be held back until spring, so that their rejection may not weaken the administration in the House by showing up its fallability.

Colonel Jefferson Davis gives his first reception this evening. He has issued cards but for two receptions, calculating by the time they are over to be in the Senate. PETER.

MEETING OF THE VETERANS OF 1812—CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA—SOUTHERN MAIL TO BE EXPEDITED—NOMINATIONS—SUPREME COURT—NAVAL CHANGES, ETC.

FROM THE REGULAR NEWSPAPER AGENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1853.

There was a meeting of the Veterans of 1812 at the City Hall, to-night, at which Col. J. S. Williams presided. It was decided to send delegates to the general convention which is to assemble at Philadelphia on the eighth of January.

There are rumors of very serious charges about to be preferred against the Governor of Minnesota Territory, which, if substantiated, will undoubtedly lead to his removal from office.

It has been decided to send the Southern mail hereafter by railroad from Wilmington, N. C., to Charleston. Heretofore it has been sent by steamer. Twenty-four hours will be gained by the change.

The President has nominated, and the Senate to-day confirmed, P. J. Steer, of Rhode Island, as Consul at Dundee, Scotland, vice DeWolf, deceased.

The House Committee on Public Lands have appointed Francis J. Grund, the letter writer, their clerk.

It is understood that both houses of Congress will adjourn over from to morrow until Tuesday, to give members an opportunity to spend Christmas; Many of the members have already left for their homes. No important business will be done in Congress until after New Year's.

In the United States Supreme Court to day Messrs. Jeremiah Clemens, of Alabama, and W. C. Johnson, of New York, were admitted to the bar. In the case No. 33, Chouteau vs. Moloney, argument was continued by Messrs. Wilson and Swith for defendant.

Midshipman Henry Erben is detached from the academy, and Assistant Surgeon Richard B. Tatterstall from the hospital at Norfolk, and both ordered to the coast survey schooner Crawford. Passed Midshipman Earl English has been ordered to the same, as acting master. Midshipmen M. C. Campbell and John G. Mitchell have been ordered to the Decatur. Boatswain Joseph Lewis has been detached from the steamer Princeton, waiting orders. Jas. Walter has been detached from the Navy Yard at Philadelphia, and ordered to the Princeton.

The *Star* of this evening states that the President will not send in to the Senate the bulk of his nominations until after the holidays, preferring to wait till the Senate shall be full.

Circular from the Treasury Department.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1853.

The following has been issued under the head of "General Instructions, No. 15:"—

TO COLLECTORS OF THE CUSTOMS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 18, 1853.

SIR:—I have reason to believe that there are material defect in the forms and times of rendering the returns, required of Collectors by the act of the 20th February, 1820, as well as in the mode of entering, keeping, and exhibiting the matter contained in the same in the Register's office; and desirous to introduce such improvements as may be practicable, and may secure greater exactness and propriptude in the exhibits required by the act, my object in addressing you is to obtain such information and aid as may be conducive to that end.

There is now much diversity on the part of Collectors in reporting the articles imported, and consequently delay and difficulty in the Register's office in assimilating and distributing such articles to recognized species or classes. To remedy this evil, it seems to me to be necessary for this Department to frame a nomenclature of articles, to notify the list to all Collectors for their observance, and for it to be varied only by authority from time to time, as the importation of new articles, to be reported by Collectors, or other circumstances, shall render expedient. To enable the Department to construct a proper nomenclature I will thank you, as soon as may be, to transmit to this Department a table, in alphabetical order, showing:—

First—The names of all articles imported, whether enumerated or non-enumerated, subject to duty, or free.

Second—The commercial or scientific denomination of the general class to which such variety belongs.

Third—The place of growth or manufacture.

Fourth—The rate of duty, if any, on such article.

Fifth. Such information of the character of articles not in common or familiar use, and of the purposes to which they are most usually applied, as it may be in your power to furnish.

Appended to this list you will add a list of such articles as in your opinion may be aggregated or classified for the reasons contained in the proviso to the third section of the act referred to and a similar list and appendix of the articles exported. At the same time it may be proper to revise and rearrange the list of countries to and from which our commerce passes. And I will thank you to look into this branch of the subject also, and favor me with a table, in alphabetical order, of the places proper, in your opinion, to be recognized and established as the places of trade contemplated by the act in these returns. The same in respect to the time when it is assumed the exports take place. I am not aware that any change, except in the time of rendition, is required in the present mode of returning, registering, or exhibiting the tonnage; but if any defect in it occurs to you, and you can suggest an improvement, it will be acceptable to the Department for you to do so.

It is proposed that the returns of commerce or navigation shall be made as at present, for quarters; but that they shall be made as soon as possible after the close of the quarter to which the return refers instead of being delayed, as at this time, for weeks, and even months together. You will please inform me if the business cannot be so conducted in your office, from day to day, so that the returns may be made within a period of from one to five days, according to the business of your district. The last point will be to secure the most ready and exact mode of keeping and rendering those returns in the several districts, and of registering and exhibiting the results at the Treasury. The probability is much diversity in the various Custom Houses in this particular. Also, you will please explain the mode observed in your office, sending copies of the forms used, and the reasons that, in your judgment, recommend such forms over others. I am, respectfully,

(Signed) JAS. GUTHRIE.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1853.

Numerous petitions were presented.

OFFICERS OF THE SENATE, ETC.

Mr. MASON, (dem.) of Va., offered a resolution directing the appointment of a select committee to consider the present laws and resolutions authorizing Senate officers, and to report a new plan for their appointment and organization. Adopted.

LANDS FOR RAILROADS.

Mr. SLIDELL, (dem.) of La., introduced a bill granting land to Florida for a railroad therein.

Mr. GWIN, (dem.) of Cal., gave notice of several bills granting land for railroads in California.

ILLINOIS JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

Mr. SHIELDS', (dem.) of Ill., resolution was adopted, directing inquiry as to dividing Illinois into two judicial districts.

TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.

Mr. HAMLIN, (dem.) of Me., introduced a bill to establish a line of telegraph from the Mississippi river to the Pacific.

THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

The joint resolution authorizing the President to confer the title of Lieut. General by brevet was taken up.

A debate ensued which lasted till two o'clock, in which Messrs. Adams, Walker, Pettit, and Douglas, opposed the resolution, and Messrs. Cass, Mason, Badger, Shields, and Seward, advocated it. We annex a portion of the debate:—

Mr. WALKER, (dem.) of Wis., opposed the measure on constitutional grounds.

Mr. SHIELDS made some eloquent remarks in support of the proposition.

Mr. PETTIT, (dem.) of Ia., objected to conferring a mere bauble. It was nothing but an empty title, which the very nature of our institutions opposed. If the proposed rank, however, was asked for the purpose of obtaining additional pay by making a higher grade of officers, he was in favor of it.

Mr. SHIELDS replied that the object was not to confer any additional pay, but to render a compliment to one who had so brilliantly acquitted himself in his country's service.

Mr. MASON, (dem.) of Va, thought the resolution a proper one, and one in which the nation would acquiesce. He made a patriotic and eloquent speech on the great military achievements of Major General Scott, and trusted that the honor would be conferred on him.

Mr. ADAMS (dem.) of Miss., considered the conferring of a mere title as useless. General Scott should receive a more substantial token of his country's regards than could be found in a title. If he wanted additional pay, let Congress vote it to him directly.

Mr. DOUGLAS, (dem.) of Ill., made a strong speech against the resolution. He considered the granting of such a bill as useless and meaningless, and would rather mar than brighten the well earned military fame of Gen. Scott.

Mr. BADGER, (whig) of Ga., followed in an eloquent speech in favor of the resolution. It was doing but justice to an old and well-tried soldier. He then delivered an eloquent oratorical tribute on General Scott. He spoke of his skill and bravery, of his moral character, generosity and gentleness—all of those admirable qualities which he displayed in his brilliant military campaign in Mexico.

The resolution was ordered to be engrossed, by yeas 30, nays 12, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Benjamin, Brodhead, Cass, Clayton, Dixon, Dodge of Wis., Dodge of Iowa, Evans, Fish, Foot, Gwin, James, Jones, Mason, Pearce, Pratt, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Stuart, Thompson of Kentucky, Thompson of N. J., Wade, Weller, and Wright.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Bright, Chase, Clay, Douglass, Fitzpatrick, Hamlin, Harris, Sidell, Sumner, Walker, and Williams.

PENSION FOR CAPT. GUNNISON'S WIDOW.

Mr. CASS, (dem.) of Mich., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing inquiry as to giving a pension to the widow of Capt. Gunnison, recently killed in Utah.

DRAFTS ON FOREIGN POST OFFICES, ETC.

Mr. SUMNER, (free soil) of Mass., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, directing inquiry as to authorizing orders or drafts on foreign post offices to be used in place of ordinary drafts for remittances.

After an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1853.

DELEGATE FROM NEBRASKA.

Mr. BENN (dem.) of Iowa, presented the credentials of Hadley D. Johnson, delegate from Nebraska. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

CLAIMS FOR BOUNTY LANDS, ETC.

Mr. COBB, (dem.) of Ala., introduced a bill giving further time for satisfying claims for bounty lands.

Several bills were introduced giving lands for railroad purposes in the South and West, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

RATIONS, ETC., OF THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS.

Mr. HOUSTON, (dem.) of Ala., offered resolutions with a view of abolishing longevity rations in the army and extra allowances in the marine corps.

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

Mr. DISNEY, (dem.) of Ohio, introduced the French Spoliation bill. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Various resolutions were adopted, among them one requesting the President to communicate his plan for the enlargement and modification of the judicial system.

THE PROPRIETY OF PLACING CLAIM AGENTS ON AN EQUALITY.

Mr. WENTWORTH, (dem.) of Ill., offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of providing for an equalization of the privileges of claim agents in Congress, so as to admit all persons within the bar of the House who may be claim agents, or else to exclude from the privilege persons engaged in lobbying for claims—the object being to give no claim agent any advantage over another within the bar of the House. This was intended to hit ex-members of Congress.

Mr. BAYLY, (dem.) of Va., said the subject was before the committee. Being opposed to this piece of humbug, he moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The motion was negatived and the resolution passed.

THE TERRITORY OF NEBRASKA.

Mr. MILLER, (whig,) of Mo., introduced a bill organizing the Territory of Nebraska. Referred to Committee on Territories.

THE OLD CALIFORNIA DUTIES.

Mr. LATHAM, (dem.) of Cal., introduced a bill refunding to California certain duties collected since the ratification of the treaty with Mexico, and prior to the admission of California into the Union. Referred to Committee on Ways and Means.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union on

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—THE SLAVERY QUESTION—"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"—THE HUNGARIAN WAR, AND THE WAR UPON THE ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. WRIGHT, (dem.) of Penn., thought the country at large were unprepared to anticipate the results which had occurred from the debate of the last three days. He was one of those who believed, after the great contest the country had passed through, when both of the great political parties of the nation came together in honorable warfare, and when the great battle had been fought and victory won, that abolition was not only dead, but buried; but the day before yesterday the gentleman from New York (Mr. Smith) exhumed its lifeless body and dragged it before the country. Like Banquo's ghost, it is here again. Perhaps he ought not to reply to the gentleman; but he could not keep his mouth closed when such sentiments were avowed by him. He then quoted from Mr. Smith's speech to the effect that as great an oppressor as Austria is, America is a far greater and guiltier oppressor. Indeed, Austrian despotism, compared with American despotism, which classes men, women, and children with cattle, is as the little finger compared with the loins. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the object of which was to diminish the character, power, and social condition of this country abroad, was unworthy to be noticed, perhaps; but when the gentleman from New York, with the reputation which preceded him for talents and eloquence, came forward to stigmatize his country, it was time for republicans to speak openly. The gentleman eulogizes the government which combined with Russia and Prussia to destroy the nationality of Poland, and take the spoil of that nation, which, but a few years since, not only trampled in the dust fifteen millions of Hungarians, but made them worse slaves than the slaves of American States. He has eulogized the nation where the press, for practical purposes is abolished, and where the people are in a worse condition than any other on the continent of Europe. And yet he says this is the country whose despotism is inferior to that of this great and mighty country. Does the gentleman side with Haynau, who butchered indiscriminately men, women and children, and does Haynau come within the gentleman's eulogy of Austria? The gentleman has endeavored to cast a firebrand into the country, but will fail in his object. He disingenuously seeks to degrade his own country, and make it appear a worse despotism than any on the continent of Europe. Mr. Wright next quoted Mr. Smith's remark, that "The administration presents the pitiful spectacle of having wilfully corrupted Christianity, and the people present the pitiful spectacle of remaining patient under it;" and proceeded to defend the administration and the Compromise measures. How could the gentleman from New York stand up and advocate the higher law, as superior to the constitution, which contains the following clause:—"No person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." How can the gentleman put his hand on the Holy Evangelists and swear to support the constitution, and yet assert the higher law as superior to the constitution?

Mr. SMITH rose.

Mr. WRIGHT asked—Does the gentleman want to make a speech?

Mr. SMITH—If the gentleman wants an answer he shall have it.

Mr. WRIGHT—I won't deny the gentleman, having called him out.

Mr. SMITH said he was not disposed to take any position which should not stigmatize with hypocrisy the framers of our constitution. A few days before the close of the session of the convention which framed the constitution, the Committee on Style reported that the word "servitude" be stricken out, because it was identified with the condition of slaves, and that service be substituted, because it was identified with the condition of freemen. The motion prevailed unanimously.

Mr. WRIGHT remarked that was not his recollection of the history.

Mr. SMITH referred the gentleman to the Madison papers.

Mr. WRIGHT resumed, saying, the clause refers to involuntary labor, as well as to other persons, and so the courts have decided. He insisted that Congress has no power to legislate on slavery, and declared he washed his hands of the subject for the term for which he was elected. After further remarks in reply to Mr. Smith, he alluded to the Senate bill requiring the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to be confirmed by the Senate; he was opposed to it in its present form, and wished to make the law applicable hereafter, because its present application might be construed into censure on the parties concerned.

Mr. BAYLY, (dem.) of Va., said he would not now reply to Mr. Giddings' remark on the Armistad question, preferring to wait until the bill should be introduced and a report made on the subject. The other day he undertook, when the Senate bill requiring the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to be confirmed by the Senate, came to the House, to show that the constitution requires the appointment to come under the supervision of the Senate. There was a French philosopher and poet of great distinction (he had forgotten his name) who never felt complimented at all, if any laudatory reference was made to his writings, but was always exceedingly gratified if any one complimented him on his dancing; in other words, he was vain in the capacity in which he was most defective, and it might be his (Mr. Bayly's) position in respect to the constitution. He flattered himself that he understood the constitution, and, like the French philosopher, he was vain of his dancing. So it was—he could not help it—and when he made a point, and gentlemen laughed at him, he felt a little sensitive. (Laughter.) He then proceeded, as he said, to vindicate his dancing. He quoted the constitution and debates in convention in support of his position, that the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury should be confirmed by the Senate, and came to vindicate the administration on this precise point. The bill which he had an agency in forming as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, simply provided for the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of State, without saying who should appoint or confirm him; but Mr. Marcy and the President decided that question—not that Mr. Marcy should appoint his Assistant, but the President should—and the appointment was sent to the Senate for confirmation. The words "opposing the administration and the President," had been ringing in his ears until it occurred to him that something else engages the attention of some members of Congress. In Rome Cæsar had a party, Anthony had a party; but the commonwealth none—but he would not pursue this idea.