sufficient of substantial power to make it independent and respected, Charlemagne did much for the cause of civilization. From that time dates the humanizing and beneficial influence exercised by the popes over the semi-barbarian rulers of the epoch, who would scarcely have respected them if they had not been placed on an equal footing. In their double capacity as princes and heads of the Church they naturally became the referees and arbitrators in all disputes in which an appeal to the sword could be avoided. How much the world gained from their mediation in such matters history attests. It may well be set off as a counterpoise to the corruption and profligacy which at a later period cast their slime over this venerable institution. But even these may be said to have contributed in a measure to the interests of progress. The arts and sciences flourished in the sunshine of that refinement and luxurious indulgence which the Church fostered. We should have had no Michael Angelo or Raphael but for the field opened to their genius by ecclesiastical taste. And in science, notwithstanding the barriers subsequently opposed to the spirit of inquiry, there is no question that we owe its first great developments to the patient investigations of the monks, prompted by the requirements of a newly founded society. The sovereign position of the popes enabled them to concentrate around them the elements of a civilization which would otherwise have only slowly produced their fruits. In the diffusion of education, a taste for the arts and a thirst for intellectual improvement of every kind, it accomplished nearly as great a work as that embraced in its religious functions. The moment that it lost its political and educational influence all necessity for its temporal attributes passed away. No longer having power to influence the councils of kings, or the organization of even a parish school, it has ceased to be an institution in either sense useful or respectable. The consciousness of this, instead of inducing it to resign willingly its political *status*, has driven it into a reactionary course, in the vain hope of preserving it. The insane acts to which it has been impelled by this motive have rendered it not only a curse to its own people, but a nuisance to Europe. Not satisfied with a thousand years of political power—the lifetime of empires—it seeks to perpetuate by a cruelty and despotism that reflect disgrace on the holy creed, with which it is associated, its feeble sway. Europe cannot suffer such a cause of trouble and disquietude to exist longer in its midst. To do so would be to keep the embers of revolution continually smouldering, and to impair the influence of religion and morality.

In undoing the work of his predecessor, therefore, the modern Charlemagne acts in no way inconsistently with the policy of that great benefactor of the Church. The latter invested it with political influence to advance the interests of humanity and to restore to Italy the unity she had lost. Napoleon divests it of this influence for motives precisely analogous. The only difference in the positions of the two monarchs is that of circumstances. These have been reversed while the policy remains unaltered. It is fortunate that France possesses a second ruler with sagacity and boldness enough to carry it out.

THE WISH FATHER TO THE THOUGHT.—It is amusing to see the ingenuity with which the rebel journals in this city strive to lessen the advantages gained by the Union generals upon every occasion. According to them our armies never win a battle, never make a magnificent march, never gain a strategic point. One of these organs yesterday devoted a whole column of foggy argument and logic, elaborate only in its stupidity, to prove that Sherman was in a very bad way, and was not at all likely to be in a better one. Such was the intention of the article, but it happened that the facts sustained the very reverse of the deductions.

THE REBEL PRESS IN RICHMOND AND NEW YORK.—The similarity of action between these two classes of journals is remarkable. They are both endeavoring to advance the cause of rebellion and to derogate from the honors and successes of the Union armies and their generals. The rebel press in Richmond is endeavoring to unite the South by misrepresenting the position, strength and victories of our army. The rebel press in New York is endeavoring to divide the North by the very same means. The parallel is striking.

COPPER COINAGE.—We stated some days ago that the United States Mint in Philadelphia had coined within six months about eighteen millions of the new copper cents. The November report of that institution states that five millions six hundred and ten thousand cents, and three millions one hundred and forty-five thousand two cent pieces were coined last month. Where do they go?

NEWS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Disaster to the Steamer Continental—Arrival of Sugar and Cotton at Cairo.

CAIRO, Ill., Dec. 4, 1864.

The steamer Continental met with a disaster yesterday morning, but was run on the bar before she filled. There is no water on her main deck. Her cargo was saved in a damaged state by the steamer Hannibal.

The Continental lies straight on the bar and can easily be raised.

The steamer Edward Walsh has arrived from New Orleans. She has ninety-seven hogsheads of sugar for Cincinnati, and twenty-seven hogsheads of sugar and fifty-six bales of cotton for St. Louis.

Sixty four additional bales of cotton arrived here yesterday.

Departmental Commands.

By recent orders of the President of the United States, the military geography of the grand division of West Mississippi, has been subjected to several important changes.

Major General Napoleon J. T. Dana, recently commanding the Sixteenth army corps, headquarters at Vicksburg, has been assigned to a new command, designated the Department of Mississippi, which comprises the State of Mississippi and that portion of Tennessee west of the Tennessee river and recently known as the Department of West Tennessee.

Major General Frederick Steele has been relieved of the command of the Seventh army corps and the Department of Arkansas, and is succeeded by Major General J. J. Reynolds. General Steele reports for assignment to Major General Canby, at New Orleans.

The organization of the new Department of Mississippi has led to some misunderstanding in regard to the territorial limits of the Department of the Gulf. At no time during the existence of the latter has it included any portion of the State of Mississippi. Originally it comprised all the coast of the Gulf of Mexico west of Pensacola harbor, and so much of the Gulf States occupied by the United States forces under General Butler. Subsequently (November 8, 1862), the State of Texas was assigned to it, and, March 16, 1863, Key West and the Tortugas were transferred and added to the department. General Banks was placed in command November 8, 1862. On his return to the Department of the Gulf Gen. Banks will act in subordination to Gen. Canby merely in military matters, but in civil administration will be responsible directly to the government.

PROPOSED STATE BILLIARD TOURNAMENT IN OHIO.—The arrangements for the State billiard tournament recently proposed by Phil Tieman, of Cincinnati, are going on favorably. He has already sent to New York city for the prize cue, which is to be gold mounted and of elegant design and finish, costing two hundred dollars. The affair will come off in Cincinnati.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-eighth Congress.

The President's Message to be Delivered at One o'Clock To-day.

Financial Measures of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Increased Taxation Indispensable to the National Credit.

The House Committed to Taxation of Stocks of Whiskey on Hand.

RETIREMENT OF THE BRITISH MINISTER, &c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1864.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND THE DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

The President's Message will be short—not longer than last year, if as long. It makes about twelve octavo document pages.

In addition to the Navy and Post Office Department reports, the Interior Department report was finished to-day, and sent to the printer, and will probably be ready to-morrow.

Secretary Fessenden's report will be sent in with the Message, before it is printed.

The War Department report is not yet ready.

INCREASED TAXATION INDISPENSABLE TO THE PUBLIC CREDIT.

It is understood that the Secretary of the Treasury will strongly urge upon Congress the necessity of increased taxation, as indispensable to the maintenance of the public credit, and will recommend particularly that a largely increased tax shall be imposed upon whiskey and leaf tobacco, as articles of luxury and common use best able to bear taxation. He will also recommend that no more bonds, with the interest payable in gold, shall be issued, and that legal tender notes shall be substituted for the interest bearing notes lately adopted to supply the wants of the Treasury.

OPENING OF CONGRESS.

The second session of the Thirty-eighth Congress is fairly commenced. For the hour preceding twelve o'clock there was a very jolly gathering of the members of the House in the Representatives' Hall, and the greetings were cordial and hearty after their long separation. Republicans and democrats manifested equal gratification at meeting again, and it was evident that the acerbity of partisan warfare had not embittered their personal feelings. Everybody seemed to feel happy, and to rejoice in the brilliant prospects before the country of a speedy termination of the rebellion, and the restoration of peace through military success and wise statesmanship.

At twelve o'clock the House was called to order, and about one hundred and twenty-five members answered to their names, and the Speaker declared a quorum present and the House ready for business. The day was a pleasant one, and the sentiment was generally expressed that Congress had commenced its session under favorable auspices. The galleries were crowded, and a large number of ladies in attendance, in anticipation of the reading of the President's Message; but in this they were disappointed, it not being ready, and, as was announced to the readers of the HERALD to-day, will not be delivered until to-morrow.

THE LOUISIANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.

The question in regard to the constitutionality of the reorganizing and restoration of the insurrectionary States came up to-day, on the presentation of the credentials of the five members elect from Louisiana. Mr. Davis, of Maryland, presented a remonstrance to their admission, which, with the credentials, was referred to the Committee on Elections. This matter is likely to lead to a protracted discussion when reported from the Election Committee, as the administration party are divided in regard to the recognition of the State governments already instituted in the rebel States. It is very doubtful whether those Louisiana members will be admitted.

TAX ON STOCKS OF WHISKEY ON HAND.

Hon. E. B. Washburne, with his usual pertinacity, brought the tax on stocks of whiskey on hand before the House at the earliest possible moment to-day, and considerable amusement was afforded by his introduction of a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means, if they should decide to increase the tax on whiskey, to provide for a tax on stocks of whiskey on hand. The yeas and nays were called several times on motions to lay on the table, &c.; but it was finally adopted by yeas 53, nays 51. Some of the members remarked that Mr. Washburne seemed to have the tax on whiskey on the brain, he was in such hot haste to get an early expression of the House on his hobby. It is plainly understood that the introduction of this resolution is simply to keep the whiskey question, as it was last session, a sort of shuttlecock for speculators to play with during the winter. The same game was played extensively at the last session, and when the pinch came numbers who had voted for the resolution to tax stock on hand declined to vote for the bill imposing the tax.

A CONGRESSMAN IN A MILITARY DRESS.

This is the first time that a member of either House has presumed to appear in his seat in a military uniform, and, to say nothing of the glaring impropriety of such a proceeding, was in the worst possible taste. If in the military service, Mr. Cobb had no right to a seat in Congress; and if a member of Congress, he has no right to wear the uniform of an officer in the military service.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE.

The Senate resumed its labors to-day in its usual quiet manner, as if but a single night had elapsed since adjournment. A greater number of Senators were present than was anticipated, many arriving by the morning trains and immediately repairing to the Capitol after a hearty breakfast. The attendance of spectators was not large. The galleries were about two-thirds filled, the proceedings in the House evidently being much more attractive to curious visitors than the decorous deportment of Senators. None of the Diplomatic Corps were present, and even the reporters' gallery was occupied only by the reporter of the press and two or three specials. The Senate Chamber, after its thorough renovation during the summer, seemed almost like a new hall, though there yet remains a considerable amount of work to be done, at which the employes are busily engaged before and after the hours of the session, and which will probably require a week for completion.

The introduction by Senator Morrill of Hon. Nathan J. Farwell, the successor of Mr. Fessenden, was the only incident of interest during the afternoon. The new Senator is a tall, muscular man, slightly bent, with a heavy cast of features, grizzly whiskers, and a facial expression bearing a striking mixture of energy, decision and benevolence.

The introduction of the bill for the equipment of six new steam revenue cutters for service on the lakes is to be followed up promptly by favorable action, it being the intention of the friends of the measure to put the Northern border at once in a complete state of defence. This proposition is evidently but preliminary to more extensive arrangements for the protection of the lake and St. Lawrence shores to be considered as soon as the more pressing business relating to finance and the army can be disposed of.

Kansas and Missouri are on the alert for the benefit of their militia, and will endeavor to hurry through Congress the proposition to pay their State troops out of the national Treasury for defending their own homes. There is little probability, however, of an appropriation being made for this object this session.

The session to-morrow, it is expected, will also be brief, adjournment doubtless immediately following the reception of the President's Message, the Senate evidently desiring a reservation of its energies for an early and vigorous attack on Wednesday on the regular order of business.

PROSPECTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ABOLISHING SLAVERY.

There is a very good prospect that a sufficient number of democratic members of the House will yield their opposition to the passage of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery, and permit it to pass by the requisite two-thirds vote. Some of those who opposed it most strongly at the last session have the matter under consideration, and are disposed to heed the teachings of the late election, and no longer seek to avert the final blow to the institution which has brought so much suffering and disaster upon the country. They admit the force of the arguments of the HERALD upon this subject, and there is good reason to believe that at an early day this measure will be consummated, so far as Congress is concerned.

MEETING OF THE SUPREME COURT—THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

At noon to-day, the hour for the meeting of the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Wayne, the senior member of the bench, announced, as no quorum was present, no business could be transacted, and the court adjourned till to-morrow. There were present Associate Justices Wayne, of Georgia; Grier, of Pennsylvania; Clifford, of Maine; Swayne, of Ohio, and Miller, of Iowa. The absentees were Associate Justices Nelson, of New York; Davis, of Illinois (seriously ill), and Catron, of Tennessee. To-morrow there will be a meeting of the bar to prepare resolutions on the death of Chief Justice Taney, which will be presented at the opening of the court. The appointment of a Chief Justice is to be made in the meantime. From indications to-day this appointment will be conferred on Judge Swayne. The advocates of the selection of Mr. Chase have virtually given up the contest. It is said that the discovery of a certain letter, expressing sentiments of opposition to the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, has induced him to disregard the promises alleged to have been made by him for the appointment of Mr. Chase to the then expected vacancy on the Supreme Bench.

THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The nomination of James Speed, of Kentucky, as Attorney General, was sent to the Senate to-day. He will not assume the duties of the office until his confirmation.

THE BRITISH MINISTER'S RETIREMENT.

Lord Lyons leaves Washington to-morrow. It is alleged that he retires on account of ill health; but the fact that the horses, wines and personal effects of the embassy are to be sold at auction within a week, has occasioned much curiosity as to the real reason of his retirement.

MR. AND MRS. LINCOLN AT THE OPERA.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln appeared in the Presidential box at Grover's Opera to-night.

RUSH FOR COMMISSIONS IN HANCOCK'S NEW CORPS.

An immense pressure has already been brought to bear upon the President for commissions in the new First corps, most of the applications emanating from disappointed candidates for appointments in the earlier organization. Many of the individuals inflict upon the War Department voluminous testimonials of political services, and pledge themselves to recruit hundreds of men at short notice. All such applications, however, are thrown aside, it having been determined to accept no recommendations except those of long and efficient service in the field. The brigadiers will be selected from colonels now commanding brigades at the front. General Hancock has not yet announced his staff, and will probably not make all his selections for such duty until late in the winter. Camp Stoneman has been designated as the rendezvous for recruits, at which place the regiments will be organized. It is believed, however, that officers will be selected at early date to open recruiting stations for the corps.

INCREASE OF PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS.

A powerful effort is to be made immediately by a combination of prominent officers to hurry through Congress the bill increasing their pay. They claim that the high rates of living, even in the field, have become so onerous as to render it impossible for them to remain on their present income, many expressing a determination to resign should the measure fail at this session.

THE DRAFT.

Another draft was made here to-day to fill the quota of troops from the District of Columbia. Among the names drawn was that of S. P. Hanscom, editor of the *National Republican*.

CRIME AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

The Criminal Court for this District commenced the winter term to-day, with a docket comprising seven murder cases, eighty-eight larceny cases, and fifty indictments for other offences.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.
SECOND SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1864.

The Senate was called to order at twelve o'clock, noon, by Mr. Clark, of New Hampshire, President *pro tem.*

The following Senators were present:—

Messrs. Anthony, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Conness, Cowan, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Harding, Harlan, Harris, Henderson, Hendricks, Hicks, Howe, Johnson, Lane, of Indiana; Lane, of Kansas; McDougall, Morgan, Morrill, Nesmith, Pomeroy, Powell, Ramsay, Sherman, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Van Winkle, Wade, Wilkinson and Willey.

A prayer was then made by the chaplain, Mr. Bowman, of Indiana.

BOTH HOUSES READY FOR BUSINESS.

Mr. FOOT, (rep.) of Vt., offered a resolution that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to inform the House that the Senate was ready to proceed to business.

Resolution adopted.

THE NEW SENATOR FROM MAINE.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Me., presented the credentials of Mr. Nathan A. Farwell, appointed by the Governor of Maine to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Fessenden.

The credentials were read, and Mr. Farwell was duly sworn in as senator from Maine.

COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. FOOT offered a resolution that a committee of three be appointed to join a committee to be appointed by the House, and wait upon President Lincoln to inform him that a quorum is present in both houses, and that they are ready to proceed to business.

Mr. McPHERSON, Clerk of the House, here appeared, and informed the Senate that the House was ready to proceed to business, and had appointed a committee to wait on the President.

Mr. FOOT's resolution was taken up and passed.

The Senate then appointed Messrs. Foot, Conness and Hendricks to act with the House committee to wait upon the President.

THE HOUR OF MEETING.

Mr. FOOT offered a resolution that the hour of meeting of the Senate be twelve o'clock until otherwise ordered.

Resolution adopted.

REVENUE CUTTERS FOR THE LAKES.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, offered a bill to authorize the purchase or construction of revenue cutters on the lakes.

The bill provides as follows:—

That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to construct not exceeding six steam revenue cutters for service on the lakes, and for that purpose the sum of one million of dollars, or so much thereof as is necessary, is appropriated.

RELIEF OF THE KANSAS MILITIA.

Mr. LANE, (rep.) of Kansas, introduced a bill for the relief of the militia of Kansas in repelling the invasions of the rebels under Price. Ordered to be printed.

RECESS.

Mr. FOSTER (rep.) of Conn., moved that the Senate take a recess for one hour.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Senate reassembled at half-past one o'clock, and the committee appointed to wait on the President not having returned, on motion of Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass. adjourned at two o'clock.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON Dec. 5, 1864.

The House assembled at twelve o'clock noon. The galleries are densely crowded. All the members were in the best possible humor, and are exchanging salutations with each other.

The SPEAKER called the House to order, when a prayer was offered up to the Throne of Grace by Chaplain Channing.

The roll of members was called and upwards of one hundred and fifty members answered to their names.

A quorum was announced as in attendance.

A message was received from the Senate informing the House that a quorum of the Senate had assembled and were ready to proceed to business.

COMMITTEE TO WAIT ON THE PRESIDENT.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., a resolution was adopted that the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House was assembled and ready to proceed with business. Also a resolution, which was adopted, that a committee of three be appointed on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to wait on the President and inform him that a quorum of the two houses was assembled and ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make.

The SPEAKER appointed Messrs. Washburne, Pendleton and Fenton as the committee for the House.

NEW MEMBERS QUALIFIED.

Mr. CONKLING, (opp.) of N. Y., introduced Mr. Dwight Townsend, elected in place of Mr. Stebbins, of New York, resigned, and he was sworn in.

Mr. Charles D. Poston, Delegate from Arizona, was also introduced and qualified.

THE LOUISIANA DELEGATION.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the credentials of five gentlemen of Louisiana, signed by Michael Hahn, Governor, purporting to be elected members of the House in pursuance of the recently adopted constitution of that State.

The credentials were referred to the Committee on Elections.

The privileges of the hall were accorded to them while the question of their credentials was pending.

Mr. Davis, (rep.) of Md., presented a protest from Louisiana against their being admitted as members. It was referred to the Committee on Elections.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION—PROPOSED REPEAL OF THE CLAUSE PROHIBITING STATE EXPORT DUTIES.

On motion of Mr. DAVIS, of Md., it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for an amendment of the constitution, providing that so much of the ninth section of the first article of the constitution as declares that no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any State be, and the same is hereby, annulled.

THE CHOICE OF SEATS.

Mr. ELIOT, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution proposing that the members draw for the choice of seats; but it was laid on the table.

THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN COL. KEY AND GEN. HOWELL COBB.

Mr. PENDLETON, (dem.) of Ohio, offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate, if not incompatible with the public interests, the report made by Colonel Thomas M. Key of an interview between himself and General Howell Cobb on the 14th day of June, 1863, on the banks of the Chickahominy, by the authority of the War Department, on the subject of the exchange of prisoners.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., objected; so the subject lies over.

REDUCTION OF THE TARIFF.

Mr. COX, (dem.) of Ohio, offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Ways and Means, with a view to lessen the cost of the necessaries of life, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the tariff upon coffee, sugar, tea and similar articles, either by the payment of all customs in the paper currency of the government instead of gold, or by the modification of the tariff so that an ad valorem and not a specific duty be laid upon said articles.

On motion of Mr. DAWES, (rep.) of Mass., the resolution was tabled by a vote of 63 yeas against 49 nays, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Ames, Anderson, Arnold, Ashley, Baily, Baldwin of Mass., Baxter, Beaman, Blaine, Boutwell, Broomall, Cobb, Cole, Davis of Md., Davis of N. Y., Dawes, Deming, Dixon, Donelly, Eckley, Eliot, Farnsworth, Frank, Garfield, Grinnell, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of Conn., Hulburd, Ingersoll, Jenckes, Julian, Kasson, Kelly, Kellogg of Mich., Kellogg of N. Y., Longyear, McBride, Miller of N. Y., Moorhead, Morrill, Leonard Myers, Norton, O'Neill of Penn., Orth, Patterson, Perham, Randall of Ky., Rice of Mass., Rollins of N. H., Schenck, Shannon, Sloan, Spalding, Stevens, Starr, Upson, Van Valkenburg, Washburne of Ill., Washburn of Mass., Wheeler, Williams and Wilder—63.

NAYS—Messrs. Alley, Ancona, Baldwin of Mich., Blair, Bliss, Boyd, Brooks, Brown of Wis., Chanler, Ambrose W. Clark, Freeman Clark, Coffroth, Cox, Dawson, Denison, Eden, Fisck, Holman, Kalbfleisch, Law, Le Blond, Long, Marcy, Middleton, Miller of Penn., Morris of Ohio, Morrison, Noble, Odell, O'Neill of Ohio, Pendleton, Perry, Price, Pruyn, Radford, Rice of Maine, Rogers, Smithers, Stiles, Strouse, Sweat, Dwight Townsend, Ward, Whaley, Wilson, Windom, Wood and Yeaman—48.

SINKING FUND FOR THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

On motion of Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., it was resolved that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing a sinking fund at an early day for the gradual extinguishment of the public debt.

TAX ON DOMESTIC LIQUORS ON HAND.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., offered a resolution that in any amendment to the Revenue bill to be reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, the said Committee be instructed to lay a tax on all stocks of domestic liquors on hand.

Mr. MORRILL moved to lay the resolution on the table.

Disagreed to—47 yeas against 63 nays.

The resolution was then agreed to by a vote of 53 yeas to 51 nays, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Arnold, Baldwin of Mich., Baldwin of Mass., Beaman, Blair, Boutwell, Brown of Wis., Chanler, Clark, Cobb, Coffroth, Cole, Eckley, Dawson, Deming, Dixon, Donelly, Eckley, Eden, Eliot, Farnsworth, Frank, Grinnell, Hubbard of Conn., Hulburd, Jenckes, Julian, Kalbfleisch, Kellogg of Mich., Miller of N. Y., Morehead, Morrison, Norton, Odell, Pomeroy, Price, Price, Radford, Randall of Ky., Rice of Me., Rollins of N. H., Scofield, Sloan, Spalding, Steele of N. Y., Tracy, Upson, Washburn of Mass., Williams, Wilson, Windom and Wood—53.

NAYS—Messrs. Ancona, Ashley, Baxter, Blaine, Bliss, Blow, Brooks, Broomall, Cox, Davis of Md., Davis of N. Y., Denison, Finck, Garfield, Harrington, Holman, Hooper, Hubbard of Iowa, Ingersoll, Kelly, Law, Le Blond, Longyear, Marcy, McBride, Middleton, Morrill, Morris of Ohio, Leonard Myers, Noble, O'Neill of Pa., O'Neill of Ohio, Orth, Patterson, Perry, Pruyn, Rice of Mass., Schenck, Scott, Shannon, Smithers, Starr, Stevens, Stiles, Strouse, Townsend, Van Valkenburgh, Ward, Whaley, Wheeler and Wilder—51.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

Various gentlemen to-day in the House gave notice, under the rules, of their intention to introduce bills on the following named subjects:—

By Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind., providing for the forfeiture of the fee of rebel landholders, and prescribing an oath of loyalty to all persons practising law in the rebel States.

By Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., to regulate the value of money; to prohibit the exportation of gold and silver coin; to prevent gold and silver coin and bullion from being paid or accepted for greater value than their real current value, and preventing any note or bill issued by the United States from being received for a smaller sum than is thereon specified; also a bill supplemental to the act of June 30, 1864, so far as the same affects tobacco and cigars.

By Mr. ELIJAH WARD, (opp.) of N. Y., to repeal so much of section seventh of the Internal Revenue act of March 7, 1864, as imposes an additional tax of forty cents a gallon upon spirits imported prior to the passage of that law.

By Mr. SPALDING, (rep.) of Ohio, providing for the establishing of a navy yard at Cleveland, Ohio, and a bill appropriating a share of the public lands for the benefit of such soldiers and sailors in the regular and volunteer service of the United States as shall have rallied around the flag of the Union in the war of the rebellion, whether natives, naturalized citizens or aliens; and a bill to prescribe a more imparcial mode of empanelling jurors in the federal courts.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The SPEAKER said that he understood that the message of the President would not be communicated to day.

The House then, on motion of Mr. HOLMAN, (dem.) of Ind., at twenty-five minutes to two o'clock, adjourned.

The Opera.

For the first time in two years Donizetti's brilliant little opera of *La Figlia del Regimento* was given at the Academy last night to a very full house—indeed a much larger one than works so old and familiar to the public usually command. The character of Marie is well suited to Miss Kellogg's manner and voice. Her acting was easy and natural, as indeed it always is. She was called before the curtain at the close of the first act, and was very warmly encored in the music lesson scene with Susini in the second act. To-night Don Sebastian will be produced for the fifth time, and as it will in all probability be soon withdrawn to make way for *Fra Diavolo*, which is in active rehearsal, those who have not seen that grand spectacular and historical lyric drama of Donizetti's later days should not lose the few opportunities which may be left to witness it.

The Theatres Last Night.

THE BROADWAY THEATRE.

Apparently agreeing with us in our estimate of the Poor Gentleman, Mr. John Owens withdrew that play last evening, and substituted Buckstone's farcical adaptation of a French comedy, called The Happiest Day of My Life. In this Mr. Owens was more generous than most stars; for he gave several other actors a chance to distinguish themselves. His own part in Buckstone's two act farce is not so very prominent, and Mrs. Hind, Mrs. Tyrrell, Mr. Sol Smith and Mr. Maeder managed to improve their opportunity and please the audience. Mrs. Hind has never acted better, and Mr. Sol Smith, who always dresses his part irreproachably, played the old man with a great deal of quiet skill. The farce is full of funny situations, is capitally written, and kept the house in a constant roar. Mr. Owens was really admirable. His acting was perfectly satisfactory throughout, and here and there—in the drunken scene for example—were touches which reminded us of Burton. Aside from Solon Shingle, he has played no part so artistically during this engagement. His Henry Dove, his Joshua Butterby and his Dr. Ollapod cannot compare with his Mr. Gillman in this piece. We must object, however, to the traditional and provincial manner in which he allows the other actors to arrange themselves upon the stage, and particularly to the style in which they "front face" in a straight line at the footlights, like the Seventh regiment on dress parade. Solon Shingle concluded the performance, and is more popular than ever. The house was crowded.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams began an engagement at this theatre last evening. There was an immense audience, which filled not only the seats, but the aisles, the lobies and the stairs. The laughter and applause was almost incessant. The play was Gayler's Connie Soogah, which had a success last season, and which was produced with fine scenery, splendid effects, new songs, pipes of dances and crowds of supernumeraries. That thirsh drama is exceedingly popular nobody can deny. Why it should be so, is a question that puzzles the critics and the philosophers. The wonder of it is that the same sort of business has been popular for ever so many years. We had hopes at one time that it was dying out, to be revived by something better; but Boucicault's Colleen Bawn gave it a new lease of life by combining spectacular effects with the old brogue, jig and shillalah. So surely as Barney Williams puts his name upon the bills, so surely the theatre is jammed. Pets follow each other like sheep to the slaughter, and the newspapers follow the people. Shrewd enough to perceive the additional attraction of the Boucicault style of Irish drama, Mr. Williams has adopted it in the Connie Soogah, and finds it tremendously profitable. How to handle his overcrowded audiences with our own conviction of the merits of this sort of plays is a problem. But the style, such as it is, Mr. Williams now has the monopoly. There is no other actor in the country, whom we can now remember, who adheres strictly to Irish parts. Mrs. Williams plays Yankee and Irish girls alike, and displays her singing and fine dancing in protean style also. We are quite tired of predicting the decline and fall of the Irish drama; for it revives after every blow as if it had as many lives as a cat. We are content therefore, with chronicling its successes without explaining them.

STADT THEATRE.

Mr. Daniel E. Bandmann made his first appearance at this house last night as Hamlet, in Schlegel's German version that play. Mr. Bandmann has, on previous occasions represented Shakspere in English at Niblo's, and willie believe, again assume a place on the boards of that house in some of the great bard's conceptions. When it is that the German idea of the character of Hamlet differs from our settled impressions of it, or that the audience demanded a more demonstrative rendering of it, it is certain that Mr. Bandmann threw more passion and vigor into the character than we have been accustomed to in the faithful portraiture of the mysterious and melancholy Prince. We have seldom seen a house so dense crowded, nor an audience so absorbed by an actor as that of the Stadt theatre last night. That Mr. Bandmann is an actor of decided merit we have evidenced before. That his talents are fully appreciated by his countrymen, his reception last night very abundantly proved.

COX CANAL BREAK.—The canal break at Lawrence, Massa, proves more serious than was at first supposed. It will probably be repaired before next Tuesday, and in the meantime the employes are losing wages to the amount of $10,000 per day. The total loss is estimated at $2000.

THE FRANCO-ITALIAN CONVENTION.

Highly Interesting Correspondence from Turin.

TURIN, Nov. 16, 1864.

The Papacy and the Modern Charlemagne—View Taken by the Italian People of the Convention with France—Temporary Misunderstanding as to Its Bearings—The Riots at Turin—The Change of Ministry—Growing Conviction as to the Benefits Likely to Result to Italy from the Convention—The French Troops Once Removed from Rome the Unification of Italy Considered Certain, &c.

In the eighth century Charlemagne built up the temporal power of the Papacy by the aid which he gave Adrian against Didier, King of the Lombards, and by restoring to that kingdom its ancient name of Italy. In this, the nineteenth century, the modern Charlemagne (Napoleon) gives the death blow to the sovereignty of the Popes by a measure which promises to restore to Italy the unity which she had lost. Of the manner in which so remarkable an event has been brought about, the official documents will by this time have informed you. The object of my present letter is to show you how the convention has been received and how it is viewed by the Italian people.

On the night of the 19th of September the Marquis di Pepoli arrived at Turin, bringing with him the convention on the Roman question. It bore the signatures of M. Drouyn de Lhuys, the Commander Nigra and the Marquis di Pepoli. In this document we had the promise of the Roman question entering upon its phase of solution. In France, as in Italy, the astonishment caused by it was immense. This great event, the secret of which had been so well kept, appeared to every one enveloped in clouds. Speculations, extravagant hopes and bitter criticisms were heard on all sides. The Italians, in their excitement, took part either for or against the basis of the stipulations agreed upon, and although the details were not as yet known, the bare fact of the convention gave rise to hot discussions, more or less premature. This was to be expected. The imagination is prone to seize upon an event so fruitful of speculation, and rumors multiplied. The fact which, in connection with the convention, created the most profound impression in Turin, was the proposed transfer of the seat of government from that city to Florence. The change, it could not be denied, involved a displacement of interests of the very highest importance, and which could not fail to occasion the greatest solicitude to the government. And yet the removal of the seat of government, which in our case is attended with such grave results, becomes only of secondary importance when we compare it to the international question which is at present in agitation. It is simply a local interest in presence of a European one. In fact, if the diplomatic negotiations, of which we know the net results, establish a triple alliance, powerful, compact and determined, opposing the liberal to the despotic element, the force of modern to the coalition of divine rights, of what account are the considerations arising from a displacement of interests? Supposing us to be on the eve of the great European struggle predicted by Napoleon on the rock of St. Helena; supposing Italy to be on the point of realizing her glorious destinies, would the national patriotism hesitate to support with courage the trials that precede success? It is not to be denied that it is imposing a great sacrifice on the true-hearted and patriotic sovereign of Italy to thus place a barrier between him and the city in which he was born—the cradle of his glorious dynasty. But of what act of self-devotion and abnegation is not capable the King, who has supported with noble patience and energy good as well as evil fortune, and who is always in advance of his people when there is any question of the national interests. If the project of transfer is recognized as conducive to the unification of Italy, the example of the King ought certainly to be imitated by all, and every patriot should know how to cast aside his personal interests and his predilections for the complete realization of the freedom of the Peninsula.

Two great facts detach themselves from the questions at present agitated in Italy—the formation of a triple alliance (Anglo-Franco-Italian) and the eventuality of an aggression upon Italy by Austria. The first of these sufficiently explains itself by the necessity of opposing a compact force to the league of the Northern Powers. An understanding between St. Petersburg, Vienna and Berlin is more probable than ever. It matters not what name may be given to it, because nothing is more certain than that there is on foot a project of an anti-liberal coalition—of a league directed against modern progress—of a compact between the partisans of divine rights. It is positive that Russia, which remembers Sebastopol; that Austria, which forgets neither Magenta nor San Martino; that Prussia, flushed with the success of her exploits in the duchies, have given each other reciprocal guarantees to resist the current of modern ideas. The Holy Alliance thus reconstructed, what becomes the duty of the liberal Powers? To consult, agree and unite in their turn in order not to be taken by surprise. In these considerations originated the recent negotiations.

Their results are now known to us. The situation of Italy offered an exceptional interest in this sense, that when the great struggle would commence it would be the first to be exposed to the blows of the enemy on the side of Lombardy; and it had this additional disadvantage—that the stationary character of the Roman question absorbed part of its strength and paralyzed its patriotic energies.

It was necessary to provide against this double peril, and when the aid of the peninsula was invited to complete the liberal triumvirate the first resolution to be taken was to restore to it the liberty of its movements and enable it to occupy itself with questions of strategy and of territorial defence. From this *ensemble* of considerations issued the Franco-Italian convention which, in assigning a date to the evacuation of Rome by the French troops, freed the peninsula from one of the most serious of its embarrassments.

Nevertheless, the question relative to the project of the transfer of the seat of government excited, as I have already said, the most opposite sentiments. Some considered the fact as being but the prelude to events which would insure the complete triumph of Italian independence. Others thought they witnessed in it the spectacle of national disarmament and humiliation. "It was a concession made to France," they said; "a condition imposed upon us;" and thence they deduced the most prejudicial conclusions.

In this state of agitation and popular excitement it was to be expected that grave complications would arise, and the anticipation was fulfilled. On the 21st of September, about three in the afternoon, an assemblage of the people took place in front of the Hotel de Ville, and the crowd proceeded with banners at their head through the Dora Grassa street, the Place du Chateau and LA Rue Neuve towards the Place de St. Charles, with the intention, it appears, of entering by force the offices of the *Gazette de Turin*. A few persons had penetrated into the printing office when the City Guard appeared with drawn sabres, and, precipitating themselves furiously upon the unarmed crowd, wounded several. A second gathering took place in half an hour after, and provoked a fresh struggle, with like unequal results and more arrests. In the meanwhile some members of the Municipal Council, hearing of these occurrences, hastened to the spot, and, addressing the crowd, endeavored to appease the excitement and persuade those composing it to retire. At the same time they promised that the parties arrested would be released as soon as possible, which was done in a few hours afterward. Notwithstanding their entreaties the crowd did not disperse, but demanded, with threatening cries, that the banners taken should be restored to it. The doors of the Questure having been closed, the rioters began battering them with stones, and also broke the windows. Shortly after the Questor, at the demand of several influential persons, consented to restore the flags. The crowd then dispersed. While all this was occurring the municipal Junta caused to be posted up a proclamation urging the populace to preserve the public peace. The members of the Junta felt it necessary to render their sittings permanent. These regrettable facts created a most painful impression upon the public mind, and towards four o'clock most of the shops were closed.

In the night of the same day crowds again began to assemble, and sanguinary collisions took place. Besides a number of soldiers and three officers wounded by stones, three persons were killed, two of whom were supposed to belong to the police, and the other to the municipal guards. Thereupon a crowd armed with sticks, stones, and some with pistols, rush