THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 6683. MORNING EDITION—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1854. PRICE TWO CENTS.

FINANCIAL.

$65.000 CASH—TO LOAN, INVEST, OR buy at sight, in large or small sums, on diamonds, jewelry, merchandise, property or security of any valuable description. Terms liberal, confidential and safe, at the old responsible Pacific Agency, over the Pacific Bank, corner of Broadway and Grand street.

$60.000 TO LOAN ON DIAMONDS, WATCHES, jewelry, &c., or bought for cash. Notes, stocks, bonds and mortgages negotiated; real estate bought, sold and exchanged. All business strictly confidential. CHEESEMAN, BRAISTED & CO., Brokers, 35 John street, corner of Nassau.

$50.000 TO LOAN ON DIAMONDS, WATCHES, jewelry, &c., or bought for cash. Good city stocks, notes, bonds and mortgages, bills of exchange, &c., negociated. Business confidential, and promptly executed, at No. 102 Nassau street, room No. 2 THOMPSON & CO., brokers and commission merchants.

$10.000.—WANTED TO PURCHASE, A first mortgage, for the above amount, on strictly first class improved city property, having two or three years to run. Apply for one day to R. G PIERCE, Pine street, corner of Broadway.

$3.000 TO $5,000 WANTED IMMEDIATELY, in a business that will pay 100 per cent on amount invested. This is a splendid chance, without risk. A party with the above amount may address Security, Herald office.

BROKEN BANK BILLS BOUGHT—THE HIGHEST price will be paid in gold for all kinds of broken bank money. All other uncurrent funds bought at the usual rates. Drafts for sale on England, Ireland and Scotland. JAMES M. TAYLOR, corner of Chatham square and James street.

CASH ADVANCED AND LOANED TO ANY AMOUNT—On diamonds, watches, jewelry, plate, valuable and personal property, or bought for highest cash prices. R. WOOD, 69 Fulton street, second floor, front room, from 8 A. M. to 4 P. M.

DIVIDEND.—NORTH AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE Company. No. 6 Wall street, New York, December 8th, 1854.—The board of directors of this company have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of eight per cent, payable on demand. R. W. BLEECKER, Secretary

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION, 96 WARREN STREET, one door from Greenwich.—Open daily, from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M. and 4 to 7 P. M. Interest at the rate of 6 per cent allowed on all sums, from $1 to $500. The funds of this institution are securely invested in bonds and mortgages in the city of New York, worth double the amount loaned, and in bonds of this city.
CALEB S. WOODHULL, President.
W. M. PULLIS, M. D. VAN PELT, } Vice Presidents.
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

LEASES AND MORTGAGES WANTED.—THE ADVERtiser wishes to lease houses, stores, and vacant lots, or will purchase leases. Will also purchase first or second mortgages on improved property or vacant lots. Address LEASE, box 167 Herald office.

MONEY LIBERALLY ADVANCED ON HOUSEHOLD furniture, pianofortes, watches, diamonds, silverware, guns, pistols, nautical instruments, and personal property generally, or bought for the highest cash price. McCAFFRAY & WALTERS, 28 Catherine street.

MONEY.—CASH LIBERALLY ADVANCED ON watches, plate, pianofortes, dry goods, firearms, furniture, or any other property, at 304 Broadway, corner of Duane street, second floor, room No. 9. The strictest confidence and honor may be relied upon. Branch office, 84 West Sixteenth street.
McLOUGHLIN & O'NEILL.

NOTICE.—A MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF the Lindsay Mining Company will be held at their office, 15 Broadway, on Thursday, the 14th of December instant, at 3 P. M., to take into consideration the financial condition of the Company, and to provide for their obligations maturing on the 1st of January next. By order of the Board of Trustees,
JAMES BARROW, Jr., Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SOUTH STREET STAGE COMPANY, 133 Nassau street.—At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Street Stage Company, held pursuant to notice, at the International Hotel, on Saturday evening, Nov. 25, 1854, John L. Riker was elected President, and John R. McConnell was elected Secretary. The books of the above named company are now open for subscription from 2 to 5 o'clock P. M.
J. R. McCONNELL, Secretary.

PAHQUIOQUE BANK, DANBURY, CONN.—REDEEMed at ¾ per cent, by
CHAS. B. GRANNISS, 65 Wall street.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, N. C.
November 13, 1854.
Sealed proposals will be received at this office until 10 o'clock A. M. of the 20th of December next, for the purchase of $111,000 bonds issued by the State of North Carolina, under an act of Assembly for the construction of the Weldon and Gaston railroad, and for the improvement of the navigation of the Neuse and Tar Rivers. They are by express enactment exempted from taxation for any purpose. They will bear date the 1st of July, 1854, will run ten years, and will have coupons attached for the interest at six per cent per annum, payable the first days of January and July in each year. Both interest and principal will be payable at the Bank of the Republic, in the city of New York, unless where the purchaser prefers to have them payable at the Treasury of this State. They will be issued in sums of $1,000 each.
Parties bidding will please address their letters, endorsed "Proposals for North Carolina Stocks," to the undersigned, at Raleigh, N. C. They will also state in what kind of funds they propose to pay. The bids will be opened on the 20th of December next, in the presence of the Governor, Secretary and Comptroller of the State, and G. W. Mordecai, President of the Bank of the State of North Carolina. The undersigned reserves the right of accepting such bids, in whole or in part, as he may deem most advantageous to the State. Successful bidders will be required, as soon as informed of the acceptance of their bids, to deposit in bank the amount of their bids, with the accrued interest from the 1st of July last, to the credit of the Treasurer of North Carolina. This deposit may be made in the Bank of the Republic, New York, the Bank of the State of North Carolina, or the Bank of Cape Fear, Raleigh. Documents showing the great resources of the State, and the small amount of her indebtedness, may be had on application at this office, or to Messrs. Brown and De Rossett, city of New York.
D. W. COURTS,
Public Treasurer of North Carolina.

WANTED—$400 FOR THREE YEARS, AT 7 PER CENT on a house and lot. Particulars at the Agency and Loan Office, 304 Broadway, corner Duane street, second floor, room No. 9. McLOGHLIN & O'NEILL.

WANTED—FROM $20,000 TO $50,000, IN A SAFE and profitable oil business. On application the profits can be shown to be large enough to satisfy any reasonable capitalist. Apply immediately to R. B. GOODWIN, Clinton Hall, corner of Eighth street and Lafayette place.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

PUBLICATION DAY POSTPONED, OF RUTH HALL, Fanny Fern's first novel. So great is the desire to see the first novel of this distinguished authoress, that the first mammoth edition, which was to have been published on Monday, Dec. 11, will not come within some thousands of supplying the orders already received. It is, therefore, deemed best to delay the publication of the book until the second edition is ready, which will be on Thursday, Dec. 14, after which time the publishers hope to be able to supply all orders promptly, even should this extraordinary demand continue.
MASON BROTHERS, 23 Park Row.

THE DESERTED VILLAGE—ILLUSTRATED.—D. APPLETON & CO., 346 and 348 Broadway, have now ready the exquisitely illustration of the "Deserted Village," by Oliver Goldsmith, with thirty-five illustrations by the Etching Club. 1 vol., 8vo. Cloth, gilt, $1 50; morocco antique, $3. This exquisite poem is now issued, illustrated by the most celebrated English artists of the present day. No one who is at all familiar with the beautiful creations of Creswick, Cope, Webster and Reyman, can fail to appreciate these designs so spiritedly engraved. D. APPLETON & CO., have now ready a new edition of Gray's Elegy, written in a country churchyard. Illustrated by the Etching Club. 1 vol., 8vo. Bound to match the "Deserted Village." Price in cloth, gilt edges, $1 50; morocco antique, $3. Probably no author has had as many readers as Thomas Gray. Every schoolboy is familiar with these celebrated lines. No more appropriate present for the New Year could be selected. Each page has its illustrations, and by artists whose merits are of the highest order.

INSTRUCTION.

$2.50 FOR A COURSE OF TEN LESSONS IN penmanship.—Bookkeeping reduced one half, viz.: $12 50 for a thorough course of instruction. Cards of particulars at GOLDSMITH'S, 362 Broadway.

EVENING DRAWING CLASS FOR BUSINESS MEN and mechanics, from 7 to 9, at No. 494 Broadway, where recent improvements have been made, and arrangements for drawing from plaster casts, by
S. SCHUSTER, Professor.

EDUCATION—VACANCIES FOR TWO YOUNG GENtlemen, under 15 years of age, as boarding pupils, at Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton's French and English boarding and day school, 146 West Thirty-sixth street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues. Circulars at SHEPARD & CO'S bookstore, 152 Fulton street.

MME. PETTIGREW RESPECTFULLY INFORMS HER pupils and friends, that she has removed to 11 Third street, and is now prepared to resume her instructions on the piano, singing and languages.

THE FRENCH, ITALIAN, ENGLISH, GERMAN, OR Spanish language, taught in one quarter, on the most approved principles, by Professor ALWIG. Terms at the house of the pupils 50 cents each; the quarter of 24 lessons $10 Apply by note to box 3,128 Post Office.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

REVISION OF THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

RELIEF FOR THE GRINNELL EXPEDITION.

The Army and Military Academy Appropriation Bills.

Postponement of the Pacific Railroad Bill.

DEBATE ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, &c., &c., &c.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.
SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1854.

NEW SENATOR, ETC.

Mr. BADGER, (whig.) of N. C., presented the credentials of David S. Reid, Senator elect from North Carolina for six years from March 4, 1854.

Mr Reid then appeared, and the oath of office was administered to him.

Various petitions were then presented.

THE NATURALIZATION LAWS.

Mr. ADAMS, (dem.) of Miss., introduced a bill to establish a uniform rule of naturalization throughout the United States. The bill extends the term of naturalization to twenty-one years, and acts prospectively upon those foreigners only who may enter the United States after the passage of the act. He addressed the Senate, but read his remarks in a tone of voice which made them almost unintelligible in the galleries. He was understood as arguing that, in one hundred years from this time, every inch of the American continent would be required for the support of the American people. Self-preservation required that no inducements should be held out to immigration. He denied any connection with "Know Nothing" societies, or with any other political secret association. He disclaimed all hostility to foreigners, and read from one of his former speeches to show that he had no unkind feelings towards them; but he did think immigration was dangerous, inasmuch as foreigners ranged themselves with abolitionists. When he learned that a band of Germans had burned an American Senator in effigy he determined to introduce this bill. So far as he understood the principles of the Know Nothings, he agreed with them. He agreed with their propositions to extend the term of naturalization, and believed in their preference of American Protestants for office to foreigners and Catholics.

The bill was then read and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE FRENCH CONSUL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. WELLER, (dem.) of Cal., offered a resolution calling for all correspondence relative to the arrest, &c., of the French Consul at San Francisco. Adopted.

RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. SHIELDS, (dem.) of Ill., gave notice of bills for the improvement of the Illinois River, and for the improvement of the harbors of Chicago and Wankegan.

LIMITATIONS IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Mr. FOOT, (whig) of Vt., introduced a bill to extend the statute of limitations in certain criminal cases. Referred.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. CHASE, (free soil) of Ohio, gave notice of a bill to abolish the franking privilege.

PROPOSED BOARD OF ACCOUNTS.

Mr. BROADHEAD. (dem.) of Pa., reported back the bill to establish a board of accounts.

THE COLLINS MAIL STEAMERS.

The appropriation bill of the last session, for the support of the ocean mail steamers, was then taken up. It stands in the following position: The House at the last session passed the bill containing a clause requiring the Postmaster General to give notice of discontinuing the contract, and the Senate afterwards amended the bill by striking out this clause, and then the two houses failed to agree upon the matter.

Mr. BRODHEAD moved now that the bill be referred to the Committee on Post Roads. He thought the allowance was too high, but was willing to give the notice, and take the vessels at their appraised value. He regarded the steamers as utterly useless for war vessels.

Mr. HAMLIN (dem.) of Me., urged that the matter be laid over until Mr. Rusk should arrive.

Mr. HUNTER (dem.) of Va., said he was willing to wait until that time. He denied that the bill at this stage could be referred.

The CHAIR decided that the bill came up as unfinished business.

Mr. WELLER moved to postpone the matter one week.

Mr. SEWARD (free soil) of N. Y., moved that it be laid on the table.—Agreed to.

The Senate then adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1854.

MEDIATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE EUROPEAN WAR.

Mr. CLINGMAN, (dem.) of N. C., asked leave to offer a resolution requesting the President to tender the mediation of the United States, in such manner as in his judgment may be most likely to lead to the pacification of the conflict now waging between the allied armies and Russia.

Mr. HAMILTON, (dem.) of Md., from a sense of duty, objected to the introduction of the resolution.

Mr. SOLLERS, (whig) of Md., asked whether it would be in order to move to lay it in the table.

The SPEAKER said it was not yet before the House.

Mr. CLINGMAN moved a suspension of the rules. Disagreed to—Ayes 47; nays not counted.

RELIEF FOR THE GRINNELL ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Mr. FLORENCE, (dem.) of Pa., asked leave to offer a joint resolution, authorizing the President to cause an adequate steamer and transport vessel to be purchased or chartered, and fitted out, equipped and provisioned, for the purpose of carrying relief to Dr. Kane's expedition in the Arctic seas, in search of Sir John Franklin, and to detail such officers and men from the navy, and accept the services of such volunteers, at his discretion, as may be required for the conduct and manning thereof, the expenses to be paid out of the treasury.

Mr. FLORENCE said he merely wished the resolution to be referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Objection being made, the House refused to suspend the rules.

THE MEMPHIS NAVY YARD, ETC.

Mr. STANTON, (dem.) of Tenn., offered a resolution which was adopted, requesting the President to communicate information relative to the re-establishment of the Memphis navy yard.

On motion, the special committee appointed last session on the subject of military superintendence over civil works, was continued in force.

Three days of next week were set apart for the consideration of business relating to the District of Columbia.

APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Mr. HOUSTON, (dem.) of Ala., from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported bills making appropriations for a military academy and for the support of the army. Referred.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

On motion of Mr. MCDOUGAL, (dem.) of Cal., the further consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill was postponed till the second Tuesday in January, in order to receive all the reports of the engineers who surveyed the routes.

DISCIPLINE IN THE NAVY.

Mr. BOCOCK, (dem.) of Va., introduced a bill providing for more efficient discipline in the Navy. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Mr. HOUSTON offered a series of resolutions distributing the various branches of it to the appropriate standing committees.

Mr. GIDDINGS, (abolitionist) of Ohio, hoped they would not be passed without proper discussion. As to Greytown, he agreed with the President in all his apologies for the destruction of the place, and would be glad to wipe out that transaction from the page of history. He conceived the President has been guilty of important omissions, and has receded entirely from the great positions laid down in his inaugural address For the first time in twenty-five years the President is altogether silent on the message about slavery. Where was the reference to his former principles, as publicly avowed, to obtain Cuba by war or purchase? The reason for the omission is, that the voice of the people, as announced in the late elections, has made him hesitate before he attempts to further overthrow the policy of the government pursued for the last fifty years. Why does he not speak further of his sentiments, and avow his policy? The President has sent a female minister to San Domingo, and through her we learn that our government has entered into negotiations for obtaining a foothold there; but the President is silent on the subject. Mr. Giddings then alluded to the repeal of the Missouri compromise, and to the result of the late elections, to show how the peculiar opinions of the President on that issue were swept overboard.

Mr. INGERSOLL (dem.) of Conn., inquired whether the gentlemen just elected to Congress in Massachusetts were the peculiar friends of the President?

Mr. GIDDINGS replied—He alluded to those who voted for the Nebraska and Kansas bill, and particularly to the gentleman who was about to retire to the shades of private life.

Mr. INGERSOLL said that no nominations for Congress have yet been made in Connecticut, and the gentleman from Ohio did not know if he (Mr. Ingersoll) desired to be a candidate.

Mr. GIDDINGS—You never will be, probably. (Laughter,)

Mr. INGERSOLL—The gentleman may know more about my district than I do; but I can inform him on the question of popular sovereignty, as avowed in the Nebraska bill. I can go safely before my constituents and feel assured they will approve of my course.

Mr. GIDDINGS—I cannot say, as the obituary notice, "the gentleman's loss will be my gain," but will assert that the going down of every man who voted for the repeal of the Missouri compromise is a gain to freedom. In the course of his remarks in opposition to slavery, he asked why the President does not come up to the support of his slavery friends, or recede from his policy as heretofore avowed. Recent elections have shown the administration that principles of freedom are no longer to be trifled with, and that they must be maintained.

Mr. WHEELER, (dem.) of New York, offered an amendment to the pending resolutions, prefaced by declaring in effect that in the destruction of Greytown the President has exercised a power in violation of the constitution, and providing for the appointment of a select committee of thirteen to report the facts relative thereto, with power to send for persons and papers.

The amendment was rejected. Ayes, 14; nays not counted.

The committee then rose, and the resolutions referring to the message were adopted.

THE OCEAN MAIL SERVICE, ETC.

The Mail Steamer bill of last session was referred to the Post Office Committee.

Isaac Teller, from New York, in place of Mr. Dean, appeared, and was qualified.

The House adjourned.

Our Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1854.

Affairs in Washington—Why the Sollers Resolution was Defeated—Washingtonian Reception of the Message—Is Franklin Pierce a Statesman?—Death of Presly Ewing—Eulogy of Milton S. Latham.

As you are already aware, Congress adjourned on Thursday last till Monday, the 11th inst. Since the day of adjournment there has been no excitement in Washington city, either in politics or morals. Everybody seems to consider it the best policy to keep mum. Those in favor of and "in the secrets of the administration" adopt it as a rule to say only what they are forced to, and those opposed say it is time enough to speak when Congress is in session. So between the two, nothing is known of the future, excepting what is dropped from those who are on a "bust" during the respite, and which, at the best of times, should be received with much incredulity, inasmuch as men in this humor speak from their prejudices, and not from their judgment. Politicians here are much disappointed that the Sollers resolution, calling for information relative to the Ostend conference, was defeated, and attribute its defeat to that generous disposition of mankind which will not allow a dead carcase to be insulted by a kick. They say the administration is gasping in death, and it is an exhibition of brutality not to allow it to die in peace, rather than be dealing blows of just indignation upon expiring clay. So from this, we are to suppose it is to pity and not to justice the present heads of the government are indebted for not being forced by the representatives of the people to lay the facts of the Ostend conference before them. Perhaps you are expecting, or have expected, that I should say something of the way in which the President's message was received in this place. If you have been entertaining any such expectations as those suggested, all I have to say by way of excusing myself for disappointing you, is, that the President's message here is not a subject of comment *pro or con*. Among officials it is regarded as a formula, which, considering the state of affairs, would have been more honored in the breach than the observance, if custom had not demanded something from the corporeal substance which presides over the Cabinet. I have delayed writing you for some days past, expecting, during the recess of the legislative bodies, the message of the President would be made a theme for comment and criticism. But my expectations have been very much disappointed, so far as I desired to learn by this means the public sentiment respecting the President annual exposition of affairs. The Washingtonian public seem to regard the message as a subject "not worth talking about," unless it is now and then to crack a joke over the absurdities in it contained, just as one would visit the theatre to witness a comedy which was expressly written to excite the risibilities of an audience. If Mr. Pierce is a statesman, he will be compelled to write something besides the message just circulated to convince the world of this fact. To suppose him a statesman is only to suppose him trying his genius to the utmost at present to make himself ridiculous, that the contrast may be more favorable when he actually bursts forth, like an unexpected thundergust, to astonish the world. If our President was ever cut out by nature to be a "large potato," then it is passing judgment before nature has performed his work to criticise the article while it is so "small;" or, taking another view of the subject, it is insulting nature to measure by manhood what she evidently intended as a joke upon mankind—for to argue our President into a statesman is either to bring down the intellect of society to his level, or to regard Clay, Webster and Calhoun as monstrosities. The President, or in other words the administration, being placed in such a lamentable position as the result "set up" of so much promise, as that with which they started, forces upon all unprejudiced minds the conviction that the appropriate song for the inagauration of March 4, 1853, would have been—

"My name was Captain Kidd,
As I sailed, as I sailed;
My name was Captain Kidd,
As I sailed."

This is all I have to say of the President's message. And "thus endeth my first lesson."

Speaking of the present adjournment of Congress till Monday, calls up to memory the man in respect to whom this adjournment was made. Presley Ewing, late a member of Congress from Kentucky, since the last session has been placed in his grave. Mr. Ewing was one of those few who possessed the faculty of endearing themselves to all with whom they came in contact. This was emphatically the character of Presly Ewing His friends loved him, and from his most bitter enemies his purity of purpose always demanded respect. The announcement of his death in the present Congress was not a mere ceremony, but a fact, which unlocked the doors of grief in every bosom—alike in partisan friends and political foes. In the House some fine eulogies were pronounced upon the deceased, as well as in the Senate by Messrs. Thompson and Badger. Among others in the House of Representatives, I cannot refrain from giving a passing compliment to Hon. Milton S. Latham, of California, whose eloquence in eulogy and grief for the departed, went side by side. Mr. Latham is considered one of the ablest men of the House, and his farewell—if I may call it so—of his departed friend added much to this well founded reputation. During Mr. Latham's eulogy upon Mr. Ewing he was listened to with breathless attention, and all forgetting partisan feeling, complimented him at its close.
NELLÆ.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1854.

The Proposed Board of Claims—Ostend and President Pierce—Collins Steamers—Know Nothings—Revolution in Peru—Bogota—Filibustering—Pacific Railroad—Gen. Rusk's Views, dc., dc.

Mr. Brodhead's bill for establishing a Board of Claims is rapidly growing into favor, and now the surprise is that such a board has not been established long since. It would not only relieve Congress from an enormous amount of annoying and much shameful legislation, but it would save millions of dollars to the public treasury, arresting as it would most effectually the allowance of claims under the "log-rolling" system—a system which is now pursued in our Congress to a frightful extent. The Board should be in the nature of a court of justice, and with a jurisdiction sufficiently wide to embrace every description of claim.

Public curiosity is still upon the *qui vive* as to the Ostend conference, and "What was it?" and "Why was it?" are interrogatories which meet us at every turn. Although the President's friends pronounce it all "moonshine," yet they are evidently afraid to let him speak for himself. When the lamented Harrison was a candidate before the American people for the Presidency, he was said to have a conscience keeper and a mouthpiece, but it is only lately that the friends of President Pierce have deemed it prudent to exercise such a guardianship over him. I still believe that the Ostend meeting was one dictated by wisdom; but why gag the Executive, and refuse him permission to give his own explanation? This is the mystery to be solved. The Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives can account for the milk in the cocoanut.

The voluminous report from the Postmaster General gives ample proof of the industry and skill with which his department of the government has been managed; but that functionary has permitted some interested and designing parties to pull the wool over his eyes respecting the Collins line of steamers, and induced him to recommend the discontinuance of this splendid and now indispensable line of ocean mail steamers. On this subject I will enlarge at a more convenient season.

The Know Nothings are pitching into the laws on naturalization, and seem determined to effect a salutary change in the rights of suffrage prior to the next presidential campaign.

It is rumored here that the Peruvian Minister is in the receipt of despatches announcing the termination of the revolution in Peru, and the complete success of the government party. It is believed that Bogota will soon follow suit, and if so our Charge d'Affaires, Hon. James Green, will leave immediately for his post of duty. Mr. G. has been home for some months on leave of absence, the revolutionary state of Bogota rendering his diplomatic services unavailing for the time being.

Interesting private advices have been received here today, relative to the revolutionary movements in Mexico The filibusters, under the renowned Caravajal, now number eight hundred men, are encamped on the east bank of the Rio Grande. There is not a single American in the party. The failure of Caravajal's last effort at revolution was attributed to the fact that he enlisted Americans, between whom and the Mexicans there exists jealousy, suspicion, and mortal hatred. Gen Woll has command at Matamoras, and has ordered the west bank of the Rio Grande to be swept of every ranch, and cleared of timber for one hundred feet, for the purpose of establishing a guard and signals along the whole line. Santa Anna is withdrawing his troops from the centre to strengthen the northern division. This division of the central forces invites Alvarez to press upon him in the southern districts. It is confidently stated the revolutionists will be successful.

The probable failure of Messrs. Walker and King to give the required security to the State of Texas ($300,000) for building the first fifty miles of the Pacific Railroad, is creating a good deal of stir in our city. The law provides that if one company should fail to give the required security, and to execute the work according to law, the governor shall proceed forthwith to re-let the contract to other parties. This road is the greatest public work ever started in our country, and it should not be permitted to drag for the want of parties to prosecute it. The liberal terms offered by Texas must necessarily enrich every man who has anything to do with it; and yet, strange to say, the company who have undertaken it have been unable to raise the comparatively pitiful sum of $300,000, and have offered, in lieu thereof, the stock of a mining company, which I am informed, by a gentleman well acquainted with the facts, would not sell for fifty cents on the dollar. Gen. Rusk supports Gov. Pease in the refusal to accept the security offered, and is now absent superintending the interests of Texas in the matter. It is to be hoped that Messrs. King and Walker will be able to meet the requirements of the law fully and fairly.

The weather continues cold and cloudy, with every prospect of snow. E.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1854.

The Know Nothing Topics—Naturalization Laws and State Voters—The Internal Improvement Question—The Instructions to the Conferees at Ostend.

The proposed modification or repeal of the naturalization laws will not affect the laws which regulate the right of voting, for those regulations are made by the States, and in conformity with the provisions of their organic law. In most of the States it will be necessary, in order to restrict the right of suffrage, to alter the constitution of the State. The modification of the naturalization laws will not afford a remedy for the alleged evils complained of by the Know Nothings.

The policy of internal improvement by the general government still retains the support of a majority in a Congress decidedly democratic. The President's forthcoming message on this subject will probably indicate a course whereby the prosecution of some works of a national character can be secured.

The instructions for the American conferees at Ostend will probably reach the light without the aid of a call by Congress. We learn, through Mr. Mason's letter to Mr. Marcy, that Mr. Soulé was at Paris, and of course, at Ostend, by his, Mr. Marcy's orders, and these orders are what the proposed call will elicit. It is well now to say that no orders or instructions relative to that meeting were given by Mr. Marcy.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1854.

The Proposed Board of Claims—Ostend and Oysters.

A bill has been introduced by Mr. Brodhead, of the Senate, establishing a Board of Claims. It is hoped on all sides that the bill will pass and become a law before the close of this session. Such a board has been a desideratum for many years past, its want being felt more and more every year. It would not only save much valuable time to both houses of Congress, but at once change the numerous claims agents in Washington, into attorneys and counsellors learned in the law, dispensing with the now necessary system of "boring" on the one side, and leaving no room for unworthy suspicions on the other. Let the board be in the nature of a court of justice.

There exists still a great deal of curiosity in regard to the so called "Congress of Ostend." Ostend is a very agreeable watering place in the summer season, has very fine sea bathing, a daily steamer for London, and is only a few hours' journey by railroad from Brussels. It is also famous for its oysters, which are not bigger than a quarter of a dollar, and are invariably eaten raw; not admitting of being either roasted, stewed or fried. They have a copperish taste, only appreciated by the initiated, and are highly valued by the Parisian epicures. *Une douzaine d'huitres d'Ostend*, with a bottle of white wine, *Chablis*, is a capital introduction for a *jeune diplomate*. Ostend has also an excellent fish market for turbot and sole, which must not be mistaken for *Soulé*.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.

The Different Land Projects—The Pacific Railroad.

There are before Congress a number of projects for the disposition of the public lands, among which Mr. Hunter's bills are prominent. Congress will make a choice between his general system of graduation, preemption, provision for railroads, and sale of lands to the States, in which they lie, and the alternative project of Mr. J. L. Dawson, which passed the House by a large majority, at the late session. Mr. Dawson has brought in a modified bill, which will meet some of the objections to it. Instead of granting a homestead to each citizen, for occupancy and cultivation, without compensation, it now requires the payment of fourteen and a half cents an acre for the same—that is the entire average cost of the domain, per acre, to the United States. The provision for the exemption of the land from execution is stricken out, on account of objections from some quarters to that beneficial feature.

The Pacific Railroad bill of the Senate was postponed till this session, and it is presumed that Dr. Gwin will urge action upon it as soon as the reports of surveys of the several routes shall be laid before Congress.

The British West Indies.

THE REPORTED PROPOSED TRANSFER OF BRITISH COLONIES TO FRANCE.

We have received our files of Nassau (N. P.) papers dated to the 28th of November. Our dates from the West Indies, via England, are four days later. However, the journals now to hand contain some interesting extracts.

The Nassau *Royal Gazette* of November 18 has the following items:—We understand that his Excellency the Governor brought out instructions to abolish the Custom House here. This, probably, will not be done before the meeting of the Legislature, whose powers are necessary to transfer the duties now performed by the Custom House officer to some other functionary.

The Legislature is appointed to meet on the 6th of February, for the despatch of business.

Our inter-colonial exchanges do not furnish much interesting matter. Cholera still existed at St. Vincent, Trinidad and St. Lucia, but, we are happy to find, greatly on the decrease.

We notice in the Granada *Observer* of the 24th ult., that the Lieut. Governor had inspected the commissariat buildings in St. Georges, for the purpose of taking over the same for the use of the colony, the officers of that department being about to leave the island.

[From the Dominica Colonist, Sept. 29.]

A report was in circulation here a short time ago, that this Island was to be given up to France. We then gave little credence to the report, but have since ascertained that it is the common topic of conversation in Martinique and Guadaloupe; and we now find the subject started in Granada. The *Chronicle* of the 23d instant, thus treats the matter:—

Our fine fortifications on Richmond Hill and Fort George, have been abandoned. Every soldier has been withdrawn from the local garrison. There only remain two or three officers of the civil branch of the army, for the purpose of transferring certain crown property to the island authorities. The impression amongst a large proportion of the people is that Great Britain intends to hand this and one or two other islands over to Louis Napoleon, and many, looking at the fostering care bestowed upon Martinique and Guadaloupe, in contrast to the cruel indifference shown towards the interests of the British colonies, by their respective parents, do not appear to care how soon such a transfer takes place.

We quite agree with our contemporary in his conclusion; indeed, we look upon it as a measure eminently calculated to restore the sinking islands to a state of prosperity. In fact, the only one that we can see of saving them from total ruin and a return to pristine barbarism.

City Intelligence.

HARD SHELL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.—A meeting of such of the hard shell committee as were dissatisfied with the action of last Thursday evening, was held last night at McGuire's restaurant, in Broadway, under the Stuyvesant Institute, they being unable to obtain the use of the rooms up stairs—Thomas P. St. John acted as chairman, and A. B. Rollins and James P. Dunn as secretaries. The committee, consisting of A. B. Rollins, John Doherty, Thos. Reilly, John Mack and James P. Dunn, who had been appointed to prepare a call for the primary elections to be held in the various wards, reported progress, and stated that they would be prepared with a final report by next Thursday evening. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Meehan, St. John, McCaffray, Sweet and Mack, were appointed to see to those wards that were not now represented, and induce them to send delegates to the next meeting of the committee. After the transaction of some other unimportant business, the committee adjourned, to meet again on Thursday evening. This portion of the hard shell committee has been charged with desiring to return to Tammany Hall; but this they deny, and state that their action has been governed by a desire to abide by the old usages of the party, so that they may elect the inspectors in the several wards, instead of by the General Committee. There were about twenty persons present at the meeting.

THE FIRING IN THE PARK YESTERDAY.—One hundred guns were fired off in the Park yesterday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, under the auspices of the Whig General Committee, to celebrate the election of Myron H. Clark and the whig State ticket. After wasting some valuable powder, the committee adjourned to Sherwood's, took a drink all around, and departed, highly satisfied with their innocent artillery practice.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING.—As the steamer Cataline was proceeding on her voyage from this city to Bridgeport yesterday morning, when off Sepinson buoy, between Hart Island and Throg's Neck, Mr. E. Hipman, in attempting to get in his small boat astern, without the knowledge of the officers, missed his footing and fell into the water, and were it not for the timely assistance of the officers and crew of the steamer Ansonia, of the same line, which was near at the time, would certainly have been drowned.

GOVERNOR SEYMOUR AND THE SOFT SHELL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.—At the last meeting of the soft shell democratic committee, a motion was made and carried to invite Governor Seymour to address the committee at Tammany Hall, on the questions of the day, viz.:—The Maine Law and Know Nothingism. We understand the Governor has signified his willingness to accept the invitation, and the affair will probably take place early next week.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—The British residents of this city have been collecting money for some time past in aid of the widows and orphans of the British army and navy engaged in the war with Russia. They have so far collected $8,041. A public meeting is talked of to add to the receipts of the fund.

CORRECTION.—In the case of Cook against Hoggins, a mistake in the name of the latter occurred. It was published Hoyins.

Police Intelligence.

CHARGE OF SEDUCTION UNDER PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

Yesterday, officer Sutton, attached to the Essex Market police court, arrested a young man named Charles Carter, charged on the complaint of Mary Feely with having seduced her under promise of marriage. The complainant, who now lives at the corner of Scammel and Madison streets, states that she had been living with the family of the accused for two years; that in the month of March last the accused succeeded in inducing her to stray from the paths of virtue, under a promise of marriage at no distant day; and that having accomplished his ends, he refused to perform the ceremony of making her his wife. On being conveyed before Justice Wood, at Essex Market, that magistarte promised to let him go free if he would marry the woman; but he refused to do this, preferring rather to have the matter investigated than become the partner of the girl. The accused was detained for further examination.

A HOTEL THIEF CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Officer Mansfield, of the lower police court, arrested a young man yesterday, named Michael Wright, charged on the complaint of Mr. Cole, one of the guests at present stopping at Tammany Hotel, with stealing his overcoat, valued at $20. It appears from the complaint of Mr. Cole that about 2 o'clock in the afternoon the prisoner walked into the reading room of the hotel, an not thinking that any one was watching his motion lifted Mr. Cole's overcoat from a chair on which he had placed it, and started towards the door with it under his arm. Mr. Cole was wide awake, however, to the move of Wright—for, hastily jumping up from his seat, he secured the thief before he could make his exit. Officer Mansfield was then sent for, who conducted the accused to the Tombs. Here Justice Osborne committed him for trial, in default of bail. About a week or ten days ago, some person dexterously obtained admittance to several of the boarders' rooms in this hotel, and stole a quantity of clothing and some money. Wright is suspected to be the individual who so kindly relieved the boarders of their clothing and money on that occasion.

THE OCEAN BANK EMBEZZLEMENT CASE—EXAMINATION OF THE ACCUSED POSTPONED.

Yesterday, at 3 o'clock, P. M., was the time appointed for the examination of William B. McGuckin, late teller of the Ocean Bank in this city, charged by the president and directors of that institution, with having, during his term of office, embezzled funds of the bank to the amount of $50,000; but, in consequence of the counsel on both sides not being ready, the case was adjourned by Judge Beebe, before whom the examination takes place, until the counsel are ready to proceed with the case, when the matter will be thoroughly sifted from beginning to end; meanwhile, McGuckin continues in custody on the above charges.

ASSAULT WITH A SLUNG SHOT.

On Sunday night, at a late hour, two sailors, named James Philips and John Seward, got into a quarrel relative to some trivial matter, which finally resulted in the former receiving a severe, if not fatal, blow on the head with a slung shot, alleged to have been inflicted by Seward. The affray took place at the boarding house of William Boyland, No. 323 Water street. Seward was arrested some two hours afterwards by the Fourth ward police, who took him before Justice Bogart yesterday morning, on the charge of using a slung shot. He was committed, to await the result of the wounded man's injuries.

ARREST OF A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE.

Yesterday, a man named Thomas Golden was arrested by officer Bell, of the Third ward police, charged with the commision of a felony at Syracuse, N. Y., from whence, it is alleged, he made his escape some days ago. He was given into the custody of a Syracuse officer, who conveyed him back to that town for trial.

STABBING AFFRAY.

At a late hour on Sunday night, two men, named John Bunbrick and Michael McCaffrey, had a quarrel, in the course of which McCaffrey received a severe stab with a sheath knife, in the hands of the man Bunbrick, as it is alleged by the wounded man. The Seventh ward police having been called to the scene of the disturbance, succeeded in effecting the arrest of Bunbrick. He was taken before Justice Welsh by officers Wildly and Dunn, who committed him to prison, to await the result of McCaffrey's injuries. The wounded man was conveyed to the New York Hospital by the police, where he lies in a critical state.

CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT.

A man named Benjamin Parker, was arrested by the Eighteenth ward police, yesterday, charged with having embezzled various small sums of money from his employer, William L. Stephens, of No. 1 Tw