dulary, by the constitution, were a co-ordinate branch of the government, and therefore independent of the new administration; besides the three powers of the government had been, at no period in our history, and, from the nature of things, could never all be held at the same time by either section. The issue of the election gave satisfaction in the city of Charleston, and the result was scarcely made known before the plotters boldly announced their determination to destroy the Union. The leaders would not wait. They dared not. They drove the public assemblies with impetuous haste toward the brink of rebellion. The alleged grievances were but vague generalities. They insulted the national flag at every opportunity; denounced the national government; seized by force and fraud the public property, and repudiated obligations due in loyal States. A firm and clear-sighted federal Executive would have summarily meted out the penalties of the law to the fomenters of conspiracy and treason. But ago and ill-placed confidence had rendered the President timid and made him blind to obvious facts. Certain members of his Cabinet openly abetted the rebellion, or were guilty of wanton treachery. They used their high positions to strengthen the conspirators and to cripple the army and navy. They had controlled the appointment of diplomatic representatives, placing in important positions those known by them to be inimical to the government, and secret agents were employed, with their approval, to visit Europe to influence the governing classes there. A legion of evil agencies—some secret, others open—were put to work to demoralize and denationalize the South, a labor rendered practicable by the peculiar character of Southern society. Spurred on by envy and ambition, the leaders toiled like giants. Specious appeals were made to unworthy prejudices. The rankest hostility to Southern interests was imputed to the North. Congress was charged with destroying the commercial equality of the South, and hopes the most extravagant were encouraged. Legislative bodies and conventions of the people were suddenly changed from the object of their convocation; power the most arbitrary was usurped; in a word, the leaders hated at no barrier, and were deterred from no deception, to carry into execution their long concerted scheme of disrupting the Union. A State which had once defied the law, a State which had borne few burdens, had had a large hand in shaping the national policy, which had brought weakness rather than strength, and had enjoyed more of the benefits of the Union, was appropriately chosen to lead the way. On the 20th of December her Legislature passed a formal act of secession. Next followed, in January, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana; Texas in February, Virginia in April, and Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina in May, making eleven States in all, and seven before the incoming of the new administration. The people of New York, strong in their loyalty and devotion, could not believe that, toward a government so mild and beneficent as ours, the citizens of any State could seriously entertain a disloyal feeling. They thought that when the ebullitions incident to a general election had subsided the good sense of the people would restore harmony. They knew, as all know, that for eighty years the government had been true to its constitutional obligations, that the immunities of each State had been sacredly observed, and that all alike had enjoyed the unequalled blessings of a truly republican form of government. But the daily proceedings in the rebellious States were such as to create astonishment and to weaken the faith of the most hopeful; even the President became alarmed at last. On the 8th of January, 1861, in a special message to Congress, in which was exhibited unwonted firmness, he said the nation was in the midst of a fearful revolution, and reasserted the noble sentiment of the beloved hero who terminated a war, and distinguished the day in our annals, that "the Union must and shall be preserved." He declared his purpose to use the military power against all who resisted the federal authorities. The Legislature of this State, in a series of resolves, with but three dissenting voices, "hailed with joy the firm, dignified and patriotic special message of the President," and tendered to him whatever aid in men and money he might require to enforce the laws and uphold the authority of the federal government. Copies of these were sent, through me, to the President and to the Governors of all the States.

THE VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS.

On the 24th of January I received, and transmitted to the Legislature, the resolutions adopted four days previously by the General Assembly of Virginia, inviting such States as would "unite with her in an earnest effort to adjust the unhappy controversies, in the spirit in which the constitution was originally formed and consistently with its principles, so as to afford adequate guarantees to the slave States for the security of their rights, to appoint commissioners to meet here, on the fourth of the following month, in Washington, to consider and agree, if practicable, upon some suitable adjustment." Although but eleven days intervened—a period scarcely sufficient even to inform many of the Legislatures in session, and too brief to convene those not in session, I nevertheless, did not feel willing to let this or any opportunity offering a reasonable hope of success, pass without a trial. I accordingly recommended the appointment of five citizens of this State, in whose character and patriotism the public would have full confidence, to meet those from Virginia and other States. On February 1, the Legislatures elected commissioners. Their reports will be found in the Senate documents of 1861, numbers fifty-nine and sixty.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS.

On the 21st of March I received from the President an authenticated copy of the joint resolutions adopted by Congress proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the State Legislatures, should become a part of that instrument, in the following language:—"No amendment shall be made to the constitution which will authorize or give to Congress the power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service, by the laws of said State." Nothing more than the adoption of this amendment could in justice have been asked by the South. It should be remembered that this action was taken after the withdrawal of the representatives of States in rebellion. And this fact alone should have more weight in determining the question of security to Southern rights and the friendly spirit of the North than all the assertion and calumny that could be uttered. I transmitted a copy of this to both houses, recommending its adoption. The proposed amendment was not passed upon by them, however.

PROGRESS OF EVENTS—WHAT THE REBELS DID.

Events rapidly culminated. The newly organized Confederate administration lost no opportunity to add to the excitement and to urge on the rebellion. The leaders determined that a "blow must be struck," that "blood must be shed" before their government could have a defined existence. Charleston harbor appeared to be the point selected for this bloody inauguration. The masterly occupation of Fort Sumter by Major Anderson; the prolonged preparations of the insurgents for reducing it, and the firing upon the supply ship Star of the West, had fixed the eyes of the country upon that point. The peculiar difficulties of affording supplies by a government vessel, and the meagre amount of subsistence in store, induced the commanding officer to inform the Governor of South Carolina that unless he received a supply in two days he must surrender the fort. As this was obviously impossible, the evacuation by the federal forces was inevitable. But it did not suit the designs of the rebels to receive the fort without a resort to violence. Without provocation a cannonade from eleven batteries and a land and water force of more than eight thousand men opened upon the devoted little band. It was physically impossible for seventy men to hold out against such odds, and the federal force, under the guns of the rebels, capitulated on the 13th of April. On the same evening the news flashed over the vast telegraphic net work of the country. Northern blood was stirred. This gratuitous violence and this deliberate insult to the flag conclusively proved to all that it was the design of the leaders to break up the government. An immediate reaction took place in the popular mind, completely uniting the people of the loyal States. They deliberately determined to put down the rebellion, and this purpose has been strengthened by time and reflection. The President immediately appointed a special session of Congress to meet on July 4. He also issued his proclamation calling for seventy-five thousand three months militia. Of this force the quota of New York was thirteen thousand men. On the morning of the 15th I communicated this fact to the Assembly, and recommended that a military force sufficiently large to meet the present and prospective demands of the government be authorized, and that greater discretionary power be conferred to embody and equip a volunteer militia for the public defence, and to provide the necessary means therefor. A bill for this object, in a few hours, passed through all the forms of law, with but six dissenting voices. In the Senate its passage was equally prompt and decisive. It empowered the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, State Engineer and Surveyor and State Treasurer, to accept into the service of the State, in addition to and as a part of its militia, for two years, thirty thousand volunteers. The officers named in the act immediately met and resolved to raise seventeen regiments of seven hundred and eighty men each. A proclamation was issued by me, calling for this force to serve as infantry or riflemen, and to rendezvous at New York, Albany and Elmira. As the Board of Officers, formed under the act, will make a report, accompanied by the minutes of its proceedings, it will be sufficient for me to say that the spirit aroused by the insult to the flag in Charleston harbor spread a company from every neighborhood, and at the end of a fortnight, and just when the spirit of volunteering was rising, the first quota was filled. Through the efforts of a member of the Board, who visited Washington for that purpose, the government consented to accept the twenty one regiments still remaining of the force authorized by the act referred to. On the 16th of April I ordered the Seventh militia regiment to Washington, and the unprotected condition of that city determined me to despatch thither at once all the remaining militia strength immediately available. Marching orders were therefore issued to the Sixth, Twelfth and Seventy first on the 17th, to the Twenty-fifth on the 19th, and to the Eighth, Thirteenth, Twenty-eighth and Sixty-ninth militia and the Eleventh Volunteers on the 20th. It will be remembered that travelling was obstructed on the 20th by the burning of railroad bridges between Philadelphia and Baltimore. To what extent this fact interfered with the trains could not be ascertained, as telegraphic communication was cut off almost immediately. I therefore directed the regiments to leave by steamers, by way of the Potomac. The Eleventh Volunteers was the only organization raised under the act of April 16, in any degree ready for service; even that was as yet unorganized, and the election of officers was held on shipboard. It is not improper to say that to the timely arrival of the militia from this State must, in a great degree, be ascribed the safety of the capital and the restoration of security in Washington.

ENLISTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS—AGENT SENT TO EUROPE.

While enlistments were proceeding at a rate altogether unprecedented, the Military Board were employing their energies to supply the necessary clothing and to provide arms. The mercantile class were unprepared for meeting the immediate demands for articles incident to a state of war. So limited was the stock of army cloth in our principal markets, that before any large number of uniforms could be furnished, the wool had to be purchased and the fabric prepared. Through an unfortunate modification of a contract with a respectable firm in the city of New York, for twelve thousand uniforms, a considerable number of suits of very poor quality were delivered to the agents of the State, and before becoming apprised of their inferiority, they were distributed to the troops. The facts respecting this and the terms of settlement with the contractors, will fully appear in the report to which I have referred. It may be proper to add that this circumstance occasioned the greatest vigilance in contracting for and inspecting subsequent supplies of all kinds for our troops.

On the 24th of April an agent of the State was despatched to Europe, with a letter of credit for five hundred thousand dollars, and authority to purchase twenty-five thousand stand of arms. On this he obtained and shipped nineteen thousand Enfield muskets, which were delivered in New York at a cost of about three hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars.

By the twenty-fifth of May, the thirty thousand volunteers, authorized by the act, had been raised, accepted by the Board into the service of the State, and organized into thirty eight regiments. On the eleventh of June, the respective regimental field officers had been elected, and their services accepted, and on the twelfth of July, the last of the thirty-eight regiments had left the State. Thus, in a period of eighty seven days, a volunteer force of thirty thousand men had been drawn from various parts of the State, organized, fitted for service and despatched to the seat of war.

There were accepted under authority from the President to a committee of citizens of New York, four Volunteer and four militia regiments, and according to the best information I have been able to obtain, there were also two other organizations accepted by the War Department independently of the State authorities, previous to the first of July. By the middle of that month, there were in the service of the government, from this State of three months militia, about eight thousand three hundred men; of three years militia, about three thousand four hundred; of two years volunteers, thirty thousand; and of three years volunteers, accepted directly by the War Department, and through the committee of citizens of New York, about five thousand, making an aggregate force of forty-six thousand.

ADDITIONAL TROOPS REQUIRED.

Immediately after the engagement at Bull run, the President communicated to me his desire that New York should furnish an additional force of twenty-five thousand three year volunteers. I promptly informed him of my readiness to aid the government to any extent it might require, but stated that the power conferred by the Legislature of New York to raise troops for the war was already exhausted, hence it would be necessary for me to convene the Legislature unless the government would furnish the money necessary for raising, subsisting and equipping this further quota. The latter course met the President's approval. Proper authority was duly granted by the War Department for this purpose, and directions were given to the agents of the government at Washington, and on service in this State, to aid me in this work. I, therefore, on the 25th of July, issued my proclamation, calling for a volunteer force of twenty-five thousand men, to serve for three years or during the war, to rendezvous, as under the first call, at New York, Albany and Elmira. In framing a general order regulating the acceptances of the officers and men, I deemed the good of the service required that all candidates for commissions should pass an examination as to their fitness for field and company officers. The effect of this was in a partial degree to retard enlistments, but to give a greatly improved class of officers to the service. At this time, while there was nothing in the aspect of affairs connected with raising men particularly discouraging, yet, owing to several causes, enlistments were less active than they had been. With a view to stimulate volunteering, and at the same time to obtain the best class of troops, I directed the Adjutant General to authorize branch depots in twenty-two different localities, so separated that they would be unlikely to interfere with each other. The objects were more than accomplished. Not only did the change secure a class of troops which for respectability and intelligence can nowhere be surpassed, but it hastened enlistments. Ten regiments have already been raised at these special camps, and a sufficient number of men, in addition to these, to form eight more.

On October 1 the government authorized an increase of the force from this State to one hundred thousand men. Again, on the 6th of November, this number was enlarged to one hundred and twenty-five thousand.

NEW YORK TROOPS IN THE FIELD.

The annual report of the Adjutant General will show that New York has sent into the field, of infantry and riflemen, ninety-nine regiments, of which number eleven were three months militia; of cavalry, ten regiments and one battalion; of artillery, two regiments, two battalions and nine batteries; a rocket battalion, and a regiment of engineer officers and soldiers; or an organized force equivalent to one hundred and fifteen regiments. In addition to this, there are now in the State, of volunteers mustered into the service of the United States, about fourteen thousand five hundred, or sufficient for fifteen regiments more, increasing New York's contribution to one hundred and thirty regiments. Muster-in rolls and statistics as to numbers are as yet incomplete; but the accurate returns are not likely to materially vary the following figures relating to the above organizations, namely:—

There have left the State, in the several regiments, of officers and men	98,076
Recruits since added	11,600
Total that have entered service beyond limits of State	109,676
Now in the State, mustered into United States service	14,500

Aggregate number of men raised in State	120,576
Of those who entered the field, there have been	
killed in battle	279
Have died from natural causes	350
Made prisoners of war	550
Honorably discharged	2,700
Discharged by error in United States muster	1,500
Discharge by court martial	140
Absent without leave, and deserters	3,300
Unaccounted for	900
Discharged by expiration of time of service (three months militia	7,534
Now in the field	89,064

If there be added to the latter the volunteers now in the State, an available force of one hundred and three thousand three hundred and seven is shown.

It is estimated that, in addition to the foregoing aggregate, at least twenty-five hundred men have been drawn from this State and mustered into organizations not enumerated above.

This force is scattered over nine States, in forty-three different brigades, and under twelve generals of division.

I will not attempt to heighten the importance of the foregoing exhibit by comments. The figures are more emphatic than words.

GALLANTRY OF NEW YORK TROOPS.

The New York troops have taken part in every engagement during the war, east of the Alleghanies and south of Washington. They have enriched the soil of six States with their loyal blood. Their bearing has at all times been that of freemen contending for firside rights. They have never forgotten the dignity and humanity of the citizen and neighbor in the uniform of the soldier. Courage, coolness and the endurance of veterans, have characterized them in the hour of danger. Of the first to obey the forward call, one of her young commanders was among the earliest to inscribe his name on the bright page of hero martyrs. Others, of beloved memory, have fallen, some in battle, others by disease; and from yet others not a breeze from the South but bears upon it the manly sighs of those who, because they loved and would defend their country's rights, lie the talon's cell. When the enduring record shall be made up, in all that constitutes the brave soldier, the war for the Union will suffer nothing when compared with the grand struggle which gave us a national existence.

MAJOR GENERAL E. D. MORGAN.

On the 28th of September the President tendered me the appointment of Major General of volunteers, under the act of Congress of July 25, 1861, and subsequently created the State of New York into a military department, under my command. Finding, after a careful examination, that there were no constitutional objections to my holding the office, and in view of its practical advantages to the service, I accepted it, although, of course, not intending to receive any of its emoluments.

This summary of facts, connected with meeting the requisitions of the general government, is respectfully submitted for your information. The Military Board, the Comptroller and the chiefs of the several staff departments will present all necessary details. The Legislature will, I am sure, approve the efforts that have been made to meet the demands of the government. The exigency has been great, and the means of providing for it, and of meeting in all respects the desires of the public, have at times been beyond the ability of those charged with the duties. If a feeling of impatience has been manifested in consequence, while its influence has been somewhat disheartening upon the public servants, it was but an indication of the deep determination of the people to crush a rebellion, which in all future time will be adjudged the most causeless and the most wicked that history records.

CONTRACTS FOR SHOES, CLOTHING, ETC.

Under authority granted from the War Department, contracts have been made by me for large supplies of uniforms, under clothing, shoes, ordnance stores, equipments, rations, and other necessary supplies for and on account of the United States, and free from any pecuniary liability except on account of the general government. I submit a form of the contract of which several hundred have been executed by me. The uniforms with which our troops are supplied, being more satisfactory to them, and, in certain details, more appropriate than those furnished from the government store house, I have had the privilege, under authority from the United States, to furnish additional supplies, from time to time, to our troops in the field, so far as practicable, and am glad to say this is a cause of mutual satisfaction to our troops and to the War Department.

Since the last of August the State has had an agent of much military experience located in the office of the Commissary of Clothing at Washington, through whom our troops were supplied with clothing, and to whom applications for supplies of various kinds could be made. Since the middle of November the Inspector General of the State has been stationed in that city. His experience in the field, his familiar acquaintance with army officers and his position on the staff of the Commanding General have given him peculiar facilities for visiting the camps and inspecting the condition of our regiments and knowing their wants.

It is known to you that the first thirty eight volunteer regiments were fitted out by the State. Such also was the case with the three months' militia. For the remainder of the force the general government has furnished, and is to furnish, all the means; and supplies have therefore been in accordance with the general regulations of the army. I recommend that an appropriation at once be made for supplying certain articles of comfort rendered very desirable, if not necessary, by the advanced season, which are not provided for by the army regulations, and which, while adding to the comfort of the soldier, will promote the efficiency of the service.

THE VOLUNTEER ALLOTMENT SYSTEM.

It was not till September that the War Department by a general order gave effect to the act of Congress of July last with reference to the allotment by volunteers of portions of their pay for the benefit of their families. Finding that the system was not so generally adopted as it deserved to be, I requested one of the Commissioners to examine the accounts of the Treasurer, &c., to visit the regiments in the field for the purpose of bringing the system to their attention and procuring its adoption to as large an extent as possible. He was directed to state to the volunteers that application would be made to the Legislature to authorize the employment of the Treasury of the State as the depository of the funds so allotted. Before he had completed his labors Congress, by a new act, placed the matter in the hands of commissioners appointed by the President, who are to serve without compensation. It is, however, desirable that the Treasurer of the State should be promptly authorized to receive and disburse any portions of their pay that the volunteers may desire. Connected with this I recommend the adoption of an equitable system of relief to the families of volunteers.

Since the opening of the rebellion I have devoted myself wholly to the duty in hand, and have earnestly endeavored to preserve the high rank of this State in all matters, and while first regarding the comfort, health and efficiency of the soldier, I have not lost sight of the expenditures involved. No requisition has been made by the government that remains unhonored. Among the very first to respond to the call for the defence of the capital in April, New York has not only steadily answered every demand since made, but has, time after time, brought the privilege of adding to her force in the field. Unless the State shall exhibit an unwillingness to respond to the wishes of the general government, its constituted authorities would seem to be the proper medium, through whom alone company and regimental organizations should be accepted.

HARBOR AND LAKE DEFENCES.

On the 19th of October I received a communication from the Department of State, inviting my consideration of the subject of the improvement and perfection of the harbor defences of the sea and lake coasts of this State, and requesting me to submit the matter to the consideration of the Legislature. Reference was made to the fact, that disloyal persons had hastened to foreign countries even before the present insurrection had revealed itself in arms, to invoke their intervention for the overthrow of the government and the destruction of the federal Union, and although unsuccessful in their first efforts, it was believed that those agents were still industriously endeavoring to accomplish their purposes by degrees and by intrigue, and were seeking to involve our country in controversies with States, with which every interest requires that it shall remain in relations of peace and friendship.

A personal examination, in company with several competent engineers, led me to call the attention of the Legislature of 1860 to the fact that the approaches to the city of New York by water were not adequately defended, and the opportunities incidentally afforded me during the past year fully satisfied me of the insufficiency of our lake defences. I therefore immediately assured the Secretary of State that I would aid the government in providing for the proper protection of our frontiers and harbor approaches, in anticipation of the action of the Legislature. I submit herewith a copy of the correspondence. A preliminary report of the Engineer-in-Chief, relating thereto, will be at once transmitted. The subject is one which calls for prompt and effective measures on the part of the Legislature, and I assure you of my cordial co-operation in any plan which will afford entire security to the persons and property of our citizens. I recommend that immediate measures be taken for obtaining from Congress an appropriation sufficient to provide suitable defences at all exposed points; and so that no time shall be lost, I recommend that authority be given to proceed with the work of preliminary survey, and to take the proper antecedent steps. In default of the prompt action of the United States authorities, it is manifestly our duty to proceed at once with such portions of the defences as prudence requires, looking to the government for ultimate reimbursement.

TONNAGE AND VALUE OF NEW YORK MARINE.

A recent occurrence, which created great solicitude both here and in Europe, and which it was believed by many would lead to hostilities between this country and England, renders it not improper for me to say that no State in the Union has so large an interest as New York in preserving amicable relations, especially with commercial powers. The tonnage and value of vessels owned in the port of New York alone in 1860 were:—

	Tonnage.	Value.
Of sailing vessels	1,258,491	$69,217,005
Of steam vessels	205,510	26,716,300
Total	1,464,001	$95,933,305

The annual average of foreign exports from this State is one hundred and eleven million dollars, and the annual average imports from foreign countries into the State are one hundred and ninety-one million five hundred thousand dollars.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF NEW YORK.

The aggregate imports and exports of the port of New York for the year 1860 were three hundred and eighty-four million dollars, or a daily average of foreign commerce exceeding one million of dollars in value, passing through the Narrows of New York harbor. The business of the ports would be shown more fully by adding to the above the coasting trade, amounting to double if not to quadruple these figures, but there is no official data by which this can be shown.

FOREIGN WAR NOT DESIRABLE.

Hostilities with either of the great Powers of Europe, and most of all with that government which, from contiguity, language and customs, is most intimately related to us, would be of untold disaster. No mere pretext, no caprice of court or Cabinet, no cause whatever, unless it involved national dignity or we are denied a positive right, could justify the representatives of this State in consenting to a war with foreign powers, especially at a period when extraordinary supplies of men and money have been, and will continue to be drawn from us, to overwhelm the insurgents at home. We are now engaged in fighting the battle of constitutional freedom, resolved to restore the rightful authority of the Union throughout its whole extent. We are strong, because we are right. We should not weaken ourselves by taking upon us a war of questionable necessity. Our rank upon the waters and in the family of nations has been obtained through no aid from others. It must be maintained, as must be all our interests, by ourselves. Our career is just opening. If we preserve our self-respect and the respect of other nations. Let us give no intended offence and tamely submit to none. We have confidence in the wisdom of the government, and believe that present and prospective questions affecting this country's relations with foreign Powers will receive that consideration which their weighty consequences entitle them to, and that the decisions will be founded on principles of law. Their decisions are ours; and in a just cause New York casts everything into the balance. Above and beyond all questions of property, all questions of present ease and present peace, the man of true American heart rises to maintain the honor of his flag, and to preserve the dignity and stability of his government.

EDWIN D. MORGAN.

ALBANY, Jan. 7, 1862.

At the conclusion of the reading of the message the Senate adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Jan. 7, 1862.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock this morning, and was called to order by Hanson A. Risley, Clerk of the last Assembly.

Horatio Ballard, Secretary of State, administered the oath of office to members.

All the members were present except Royal Phelps, of New York.

The Assembly proceeded to elect officers.

On the first vote Henry J. Raymond was elected Speaker, receiving 68 votes; Horatio Seymour, of Erie, 56; Thomas S. Gray, of Warren, 1.

Mr. Raymond was voted for by the following members:—Messrs. Ackley, Allen, Alley, Alvord, Andrus, Anthony, Avery, Barry, Bartlett, Beadle, Benedict, Bowe, Bowen, Brand, Bryan, Burr, Bush, Case, Childs, Church, Coles, A. J. Cornell, E. Cornell, Cruttenden, Darrow, E. Davis, J. C. Davis, Depew, Dewey, Dutcher, Fisher, Fulton, Gere, Goslin, Green, Halsey, Hause, P. E. Havens, Hazelton, Houghton, Hudson, Hulburd, Lake, Loveridge, Lottington, Lyman, McCabe, McCenegal, McLeod, McMullen, Maddox, Mason, Maxon, Moore, Neher, Ogden, Paice, Peck, Penfield, Picket, Pierce, Porter, Pringle, Provost, Pryne, Purdy, Reed, Redington, Rice, Root, Schermerhorn, Schofield, Sherwood, Skinner, Snyder, Springer, Stetson, Sweet, Taylor, E. N. Thomas, W. M. Thomas, Townsley, Tracey, D. Waterbury, Wells, Wheeler, Wiard, Wilber—88.

Mr. Horatio Seymour was voted for by the following members:—

Messrs. Banks, Bockstaver, Callahan, Coddington, Coey, Cowles, Darcy, Doyle, Ely, Fletcher, Gray, Hall, Halsted, Haring, J. S. Havens, Johnson, Jones, Kenney, Laler, Lamont, Leamy, Loutrel, Murphy, Newkirk, O'Brien, Olvany, Saxe, Smith, Talman, Ten Broeck, Trimmer, Van Eaten, Van Vleet, Ward, S. Waterbury, Westbrook—56.

Mr. Seymour voted for Thomas S. Gray, of Warren.

Mr. Raymond, having received a majority of the votes of all the members elected to the Assembly, was declared by the Clerk duly elected as Speaker of the Assembly.

The Clerk named Messrs. Hulburd and Seymour as a committee to conduct Mr. Raymond to the chair.

Mr. Raymond, on taking his seat, spoke as follows:

Gentlemen of the Assembly—I tender you my thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me. I accept the responsibility which it carries with it, and I pledge whatever of ability or experience I can command to a faithful performance of the duties which it involves. Whatever else I may lack, I promise you a conscientious impartiality, and a paramount devotion to the public good. You will soon adopt rules for the guidance of your deliberations, and it will be my duty to apply those rules to the various exigencies that may arise. If I should do so with any undue degree of rigor at any time, I trust you will attribute it exclusively to a desire to secure despatch, efficiency and safety to the prosecution of the public business. I shall solicit your indulgence from kind construction of my motives in all cases, and shall expect your support in everything that may be essential to the proper prosecution of our common labors. The most delicate, as it is by far the most important of the duties which your election devolves upon me is the appointment of committees. I shall endeavor so to constitute them as to secure vigorous, intelligent and, above all, upright action on the various subjects that may come before them. You will permit me, gentlemen, to impress upon you the consideration that just in proportion to the efficiency and conscientious care with which the committees of the Assembly attend to the business that comes before them, will the body itself be freed from those outside, irresponsible and too often corrupt influences which substitute private interests for the public good, and impair the confidence of the people in the integrity of legislation. It would scarcely be becoming in me to allude to the measures that may demand your action. But the circumstances of the country compel us to recognise the paramount necessity of laying aside all merely partizan and personal considerations, and of uniting all hearts and all hands in whatever measures may be essential to the preservation of the constitution and the Union. The State of New York relies upon your patriotism to maintain for her the pre-eminence she now holds in the councils of the nation. I renew my thanks, gentlemen, for the honor you have conferred upon me.

J. B. Cushman was elected Clerk by the same vote as the Speaker.

The following were also elected:—

Sergeant-at-Arms—Levi S. Gano.
Doorkeeper—Norman B Sprague.
First Assistant Doorkeeper—W. H. Creed.
Second Assistant Doorkeeper—Thomas Miller.

The usual committees were then appointed to inform the Governor and Senate of the organization of the House.

Mr. Doty, private secretary of the Governor, soon afterwards appeared and presented the annual Message of the Executive.

The message was read by the Clerk, and, on motion of Mr. Pierce, was referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

The House then adjourned till four P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Assembly met at four o'clock, when the drawing for seats took place.

Eleven o'clock was fixed for the commencement of daily sessions. The number of pages of each half session is fixed at twenty-five.

Adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow.

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, Jan. 7, 1862.

The History of the Assembly Caucuses—The Accusations and Counter Charges—The Opponents of Raymond Play into His Hand—The Excitement During the Balloting—How Raymond was Nominated—The Contest for Clerk—The Democracy Come Out in Support of the President—A Bitter Contest Preparing—Who are Responsible for It—Organization of the Court of Appeals—The Parrish Will Case Once More, &c., &c., &c.

The result of the Assembly Caucus last evening has stirred up a great deal of feeling among the members and outsiders in attendance on the organization, and from the bitter meanings on one side and the rejoicings on the other, I am able to obtain the causes which, put together, brought about the result—the nomination of Raymond. In the first place, the original movement of the friends of Raymond for a straight republican caucus was a signal failure, and the moment that his opponents issued a call for all who sustained the policy of the President to meet in caucus, Raymond and his coworkers immediately commenced an attack upon it, on the ground that they would not participate in a caucus with those who opposed them at the polls in November and went against the Union State ticket headed by Dickinson. A counter charge was immediately raised that they were just as sound as those who supported the straight republican candidate for Canal Commissioner against Tallmadge, and on that considerable capital was made. Raymond seeing that the tide was being turned against him, changed his tactics and drew up a call for all of those to participate who supported the successful portion of the Union State ticket, and through appeals for party misrepresentation of the position of the straight democrats on the war question, managed to obtain quite a list of signers, and securing about thirty-one, all but five or six being members elected on straight republican tickets, many of them elected over Union nominees, signed also by every abolitionist in the House—the call was published for the caucus at five o'clock. The other side, or the the supporters of the call issued for seven o'clock, immediately called a caucus for consultation at four o'clock; this caused most of their number to meet in the Assembly Chamber, but really done nothing but get their own friends there just in time to get them into Raymond's caucus. Had it not been for the four o'clock consultation, there would have been only about forty present to take part in the caucus called for the special purpose of advancing the interest of Raymond, under the pretext of party, and that caucus would have proved a fizzle, but the opponents of Raymond all being at the Capitol went in and participated, under the idea that they could defeat Raymond even in his own caucus, but in this they misjudged their strength and did not make any calculation for the special and plausible pleadings of Raymond for party.

Mr. Ogden, a Union democrat, of Yates; in order to test the question, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That all members elected to the Legislature who are in favor of sustaining the government in a vigorous prosecution of the war, and to put down the rebellion and save the Union, and opposed to unjust and partial legislation, and corruption in high and low places, be invited to take seats in this convention.

An interesting debate followed on this, in which several of the Union democrats urged its adoption. Raymond and Pierce opposed, the former making party appeals; it was party all the way through. The result was that all but three or four of those of republican antecedents voted against the proposition, and Raymond secured his point, settling the question that the Legislature should be divided on the question of supporting the national administration, or, in other words, that the interests of party should take the precedence of the interests of the country. This resolution being voted down, then came the balloting for Speaker. The first ballot exhibited the strength of each candidate for himself. Then came the combinat on and the result that would work out of it. All the candidates withdrew except Raymond and Hurlburd, deciding the question in advance of the ballot that a choice would be made on that ballot. The active operators for Raymond on the outside gave up the contest and said that they were beaten; on the inside, however, was a busy hum everybody on the tiptoe of excitement, watching the movements of the friends of the candidate that had withdrawn. It was soon evident that a portion of those who had supported Ogden and Alvord were indignant at the course of Hurlburd's friends in voting against the proposition of extending the invitation to other members, and for Raymond's exclusive party caucus, and were determined to avenge it by going for Raymond; only a portion of that vote going over it made the ballot more exciting, and during the time that the tellers were ascertaining the result, almost every person in the hall was on his feet. A crowd gathered around the Clerk's desk watching ready to obtain even the remotest evidence of the probable result. The count showed that Raymond was the successful man. As a matter of course there was a general rejoicing on the part of his friends and long faces on the other side. The result, however, was no criterion of Raymond's positive strength, but the poor management of his opponents, and grew out of contingencies developed in the caucus, and which no person could have foreseen under the mixed and confused condition of things during the last two or three days. The position of Speaker, and all the influence connected with it, will now be used to advance Raymond's interests for United States Senator. He made his appeals for support of the members for Speaker on party grounds; but now that he has been successful he will do everything that lies within his power to secure the position of United States Senator at the next session. Those who imagine that he will do anything for party further than it will advance the interests of Raymond, have but little knowledge of his character. As far as the schemes of this session are concerned, all who wish to be in the favor of the powers that be will apply to James B. Taylor, agent, who is supposed to speak by authority for the successful candidate.

The nomination of Raymond carried with it the Clerk; and to prevent the Union democrats from repudiating the nomination, Mr. Cushman, a Union democrat, had to be chosen, and Mr. Risley, an ardent supporter of Raymond, was thrown overboard. Mr. Van Nort, hailing from the city of New York, of course could not ask for the position of Clerk, with the Speaker from the same locality, and informed his friends that they had better vote for some one else; but, in the face of these facts, he received some eleven votes, showing that he had a great deal of positive strength; and had the successful candidate for Speaker been from any other portion of the State than New York city, it would have been hard to beat him. Raymond having a combination with the friends of Cushman, the success of the one carried the other with it, as a matter of course.

The result of the five o'clock caucus of course settled the question of the seven o'clock call, and did away with that meeting. The straight democrats and those Union democrats, who had been excluded from participation in the caucus, under Raymond's call, immediately got together and issued their call for a caucus this morning, embodying precisely the words of the resolution of Mr. Ogden, thus placing themselves firmly and squarely before the public as the supporters of the national administration, and placing the republicans in a position of desiring to divide the Legislature on that question. Under that call they have nominated their candidate. The issue has been made, and a nice little war between the factions is already on the tapis, ready to break out the moment the organization is completed and the committees are formed; and everything now indicates that Raymond and his followers will have to take the back track, or be driven to the wall on the issue that they have raised. Probably the first question that will be brought up from the democratic side will be a resolution endorsing the action of the President in repudiating the proclamation of General Fremont and his final removal. This will bring the emancipationists to the point, and force them to show their hands. Had it not been for the exclusive call all such controversies would have been avoided. Upon the shoulders of Raymond and his friend rests all the responsibility of the controversy.

The Senate caucus, although issued under a broad call, was not participated in by the straight democrats. Mr. Connolly, however, stated that the call met with his views, and informed the members of the caucus that he could unite with them on that platform, provided that they carried it out in their action in good faith. He presented a candidate for one of the minor offices of the Senate, but seeing no disposition on the part of the republicans to yield any of the offices to the other side, he withdrew his name.

The result of the Assembly caucus last evening removed all obstacles in the way of an immediate organization of the House. It was accomplished without any trouble this morning, Raymond being placed in the chair, and the Governor's Message sent in and read. There is no question that, for the despatch of business, Mr. Raymond will make the best Speaker of any member of the House. Even his opponents have to admit that fact. The only thing to be regretted in his success is the controversy that has been forced upon the House by virtue of the caucus over the support of the administration at a time when the Legislature of the Empire State should speak as with one voice.

I am informed from a reliable source that Mr. Greeley was not for Raymond. Collector Barney, however, telegraphed here, urging his election. The query arises on this point, is Raymond in the combination with Chase against Seward, and yet receiving the support of Seward's friends.

The work of the next day or two will be only routine business, and of but little public importance until the committees are announced.

The Court of Appeals organized to-day, and about the first case brought up was the Parish will. Messrs. O'Conor, Evarts and Dillon are here to argue it.

Royal Phelps did not make his appearance to take part in the organization, and it is rumored that he is off setting his difficulty with Duer by a passage at arms.

Coddington was active in opposition to Raymond.

The democratic members of the Assembly held a caucus this morning. James Darcy, of Kings, was chosen chairman, and A. Bleecker Banks, of Albany, secretary.

The following candidates were nominated:—

For Speaker—Horatio Seymour, of Erie.
For Clerk—Alison N. Wakefield, of Albany.
For Sergeant-at-Arms—Dennis Burns.
Doorkeeper—Levi Grosvenor, of Schoharie.
First Assistant Doorkeeper—Earlus Allen, of Rensselaer.
Second Assistant Doorkeeper—William Rapelyea, of Seneca.
Committee to Call Assembly Caucuses—Messrs. Murphy, of Erie; Loutrel, of New York, and Westbrook, of Ulster.

Meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislature.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 7, 1862.

The Legislature met this afternoon. The Governor's Message will be sent in at noon to-morrow.

The Governor has appointed Col. F. L. Russell, of Pittsburg, Adjutant General of the State, in place of E. M. Biddle, resigned; also F. P. Sherrit, President Judge of Allegany county, vice Judge McClure, deceased.

NEWS FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

FREDERICK, Md., Jan. 7, 1862.

The latest intelligence received from Hancock last night states that General Jackson had retired, leaving only a battery and an infantry guard in sight.

The result of the shelling is unimportant. One rebel officer was seen to fall from his horse, and is believed to have been killed.

None are reported killed or wounded on our side.

Jackson's force consisted of ten regiments, with a large baggage and supply train, and ten days' cooked rations.

It is not known where he went, but it is surmised that he intends to attack Colonel Kelly's command.

General Banks' Third brigade left here at five o'clock yesterday morning, and arrived at Hagerstown, which is twenty-six miles, at five o'clock yesterday evening.

No stragglers were left along the route. This march was performed through three to four inches of snow. The brigade will probably reach Hancock at noon to-day.

General Lander has been assigned to the command of Colonel Kelly's division, and Gen. Williams takes command at Hancock.

The latest from Hancock reports all quiet.

The extravagant reports of our being cut up are all false.

The Connecticut Fifth returned last Thursday from Hancock, and marched again with the Third brigade, to which they are attached, yesterday morning. They have not been attacked, as stated, nor have they been in a position to be attacked since they left Hancock yesterday week.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Gunboat Reconnoissance Near Columbus—Seizure of Contraband Goods, &c.

CAIRO,