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THE EVENING STAR.

Washington News and Gossip.

"MARK TWAIN."—Almost everybody who fancies he knows a good thing, in the humorous way, when he sees or hears it, was on hand last night to assist at the debut of Mr. Clemens, otherwise known as "Mark Twain," as a lecturer.

The subject announced was "Frozen Truth," but as in the case of the well-remembered "exclusive" lecture of the lamented "Artemus Ward," upon "The Babes in the Wood," in which the audience were favored with only a single allusion to the babes, to the effect that they were the children of poor, but respectable parents, and died young, so in this discourse of last night, the promised gelid facts never made their appearance, though anxiously looked for by literal sort of hearers.

The thread of the lecture was a running review of the renowned excursion of the New England pilgrims, per steamer Quaker City, to the Holy Land, and this trip, illustrated from the "Mark Twain" point of view, afforded material for a most successful attack upon the foibles. His description of the seasick pilgrim, (the pilgrims he liked, but didn't "doted" on) of the aggravating doctor, who was continually making himself disagreeable by having the toothache and the heart-disease, though remonstrated with; of the fellow-traveler who sat up all night, on the watch for Scylla and Charybdis; of the breakfast with the Emperor of Russia; his personal description of the Emperor, who treated him so kindly and frankly, telling him he could leave whenever he wanted it;" his rough experience in Syria, the only pleasing reminiscence of which was the time he had the cholera at Damascus; his mathematical comparison of the proportion of arable land to desert in Syria, to that of absolute lemon in the pies known as lemon pies, at his Washington hotel; his warmly expressed detestation of the villainous camels that were always trying to bite you when you hadn't done anything to "them"; his unanswerable argument against matrimony, found in the fact that the Sultan "has 100 wives and isn't happy;" his adeq uatandum appeal to his bachelor auditors apropos to this madness of matrimony "How would you like your sleeping apartment lumbered up with a bed six feet long and thirteen hundred feet wide?"; his comparison of the public institutions, buildings and monuments of the U. S. to those of the Old World; his proud claim that no quarter of the Old World has such a monument as the Washington Monument; and that no officials there are more efficient and patriotic, or collect their salaries more promptly than our members of Congress—these and a thousand other kindred touches and points, served to give piquancy to the lecture. In the didactic portions he was not so effective, his voice and style being not favorable to the expression of sentiment or pathos.

"Mark Twain" in a certain grotesque fanciful humor reminds one of "Artemus Ward," and though not in any sense an imitator, his humorous description of the inconveniences and perplexities experienced by the Sultan with his surplusage of wives, was much in the same vein as "A. Ward's" description of the kindred tribulations of Brigham Young. In person Mr. Clemens is not the kind of man the spectator "expected to see." Of medium size, a cast-iron inflexibility of feature, grave face, eyes that lack expression from their neutral hue and the light color of the brows, a drawling speech, and a general air of being about half asleep, "Mark Twain" has a very unpromising look for humor. Many of the audience last night supposed that his slowness of speech and movement was stage mannerism but that was a mistake. That imperturbable drawl is habitual to him; and he is probably the laziest walker that ever stepped. In his most fluent and vivacious moods he has never been known to disgorge more than ten words per minute; and the saunter of Wait Whitman is a race-horse pace compared with his snail-like progress over the ground.

SOLDIERS SENT SOUTH.—By order of General Grant, several companies of soldier have within the past week, been sent from this city to various points in South Carolina and other Southern States, to aid in preserving order.

THE NOMINATION OF EDMUND COOPER for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was rejected by the Senate in Executive session yesterday.

A LIVELY TIME.—Those who were so lucky as to be in the House yesterday afternoon enjoyed a treat decidedly more entertaining than is usually vouchsafed to loungers there aways. The debate came on the vexed question of spirit meters, but it resulted before its close in a sharp arraignment, by General Logan, of the administration for the non-collection of revenue, and the appointment of incompetent and dishonest men to office. In his effort, the member at large displayed the essential qualities of coolness and quickness in retort to an extent that must have surprised even his most partial friends. The questions propounded by his political opponents would have sadly embarrassed many speakers, but General Logan not only successfully parried the thrusts aimed at him, but in nearly every instance turned the efforts of his adversaries to his own advantage. Take it altogether the occasion was one of the most interesting of the session, and was thoroughly relished by those present.

DICKENS' READINGS.—An effort was made some weeks ago to secure Wallack's New Opera House for Mr. Dickens, but that theatre had been permanently leased for the season to the Wallack and Davenport combination. Since then Metzerott Hall has been engaged for four readings, to commence February 8.

THE INDIAN COMMISSION, Hon. N. G. Taylor, were in session again to-day at the Indian office, engaged in adjusting their accounts and winding up the affairs of the Commission.

THE CONTRACT FOR TAKING DOWN THE OLD PENITENTIARY.—On Tuesday last, the time elapsed in which the contractor for taking down the old penitentiary building (Mr. J. T. Stoneridge) obligated himself to do the work, and it is understood that Gen. Ramsey, the commandant of the Arsenal, is in favor of having the work done by the day, and at once giving employment to many now out of work, and thereby relieving much of the suffering in our midst. Gen. Ramsey has already, we are informed, communicated with Gen. Dyer, chief of the Ordnance Bureau, in reference to the work, and should Gen. R.'s suggestions be approved, the work will at once go on. Mr. Stockbridge did little under his contract, his co-operative scheme having fallen through, and the amount of his bid being entirely inadequate for the work. The east wall, near the scaffold on which the conspirators were hung, was taken down, and some of the paving in the room in which the body of Booth had been buried was removed, leaving the greater portion of work yet to be done. The sureties on Mr. Stockbridge's bond are Messrs. C. H. Snow and John F. Coyle.

PUBLIC LANDS IN IOWA.—The Commissioner of the General Land Office has this day transmitted to the President, for his signature, indemnity patents Nos. 65, 69, and 73, embracing 11,023.54 acres of land selected by the State of Iowa under the act of 2d March, 1855, in lieu of swamp lands in Warren, Hardin and Jackson counties, Iowa, located with military bounty land warrants and scrip.

PATENT OFFICE REPORT.—The report of Hon. T. C. Theaker, Commissioner of Patents will be transmitted to Congress on Monday next.

POLITICAL.—The Republican State Central Committee of New York, have issued a call for a State Convention to elect delegates to the National Presidential Convention. The Convention is called to meet in Syracuse on the 5th of February, to be composed of three delegates from each Assembly District. The time of meeting was the only question of dispute, and the fixing of so early a day is regarded as a victory of the friends of Governor Fenton for the Vice Presidency.

—At the Ohio State Democratic Convention, held on the 8th instant, Hon. H. J. Jewett presided, with nineteen vice presidents and five secretaries. The following State ticket was nominated:—Secretary of State, Thomas Hubbard; Supreme Judge, Wm. E. Finck; School Commissioner, J. S. Kirkwood; Board of Public Works, Arthur Hughes; Clerk of Supreme Court, John M. Webb. Mr. Finck will be remembered as the late representative in Congress from the 12th District, and his nomination may be regarded as a good one, but the ticket as a whole cannot be considered as very strong. Washington McLean, George W. McCook, John G. Thompson and W. W. Armstrong were appointed delegates to the National Convention, instructed for Pendleton, and Hugh J. Jewett and Rufus P. Ranney electors at large. The resolutions adopted were expressive of unswerving attachment to Democratic principles, demanding the recognition of the once belligerent Southern States, in opposition to negro suffrage, and condemnatory of Congressional reconstruction measures and of repudiation. The Senatorial fight did not come squarely up, but the incidental results were all in favor of Thurman and against Vallandigham.

—At the Indiana Convention held also on the 8th, the following nominations were made: For Governor, Hon. T. A. Hendricks, by acclamation; Lieutenant Governor, A. P. Edgerton; Secretary of State, General Rueben Kise, Auditor of State, James V. Bemusdaffer; Treasurer of State, James B. Ryan; Clerk of Supreme Court, Noah S. Larose; Reporter of Supreme Court, M. O. Packard. Mr. Edgerton formerly represented the Toledo (Ohio) District in Congress, but with this exception and that of the head of the ticket, the nominees are little known out-side of the State. The platform adopted opposes negro suffrage and radical reconstruction; favors the payment of the Government Bonds in Treasury Notes, commonly called greenbacks, except expressly made payable in gold by law, at the earliest practicable point. The admission of the Southern States to representation in Congress is demanded and George H. Pendleton is nominated for the Presidency.

—Major Pangborn, of the New Jersey Republican State Committee, has been sued by Mr. J. T. Manning for payment for his services to the party during the last Congressional campaign, and a verdict has been given against him in favor of the plaintiff.

—The Westminster (Md.) *Sentinel* comes out this week in favor of General Grant as the Republican candidate for the Presidency.

—The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, Pendleton's organ, calls Seymour the candidate of the New York bondholders.

CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL BANK INDEBTEDNES.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Henderson introduced a series of resolutions (which were laid on the table and ordered to be printed) instructing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of reporting to the Senate for its consideration a bill for the consolidation of all the National indebtedness into long bonds, bearing not more than three and a-half per cent. interest per annum, but payable semi-annually, the principal and interest of the bonds to be paid in gold, and to be secured against taxation by State authority. The repeal of the provision in the national banking laws, limiting the amount of the national currency to $300,000,000, so that any person depositing the new bonds may receive national currency for the purpose of circulation to the extent of 75 per cent. of the par value of the bonds. Such an amendment to the banking laws as shall require the banks already established to deposit, within a given time, the new bonds, or surrender their circulation now secured by deposit of Government securities. In case the banks surrender any part of their circulation already issued, so as to reduce the amount outstanding to less than $200,000,000, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue a similar amount of United States legal tender notes, and use the same in the purchase or payment of bonds which at the time may be redeemable by law. The creation of a financial board, composed in part of the Secretary of Treasury and the Comptroller of Currency, who shall have power, in case the national bank currency shall not be materially diminished, to cause the U. S. notes now outstanding gradually to be funded or cancelled, until the resumption of specie payments. The board, after the resumption of specie payment, is authorized, in times of commercial distress or money panic, to cause to be issued and delivered to the banks, in proportion to their circulation, on deposit of bonds herein provided for, U. S. legal tender notes to an amount not exceeding $50,000,000.

THE WORD "WHITE" BILL.—The answer of President Johnson to the resolution of the Senate inquiring what has been done with the District bill striking out the word "white" will not include an opinion of the Executive upon the effect of the adjournment of Congress before the expiration of the ten days after the passage of the bill, but will simply state the day and hour that the bill was presented to the President for his signature, and that the bill has not been signed. Congress will then of course take such action on this report as a majority of both branches may deem proper. Nevertheless, it may be stated that the Executive considers the bill of no effect, as, according to the opinion of the President, it has failed to become a law by reason of the adjournment of Congress before the expiration of ten days.

THE REPORTED DISCREPANCY.—"Data" says: "Mr. Howard's report to the Senate on the Stanton suspension refers to a discrepancy between the Baird dispatch to Mr. Stanton, as shown by the testimony of General Baird, and that included in the President's report to the Senate, and it is charged by implication, if not directly, that Mr. Johnson has interpolated in that dispatch the words "at once," to make the communication seem more imperative than the language in the original would indicate.

"Your correspondent has examined the official documents, and finds that the original dispatch received by Mr. Stanton from General Baird, as well as the certified copy of the same, furnished by Mr. Stanton to the President, are precisely the same in phraseology, and each includes the words "at once;" so that the copy sent by the Executive to the Senate is an exact transcript of the original on file in the War Department."

PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT.—General Fabol Pujol, the envoy from San Domingo, who arrived in this city a few days since on business with this Government, was introduced to the President to-day by Secretary Seward.

INTERNAL REVENUE.—The receipts from this source to-day were $568,904.81.

DETAILED.—The President has directed that Brevet Lieut. Colonel W. R. Pease, U. S. A. (retired), be detailed as Professor of military tactics in the State University of Wisconsin, and to enter upon the discharge of his duties immediately.

RETIRED.—The President has directed that Brevet. Lieut. Col. James Powell, Captain 4th Infantry, be placed upon the retired list, having been incapacitated for active service by gun shot wound and long service in the army.

NOMINATED.—Charles G. Greene, editor of the Boston *Post*, was to-day nominated by the President Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Boston, Mass.

CONFIRMED.—The Senate yesterday, in executive session, confirmed J. Guy Foreman, postmaster at Erie, Pa.; Oscar Minor, collector of customs for the district of Texas, in place of Kent, deceased; and John C. Cartwright, U. S. attorney for the district of Oregon.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.—The President to-day transmitted to the House a report from the Secretary of State, in answer to a resolution of the House inquiring "How many and what State Legislatures have ratified the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, known as the 14th article." The Secretary reports that official notice has been received at his Department of the ratification of the amendment designated, by the Legislatures of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Tennessee, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, Kansas, Nevada, Missouri, Indiana, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Wisconsin; Pennsylvania, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Nebraska.

By the report of Secretary Seward it will be seen that twenty-one States have given "official notice" of the ratification of the amendment. Maine has ratified the amendment, but has neglected to give official notification of the fact to the State Department. Iowa will soon ratify the amendment, making twenty-three States. It has been given out that Ohio and New Jersey, having elected Democratic Legislatures, will repeal their ratification of the amendment; but shall they do so it will not affect the result, as twenty-one States make the requisite three-fourths of the twenty-seven States recognized by Congress as having the right to vote upon the question. Maryland, Kentucky, and Delaware have rejected the amendment.

THE U. S. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY met yesterday in this city, B. B. French, Esq., President, in the chair and Ben Perley Poore secretary. Letters were read from Marshal P. Wilder, of Mass.; Tench Tighlman, of Md.; Gov. Smyth, of N. H.; John Jones, of Del., and other influential members of the Society, thanking the officers for having preserved the Society through the war, and pledging themselves to attend the next annual meeting and enter upon the recommencement of active operations. Gen. Horace Capron, of Ill., (Commissioner of Agriculture,) was elected a member of the Executive Committee, in place of Isaac Newton, deceased.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.—Mr. Morrill, of Maine, introduced in the Senate to-day from from the Committee on appropriations, amendments to the deficiency bill, as returned from the House, consisting of additional appropriations for Senate deficiency expenses for messengers and laborers, $15,000, for folding room, for Clerks to Committees, $33,840. An amendment is also inserted which repeals the law authorizing the President, on application of a Secretary, to transfer the moneys appropriated for one branch of a Department to another branch of the same Department. The bill was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

REMAINS OF DECEASED ARMY OFFICERS.—General Grant has receivee a number of applications from relatives and friends of officers who died of yellow fever in the Southern States during the past Summer, requesting that their remains be forwarded to their homes, in various parts of the country. All the applications have been considered, and it has been decided to direct that the remains of deceased officers be forwarded to their friends throughout the North, as soon as the weather becomes cold enough to allow the removal of the bodies.

PERSONAL.—Major General Pope and C. S. Ilsley and Wm. McKer Don, members of his staff; Col. E. H. Porter, of Tenn., and Mrs. John Morrissey are at Willard's Hotel.

EXAMINATION OF FENIAN PRISONERS.—A Cable dispatch from London, last night, says: "Piggott, editor of the Dublin Irishman, whose arrest was noticed yesterday, is charged with eight seditious libels uttered last year. Piggott is a son of the Chief Justice of Ireland. Burke, Casey, Shaw and Mahoney, the Fenians who were arrested at Birmingham, on the charge of bringing arms there for the Brotherhood, were brought up at Bow street for examination to-day. Bail was offered, but was not accepted, and the prisoners were sent to Birmingham for trial for treason and felony. The van containing the prisoners, in its transit to and from Bow street, was guarded by a strong escort of military and several platoons of police, all under arms and with drawn cutlasses. These extraordinary precautions were adjudged necessary, as the authorities had received information of a threatened rescue. No disturbance, however, occurred."

THE VIRGINIA RECONSTRUCTION CONVENTION.—The morning session yesterday was occupied by Mr. Hunnicutt in a speech vindicating his political history against the charges from the Conservative side. An exciting interruption occurred, in which a statement that Senator Hunter was a traitor was pronounced a lie by a Conservative member. The Convention last night adopted the seventeenth section of the Bill of Rights, being similar to the old Virginia bill, except an amendment adopted striking out the word "twelve" in fixing the number of a jury; and another amendment was adopted, giving any person the right to write or speak his sentiments, and to be held responsible for them.

TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.—About eight o'clock yesterday morning a man, named Jas. Huzza, residing at No. 103 North High street, committed suicide by cutting his throat. He was a shoemaker by trade, and while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity cut his throat from ear to ear, severing one of the jugular veins and the windpipe. Physicians were at once called, but he was beyond all aid, though he survived four hours. Coroner Sultzer held an inquest on the body, and the jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the above facts.—*Baltimore Gazette, 10th.*

WISCONSIN.—The Wisconsin Legislature organized Wednesday, and the Governor's message was delivered yesterday. The Governor devotes much space to local matters, and on the topic of reconstruction says those who sustained this Union, and who gave to its support the flower of their blood and treasure, have some rights which rebels are bound to respect, and which will be enforced. They have a right to the early restoration to the Union of the States lately in rebellion upon a basis of equal and exact justice to all.

THE OHIO Democratic State Convention at Columbus has nominated Pendleton for President of the United States. He made a speech in the midst of great enthusiasm. A resolution was adopted condemning Congressional usurpation, opposing negro suffrage, declaring against any plan for extending the time for the payment of the national debt, declaring that the Five-twenties should be paid in the same money that was received for their issue; that the Government bonds should be subject to taxation, and that foreign-born citizens are entitled to protection abroad.

THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.—The two houses yesterday went into the election of State Treasurer. It resulted, out of 109 ballots cast, as follows: Robert Fowler 55, John Merryman 3, and 1 blank. Mr. Fowler, the present treasurer, was thereupon declared duly elected for two years. The House adopted a resolution, by general consent, that the committee on colored population be directed to introduce a bill to require the different railroad companies in the State to furnish separate cars for colored people.

A REPUBLICAN MEETING BROKEN UP.—A dispatch from Galveston states that a Republican meeting at Marshall, Texas, on the 31st ult., was broken up by a mob. Judge Caldwell, the speaker, was fired at several times. He sought protection at the post headquarters. The disturbers of the peace were arrested by the military, and afterwards, by order of General Hancock, were turned over to the civil authorities, who released them on bail.

☞ The Denver Tribune reports a serious affray at Trinidad, New Mexico, on Christmas, between Mexicans and Americans. One Mexican was killed, and one American badly wounded. An American was arrested and guarded by Americans, to prevent the Mexicans from lynching him. A company of Government troops was sent for.

SALES OF FARMS.—Joshua Yingling has sold his farm, containing about 48 acres, adjoining Westminster, Carroll county, Md., to R. B. Nutment, for the sum of $11,500. Michael Mordock has sold his farm of 165 acres, on Little Pipe Creek, Carroll county, to David Riegel, of Bachman's Valley, at $95 per acre.

A SINGULAR CASE.—A rich old lady, ninety years of age, has just died at Clifton, England, who for a long time believed that she never could sleep except in her carriage. She used, therefore, to ride out in her carriage every afternoon with the blinds drawn to take her daily rest. The carriage was seen daily travelling at a snail's pace over Clifton Downs.

TELEGRAMS TO THE STAR.

This Afternoon's Dispatches.

FROM EUROPE TO-DAY.
[By Cable to the Associated Press.]

LONDON, Jan. 10, noon.—Consols 92½@92¾ for money. American securities are flat. Illinois Central, 88¾; Erie, 49¾.

PARIS, Jan. 10, noon.—The bullion in the Bank of France has decreased since the last report three hundred and twenty thousand francs.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 10, noon.—Cotton firm and unchanged. Sales of ten thousand bales. Sales of nine days, 114,000 of which 14,000 bales were for export, and 7,000 bales for speculation. Stock in port 449,000 bales, including 94,000 bales of American. At sea, from Bombay for Liverpool, since the last report to Monday, 17,000 bales. Breadstuffs quiet.

LONDON, Jan. 10, 2 p. m.—Consols 92¼@92¾ for money and account. United States 5-20's 71¾@72. Illinois Central 88. American securities flat.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 10, 2 p. m.—Cotton firm and unchanged. Sales of 12,000 bales. Total stock at sea 211,000 bales, of which 115,000 bales are American. Breadstuffs dull.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Col. Burke and the other Fenians, who had a preliminary examination in Bow street yesterday, were taken last night, heavily guarded, by a special train, to Warwick jail.

LONDON, Jan. 10—Closing Prices.—United States 5-20's 71¾. Others unshanged.

FRANKFORT, Jan. 10.—U. S. 5-20's, 76.

PARIS, Jan. 10.—The Bourse is firmer and rentes are up.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 10.—The markets are steady. Common Rosin, 6s.

ANTWERP, Jan. 10.—Petroleum firm at 45 francs.

NEW YORK ITEMS.

Election of Union League Officers—Election of President of the New York Republican General Committee.

[Special Dispatch to The Star.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The Union League, last evening, elected the following officers for the ensuing year:—President, John Jay; Vice Presidents, Charles Butler, Peter Cooper, Edward S. Jaffray, Wm. C. Bryant, Samuel B. Ruggles, Alexander T. Stewart, Cyrus W. Field, W. J. Hoppin, Franklin H. Delano, Elliott C. Cowdin, George W. Blunt, Wm. H. Lee. The death of Col. George T. Noyes, late of Gen. Wadsworth staff, one of the Executive Committee, was announced, and further business was deferred.

Judge Truman J. Fithian was elected President of the New York Republican General Committee last evening.

FROM GEORGIA.

Gen. Meade wants the Delegates to the Convention Paid out of the State Treasury—Gov. Jenkins Objects—Trouble Ahead.

[Special Dispatch to the Star.]

ATLANTA, Jan. 10.—General Meade has declared the delegates to the convention entitled to draw money from the State treasury, and that he would remove the obstacles to obtaining funds. This news created a bitter feeling among the white citizens. Rumors are current that Governor Jenkins and Treasurer Jones will be removed. The papers are in the hands of General Grant, and General Meade will abide by his decision. It is stated that Governor Jenkins is determined not to pay out any money. He is in Milledgeville; and if any attempt to remove him is made, he will sue out an injunction from the United States court.

COMMERCE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 9.—The *Bulletin* to-day publishes the annual review of the trade and commerce of San Francisco for 1867. It shows in round numbers the foreign imports to be $15,000,000; duties paid, $7,600,000; imports via the Isthmus, $38,000,000, mostly currency valuation, and $212,000 via Cape Horn. The exports show the total treasure shipments to have been $40,500,000; merchandise, $22,500,000. Nearly $17,000,000 worth of the exported matter, including $12,500,000 worth of wheat and flour, was despatched in 223 vessels, the grain alone including 161 full cargoes of wheat for Europe. The total value of the grain crop exceeded the gold product. The wool clip of the year amounts to 9,500,000 pounds. The treasure shipments, including the amounts received from places outside of the State, is the smallest since 1850.

FROM TENNESSEE.

The Law Enfranchising the Blacks—It is Decided by a United States Judge to be Null and Void.

[Special Dispatch to the Star.]

KNOXVILLE, Jan. 10.—Judge Trigg, of the United States Court, yesterday refused to grant the injunction inhibiting the new board of Mayor and Aldermen from taking their office. In his opinion, however, he declared the law enfranchising the blacks of the State null and void, on the ground that the Legislature exhausted its special power in enacting the first franchise law.

OHIO POLITICS.

Judge Thurman to be U. S. Senator—Vallandigham favors Pendleton for President.

[Special Dispatch to the Star.]

COLUMBUS, Jan. 10.—There can be no doubt regarding the Senatorial contest. Judge Thurman will be elected beyond doubt. A rumor has been in circulation for two days past to the effect that unfriendly relations existed between Pendleton and Vallandigham. There is no foundation for such reports. Vallandigham is doing his utmost to promote Pendleton's prospects.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN OSWEGO.

OSWEGO, Jan. 10.—The Grant block, in which is located the First National Bank, Young Men's Christian Association, and a dozen other occupants of rooms, was destroyed by fire last night. Loss about $100,000; insurance $50,000. Grant block was valued at $50,000. Fire engine No. 4 burst her boiler, and slightly injured the engineer. The night was very cold and boisterous.

FROM CANADA.

Guarding the Government Buildings at Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Jan. 10.—The military sentries have been trebled during the past few days at Parliament and other public buildings.

THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The Bolters Vote to Adjourn.

HARRISBURG, PA., Jan. 10.—The House met this morning, but adjourned until 2 p. m. The bolters voted with the Republicans to carry the adjournment.

RICH MEN OF NEW YORK.—In the city tax assessment list for 1867 appears the names of about one hundred and fifty thousand property owners, all taxpayers. The total levy for the year is $21,889,655.08, or an increase of $4,938,888.10 over the levy of 1866. At $2.67, the percent on the $100, which is the current rate of tax, the entire property value of the city would be about $860,000,000, according to computation; but it is in fact one-third more than this, or nearly $1,000,000,000, the fact being that property in this city is assessed at one-third below it full valuation. Among the most opulent taxpayers are Wm. B. Astor, whose aggregate tax, exclusive of the national tax, is $100,000; his tax on $2,000,000 of personal property is $53,400; John J. Astor, Jr., is credited with a tax of $3,337.50 on $125,000 personal property, and Wm. A. Astor pays on $20,000 personal property. Mr. A. T. Stewart is taxed $50,000 of this sum nearly one-fourth is derived from his personal property of $2,000,000. Cornelius Vanderbilt pays on $1,200,000 personal property, and besides his other real estate, pays about $88,000 tax on his Harlem railroad extensive city domain. Peter Geolet, at Broadway and Nineteenth street, is assessed on $200,000, and pays an equal amount on property in trust: Robert Goelet on $100,000; Jonathan Thorne on $150,000; Christian G. Gunther on $100,000; Alexander Stuart, the sugar refiner, on $300,000; and Robert L. Stuart, on $250,000; Jonathan Sturgis on a like amount; Robert Hoe on $75,000, and his relative, Peter S., on $20,000; the Appletons pay on $140,000—W. D. Appleton on $100,00 of it; the Harper family on $170,000, of which $60,000 is possessed by James H. Harper, $50,000 by Fetcher Harper, Sr., and $40,000 by John Harper. Paran Stevens, the hotel keeper, is taxed on $125,000.—*New York Commercial.*

☞ It seem that the London Apothecaries Society, so far from having absolutely excluded women from its diploma, is at present bestowing not only its closest, but its most favorable attention on the subject; and that the society in question possesses a considerable majority in favor of enlarging the pale of the medical profession, so as to include women as well.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

This Afternoon's Proceedings.

FRIDAY, January 10.

SENATE.—Mr. Sumner presented the resolutions of citizens of Worcestor, Mass., asking measures for the protection of naturalized citizens abroad, and intercession with Great Britain for the release of parties held as Fenian raiders. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Howard rose to a personal explanation. In the New York *Evening Post* and Philadelphia *Bulletin* of the 7th he noticed what purported to be an abstract of the report of the Committee on Military Affairs relative to the suspension of Secretary Stanton. The report in the case had been committed to him to prepare, and had been so stated in the newspapers. On Monday he had been waited on by two persons—B. Randolph Keim, of the New York *Herald*, and W. Scott Smith, representing himself to be manager of the Evening Press Association. These parties earnestly importuned him for a copy of the report, which, though with much regret, he had finally allowed them to copy, with the strict injunction on their honor not to publish it or take it from his room until after it was made public. These persons had directly violated their pledged faith, and he mentioned their names in order that their employers and the world might know what kind of persons they were.

Mr. Harlan introduced a bill amending the act changing the organization of the Post Office Department, and to provide for the better settlement of the accounts therein. Referred to Committee on Post Offices.

Mr. Morrill, of Maine, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported with amendments the bill to supply deficiencies in the appropriation for the execution of the reconstruction acts.

Mr. Thayer introduced a bill to amend section 13, of the act to increase and fix the military peace establishment of the United States. To Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Harlan called up the bill providing for the formation of corporations and regulating the same in the District of Columbia, which was read and then laid over.

The House bill to suspend the further contraction of the currency was taken up.

Mr. Edmunds offered an amendment, that nothing contained in this or any other existing act shall be so construed to authorize an increase of United States notes or other lawful money beyond the amount now outstanding, except to the amount of fifty millions of the reserve of the United States notes already authorized by law, which, after some debate, was rejected by a vote of 17 yeas to 30 nays.

Mr. Buckalew moved to amend by providing that the act shall take effect only to the 1st of July next, instead of during the pleasure of Congress.

Mr. Norton would sooner the bill should fail than this amendment passed.

HOUSE.—Mr O'Neill (Pa.) offered a resolution directing the Postmaster General to inform the House why the midnight mail between New York and Philadelphia was withdrawn, and whether, in view of the necessity of frequent intercourse between the two cities, the mail cannot be restored. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Stevens (Pa.) Wednesday next, after the morning hour, was fixed upon as the time for the consideration of the bill to establish a system of public schools in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Butler (Mass.) asked, but failed to obtain leave to offer a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to inform the House of all dispatches, &c., that had been received in relation to the alleged suffering from cold by the United States soldiers in Alaska.

The House resumed as the regular order the bill reported yesterday from the Committee of Ways and Means in relation to whisky meters, the previous question upon which was ordered yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Pile (Mo.) addressed the House ostensibly upon the bill, but made a political speech in conformity to the line of argument pursued yesterday.

Mr. Chanler (N. Y.), rising to a point of order, asked whether the question of whiskey meters was a political one. He insisted upon the gentleman confining himself to the question before the House.

The Speaker sustained the point of order.

Mr. Pile.—I was simply taking the line of argument pursued yesterday, and which was permitted.

The Speaker.—That is so, but no point of order was raised, and the Chair did not, therefore, interfere.

Mr. Chanler said he was not present yesterday and was not aware of the line of argument permitted, and he would therefore withdraw the point of order.

No other member objecting, Mr. Pile resumed, and endeavored to fix the responsibility of national demoralization upon the Democratic party. All the papers of the country, from Brick Pomeroy's up, that were espousing Democratic principles, and all the Democrats of the country, from Henry Clay Deane of Iowa to Pendleton, Vallandigham, and Seymour, were responsible for the war, the debt created by it, and the speculation that was the result of the creation of that debt. To talk of bringing this putrid party back to power was preposterous, as the people would never agree to or submit to anything of the kind. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Pile referred to two Democrats in Illinois, who had obtained contracts during the war, and whose names in connection with these contracts were in bad repute in the West.

Mr. Marshall (Ill.) said he had yesterday made upon this subject all the remarks he intended to make; but he knew to whom the gentleman referred as Democrats who had obtained contracts, and he wanted to say now that there was no charge of dishonesty against the persons named.

Mr. Pile said he merely made the general remark with regard to fraud, and it was notorious in the west as to the two gentlemen he had especially referred. If the men who mainly got contracts during the war were not Democrats before the war, they were so during it progress, and during that time voted the Democratic ticket, and acted upon all questions with the Democratic party. Mr. Pile then addressed himself to the consideration of the business before the House.

Mr. Woodbridge (Vt.) said he was surprised at the wide latitude that had been given to debate upon this subject.

Mr. Schenck then spoke upon the question after which the question was taken and the bill was passed.

THE BALTIMORE CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY.—The annual report of the president and directors of the City Passenger Railway Company, presented at the meeting of the stockholders held on Wednesday, shows that during the year 1867 the number of passengers carried was 7,320,555; the number of miles run by the cars was 1,479,680, making about seven hundred passengers carried to each mile run; the amount of fare tax paid to the city was $84,275.53; amount of tax paid to the United States was $13,425.10. During the year two dividends of three per cent. each were paid the stockholders, amounting in the aggregate to $60,000. The average number of cars run daily during the year was 675; the average number of horses employed was 425. The company lost but 18 horses by death during the year. The past year has been the most successful enjoyed by the company since it has been in existence. While the running of the cars on Sunday has proved, in view of the orderly manner in which it is done, a great convenience to the community, it has of course added materially to the receipts of the company, and increased the payments in like proportion to the city.—*Baltimore Sun.*

☞ An apprenticeship case came up before Judge Giles in the United States District in Baltimore on Monday. A colored girl had petitioned for release from indentures, the points involved being nearly the same as the case in which Chief Justice Chase made the decision that the colored apprenticeship laws of Maryland were in conflict with the Civil Rights law, and were therefore, null and avoid. In the present case Judge Giles granted the petition for a release, and confirms the opinion given by the Chief Justice.

MRS. QUIMBY, the woman who recently sued for a divorce from her husband, in Chicago, alleging that he had been guilty of adultery with her mother, has been for a while living at the Tremont House. Her husband had detectives watching her, and Monday night they entered her room and discovered her sleeping with a certain Dr. Hunter. The plaintiff and defendant in that divorce suit will now exchange places.

HOW TO SALT BEEF.—For every 100 pounds of beef take 1½ ounces of saltpetre, 2½ pounds brown sugar, 5 pounds good salt, and 2½ gallons water; mix all together and boil the mass till the hard ingredients are thoroughly dissolved; then let the brine cool and pour it over the meat, which must be packed tight and weighted down. The pickle should entirely cover the brine.—*Rural World.*

☞ Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Davis, General Buchanan, U. S. A., General Wade Hampton, General N. B. Forrest, General J. R. Chalmers were at New Orleans on New Year's Day.

THE ST. ALBANS TRAGEDY.

A correspondent of the New York Herald says:

"The telegraph has already advised you, in a few line dispatch, of the terrible and fatal domestic tragedy that took place at the village of St. Albans, Vt., on Saturday last. I herewith supply the details of the frightful affair:—At about half-past twelve o'clock p. m. on Saturday, the 4th instant, John Bishop, a young married Englishman, went home from the works of the St. Albans Foundry Company, indulging in a birh brought fit of frenzied jealousy against his young and really beautiful wife, which, it seems, had not the slightest possible foundation in fact, but was conceived while in a state of intoxication. During the hour, the upper part of which he occupied, in a state of maddened intoxication, Bishop immediately commenced a dispute, very violent in its character, with his wife, who at the moment was reclining upon a bed, also occupied in part by her invalid sister. Bishop charged his wife in the most opprobrious terms with an unhallowed intimacy with Mr. Peter Ward, the owner of the house in which Bishop resided, and the occupant with his (Ward's) family of the lower part thereof. The unworthy assailment was denied in the spirit and terms in which a faithful wife would naturally deny such wicked and baseless assertions, which womanly denial seemed all the more to brighten the obdurate and unrighteous frenzy of Bishop.

At this point Mrs. Ward, wife of Peter Ward referred to, appeared suddenly on the scene from down stairs, whereupon Bishop became more demented, and at once most violently directed his groundless suspicions to Mrs. Ward and her husband in connection with his wife. While Mrs. Ward was denying the impeachment her husband, attracted by the noise and vociferations made by the maniac Bishop, ascended the stairs and confronted the embittered parties. This appearance of Ward, against whom Bishop's suspicions and charges were the strongest, served apparently to irritate the lunatic beyond all measure and forbearance. He instantly turned for his pistol, Mrs. Ward at the same time fleeing from the room, and, fully recognizing the terrible situation, forced her husband back with her, down to the stairs, telling him that Bishop would surely kill him. At this fearful moment of irresponsible frenzy three pistol shots were heard in rapid succession, whereupon the terror wounded Wards gave a public alarm, as they saw Bishop's wife, fearfully wounded, covered with blood, and agonized with fright, rushing past them to a friendly neighboring residence for assistance, where she sank down overcome by the tragedy and its bloody surroundings. Bishop, upon securing his pistol, and in the sudden absence of the Wards, had turned instantly upon his wife, seeking in his lunacy an immediate victim, and fired two shots into her person as she still sat partially reclining upon the bed. The first ball passed through her wrist and the side, so to speak, of her breast, finally lodging in the folds of her dress. The ball from the second shot entered her right jaw, just as she was fleeing from the room for assistance. Seeing that she had fled and successfully eluded his murderous intentions, Bishop instantly turned the pistol to his own head, and discharging the third shot sank immediately to the floor, and after an hour of utter insensibility died without a struggle. Mrs. Bishop has rallied somewhat from her wounds, but at this writing it is not believed she can possibly survive.

The coroner's inquest upon the body of the dead man confirms the statements of this despatch.

John Bishop was a native of England, some twenty-eight years of age, and had no known relatives in this country. He settled in the village of St. Albans in the second year of the war, and it is said served for a period of two years during the rebellion in a Massachusetts cavalry regiment, attached to