

THE MADISONIAN.

WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1841.

IN THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL, LET THERE BE UNITY—IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY; AND IN ALL THINGS CHARITY.—Augustin.

We understand that Senators CALHOUN and PRESTON have arrived in this city.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The subject of this Report, the chief arm of our public defence, is justly the pride of the country. This able document fully sets forth the present condition of this important branch of the public service, now in a promising state, and suggests the mode and means of many highly important improvements.

The first part, a very large portion of the Report, is occupied with the details of the numerical force of the Navy, the different stations of our squadrons, and an epitome of their last year's services.

In considering the organization and economy of this Department, the Secretary speaks of the operation of the Apprentices system as being highly encouraging, though he admits that some complaints are made, yet adds, without evidence of any abuse.

The difficulty of enlisting seamen is alluded to, and the equal difficulty of accounting for the cause; though a suggestion is thrown out, that new laws and regulations might remedy the difficulty.

The subjects of experiments in gunnery and projectiles—the preservation of various ship-timbers—the use of water-rotted hemp, &c.—are considered; and that of Reform, in every part of the naval establishment, dwelt upon at some length.

The Board of Navy Commissioners is also considered, and in such a manner as to call for reform. We notice this but briefly, because the public will notice it at much length.

The next is the re-organization of this Department. Though the Secretary has had but small experience, yet this is sufficient, he thinks, to display its defects to the most superficial observation.

THE INCREASE of the Navy is next considered; and many important considerations are submitted on this head. No analysis should satisfy the public on this part of the Report; and we dismiss it therefore with an emphatic remark, and a pointed question, in the Secretary's own language, as being both more appropriate and forcible than any we can employ.

After considering the various means and importance of marine defence against foreign invasion the Secretary adds:

"The single question, then, which we have to decide, in reference to this subject, is, Where and by whom shall those battles be fought, which may hereafter become necessary, in defence of our property, our institutions, our honor, and our lives?"

The country will answer with one voice, trumpet-tongued, "On the great Highway of Nations, by her fearless and freeborn sons!"

After considering the question, (which we have presumed to answer in the name of our country) the Secretary remarks, that "If the views he has given be not altogether deceptive, the policy of increasing our navy, without further delay, is obvious."

He then goes into the consideration of the description of vessels, and species of armament, which ought to be had in view, upon an increase of this branch of the public defence. He treats of steamships—considers that no increase of line-of-battle ships is necessary, but that a considerable increase of frigates of the first class is required.

He urges the importance of creating higher grades in the service, considering it a wise rule to establish as many grades as possible in all the services of arms; remarking, that "the rank of Admiral is known in all the navies of the world, except our own; having existed through a long course of past ages, and been fully tested in the experience of all nations. Still existing, and still approved."

The great Poet of Nature well understood the spell and power of rank, and the necessity of distinction by grades—

When degree is shak'd, Which is the ladder to all high designs, The enterprise is sick!

By the way, we may remark, that the title of Admiral is derived from the Arabic, signifying a chief, and was applied indifferently to both services; yet is now confined to the Naval.

The Secretary goes into a full argument on the importance of the subject, and the perplexities encountered by our officers, on foreign stations, when civilities are to be exchanged with those of a foreign nation.

He also considers, that "additional ranks in the Navy would be eminently useful as an instrument of discipline."

But we pass on, and must bring our remarks to a conclusion, after noticing a few matters urged with much earnestness by the Secretary. One is, the necessity for a large increase of the Marine corps; their indispensable aid to the service, and the necessary revision of the laws for their regulation. The propriety of establishing Naval Schools is urged, and clearly shown; and the necessity of assigning them rank, and duties, to unite theory with practice. The situation of the Professors of Mathematics in the service, is considered, and the propriety of a proper provision for their support.

The estimates for the service for the ensuing year, are somewhat increased, but not beyond what is required, if there be an increase of the squadrons. The disadvantage of having vessels unemployed, and the consequent evil of having officers idle, is properly considered. Lastly, the subject of the Navy Yards is considered, their condition set forth, and suggestions for their improvement.

Though a summary of the Naval forces did not enter into the view we intended taking of the report, we may as well conclude by subjoining it:

Our naval force consists of 18 ships of the line, viz. one rated 120 guns, and ten, 74. 15 frigates, one rated 54 guns, and fourteen, 44. 2 brigs and 4 schooners, 10 guns each. 4 steamers. 3 store-ships, 3 receiving vessels, and 5 small schooners.

The ships in commission, and where employed, at the date of the last annual report of the Department, we have not now time to notice.—We shall embrace a future opportunity for it.

In conclusion we have only to say, that the report does great credit to the industry, judgment, ability and patriotism of the author and furnishes the best evidence that it is not necessary to have served in the Navy to understand its wants or appreciate its importance and honor.

As the Report will be multiplied into millions by that great engine of freedom, the Press, and will thus go forth to the millions of our wide extended country, we trust it will be read and approved by the millions of our free and happy Republic.

REFORM.

We have given the outlines of a plan for the reform which seems to be required in the Departments in this city, and have furnished all the suggestions we deem proper to make at present at least in relation to them. Without leaving Washington, or even the Capitol, we have reason to believe, that but slight investigation would supply us with materials for a long series of articles, were exposition of minute details in consonance with our design. Though a reform in the abuses more immediately under the supervision of the members of Congress is with reason thought hopeless, we venture to suggest to them one change in their power—and we suggest it with confidence, because the interest of no one about the Capitol will in any manner be affected by it. Having advocated a reform in the mode of appointing and paying the clerks in the Departments, it is no more than just that we should advocate such a change in the legislation of Congress as will be favorable to their interests as well as beneficial to every branch of the public service.

The prominent business of the National Legislature except on some rare occasions—is the examination of the finances—the investigation of the probable receipts into the Treasury, and the propriety of the appropriations recommended by the Executive. The appropriations are made from year to year—the fiscal year beginning at the same time with the civil year, on the first of January. Congress meets in the beginning of December, but scarcely ever in the smallest embryo of business discernible until the middle of January. So many preliminaries are necessary to the passage of a bill, and so much discussion is ordinarily expended on each one of them, that frequently July witnesses a speech on the propriety of appropriating money, which was actually due the preceding January. There may be millions in the Treasury, but a cent cannot be paid because the law authorizing the payment has not passed.

We are now in the middle of December, and the committees have been just appointed, and thirty days are allowed the Committee of Ways and Means to mature and report the appropriation bills. Imagine what energy and unanimity you please in the members of both Houses, these bills cannot be discussed and passed by the first of February; and yet, on that day, a month's salary will be due to each clerk in Washington. But none of them will be paid either that day or for several months to come, because the law authorizing the payment will not be passed. We said that none will receive their salaries on the 1st of February. Our assertion is too sweeping. The clerks and other officers in the Capitol will be paid—because the members of Congress among the first acts usually provide for themselves, and those in their immediate service. But the clerks are not the only sufferers. The aged pensioner, who, wounded in the cause of his country, has deserved the gratitude of his country, cannot obtain the pittance which is probably all that stands between him and utter destitution—because the appropriation has not passed. The hardy seaman just returned from a three years' cruise cannot go to the bosom of his family with the few dollars his long services have earned—because the appropriation bill has not passed. The members of Congress and the officers of the Capitol alone can exult in plenty, because their appropriation bill has passed.

According to the present system, it is impossible that all these important bills can be enacted in time to meet the just demands of the various claimants on the Government. Congress assembling in December, cannot mature them by the first of February. The remedy, however, for the evil is obvious and easy. Let the commencement of the fiscal year be changed, and the appropriations, instead of being made for the year beginning on the first of January, be made for a fiscal year commencing on the first of July. This we believe is the practice for the Post Office establishment, and should be extended to every other branch of the Government. By merely making this simple change, every inconvenience now existing will be avoided and no new one incurred. If the present Congress, besides providing for the first six months of the coming year, shall appropriate for the expenses of the Government for the 12 months beginning the first of next July, the plan will be originated, and can be carried out hereafter, without difficulty. We are not tenacious about the particular day of commencing the fiscal year; but we have fixed on the one mentioned, because experience shows that the passage of the appropriation bills has often been delayed until July; and if the beginning of the fiscal year be placed at an earlier period, the same inconveniences will be felt, though not to the same extent as at present. Regarding the interests of the pensioners alone, we think the reform worthy the attention of Congress.

We have received No. 140, 141 and 142 of Harper's Family Library. No. 140 contains the "Lives of the Ancient Philosophers," from the French of Fenelon, with notes, &c.

No. 141 and 142 give a complete history of the "Expedition to Russia, undertaken by the Emperor Napoleon in the year 1812, by General Count Philip de Segur."

These productions need no encomiums from us; The subjects alone will commend them to the public, and it is well known that the Harpers never publish any thing from incompetent pens. They may be had of Mr. Franck Taylor, of this city.

THE SECRETARIES' REPORTS.—The rest of these documents will be given in succession without further delay. They have been in type a number of days, but the unusual press of business consequent upon the publication of our daily sheet, unavoidably retarded their progress through the press.

CONSISTENCY.

In looking over the list of our exchange papers, we find some, whose glory seems to consist in the exhibition of all the rancorous malignity of ultraism, furious in their denunciation of the President because he has not rendered the reform he promised identical with an indiscriminate proscription. Receiving their impulses only from the force of partisan animosity, and having lost all sense to the impressions of patriotism, they cannot discover any other meaning for the word reform, than the universal ejection of political opponents, and the introduction into their places of partisan adherents. The spirit of oblivion seems to have shaken its wing heavily over these presses. They have entirely forgotten that their constant theme of invective against the last administration, was its selection of its own adherents as public functionaries. They have forgotten that among the measures of reform promised by the Whigs, was the annihilation of the proscriptive spirit; they have forgotten that we were gladdened with the news that the success of the party opposed to Mr. Van Buren, was to herald the induction of a President of the People, and not the tool of a faction. Were these presses sincere in their protestations made before the election last fall? If they were, they now demonstrate that their honesty was composed of very fragile materials. If, however, their patriotism is so easily compressible into the love of a faction—it is lucky for the country that the virtue of the President is a more solid substance. He has sworn to support the Constitution, and he will do it as his own judgment teaches him to understand it, not in conformity with the dictatorial interpretation of any other. He stands pledged to the President of the People—to battle for those measures which will promote the common weal, and not the interest of any set of men, and to make worth and ability the standard of merit in his appointments.—These very presses promised an Administration with such principles—but no sooner is their candidate successful than they vilify, in language of unmitigated bitterness, their reduction to practice. But if they are forgetful of the doctrine they once professed, the President will not give the sanction of his conduct to their dereliction of principle. They may charge him with perfidy, but the perfidy is their own. He has abandoned no principle—and he has forfeited no pledge; and they are incensed only because neither persuasion can seduce, no abuse drive, and no trick entrap him, into the commission of acts which are in contravention to the principles he has always maintained.

"TRUTH IS MIGHTY," &c.

The friends of the Constitution—those who understand the true principles of the Government—are rallying around President Tyler daily. He will not lack friends and supporters in his patriotic stand against the evil influences of ultraism. We quote below (from the New York Standard,) a just and merited rebuke of the frenzied out-pourings of that case-hardened, ultra Whig, the Editor of the Boston Courier:

THE TARIFF, as alluded to by the President of the United States, does not meet the approval of the enlightened and somewhat ultra Editor of the Boston Courier. Speaking of that part of President Tyler's Message which suggests the propriety and expediency, if not absolute necessity of some change in the "discriminating policy," the Editor of the Courier says, without much regard for the "courtesy which subsists among gentlemen of principle and of honor," that all that Mr. Tyler has advanced in reference to the subject is "mere verbiage," and then, in a spirit somewhat acerbic, adds, in also many words, that President Tyler is an ass, and, in reference to the true policy of the nation, touching the vexed question of "prohibition," knows no more about it than the veriest dolt of the age, and appears to have learned his lessons of political economy from the "judicious" Tariff System of Andrew Jackson.

The Courier, it will be recollected, is the organ of the manufacturers of Massachusetts; and its language in this instance may be supposed to be in unison with the sentiments entertained by that powerful, wealthy, and respectable class of the New England community. The course of the Courier, to say the least of it, is certainly significant. The manufacturers of Rhode Island and Connecticut appear, if the tone of their presses can be relied on, to be somewhat dissatisfied with the Tariff policy of the President's Message.—It is, however, a very difficult thing to write a state paper that will satisfy every one. He who hopes to send a Message to the people that will be universally popular will probably be mistaken.

The concluding sentence is certainly true—none of the works of man are perfect—but from the almost universal popularity of the Message, one is warranted in the assertion that that document is as near perfection (as an Executive production) as mortal man could make. Many who determined to denounce anything emanating from the President, have been forced to commend it; while others (his most bitter enemies) can do no more than carp at it, without alleging a reason for their ill-nature.

CURRENCY, IMPORTATIONS, &c.

Has any one asked himself, how all our importations are paid for? Has he considered that they are mostly purchased by barter; and that most of the business of the whole country, is done by barter? But there are exceptions.

Has any one ever inquired how many millions of silver dollars we have sent to China, to get in exchange silks, gawags, seroots, India crackers, (which last have caused laws in almost every State of the Union to be passed against these boyish nuisances?)

Have the Chinese ever taken much of the products of our labor or Yankee ingenuity, in return for what they have sold us?—Not a wooden nut-meg.

A great outcry has been raised by the State bank advocates against the recommendation in the President's Message of an Exchequer or Fiscal Agency, on account of its requiring specie as a basis of issues. The money we have exported to China would furnish more currency than the recommended scheme would require for a basis. But this money we have not now got; but we still have imported many more millions of specie within the few last years than we have exported; and we have three times as much specie, it is believed, in the country at this moment as would serve for the maximum of the basis proposed for the Exchequer; and this too, without taking a single dollar from a single bank, specie-paying, or specie-suspending.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the 11th February, 1841, exhibited a tabular estimate of the specie in the banks, and the whole specie in the country. The specie in the banks in 1840 was estimated at \$33,000,000; the specie in the country at \$83,000,000; though it has been pretty generally assumed by all parties that the amount equaled \$100,000,000. However, this fact may be, if \$33,000,000 be deducted from \$80,000,000, there will be \$50,000,000 remaining to supply the call for \$15,000,000 required for the Exchequer.

And what was the estimated issue and circulation of all the State Bank notes in the country (by the same report) for the year 1840—only \$106,000,000.

000. The amount of specie, therefore, was within twenty-five per cent. of the amount of the whole bank issues, though some of the banks had not more than one dollar in specie to five or eight of circulation.

The public, we apprehend, are not well acquainted with bank mysteries.

OFFICIAL.

JOHN TYLER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Satisfactory evidence having been exhibited to me that DANIEL I. DRUMMOND has been appointed Consul General of his Holiness, the Pope, to reside at Philadelphia. I do hereby recognize him as such, and declare him free to exercise and enjoy such functions, powers, and privileges as are allowed to the Consuls, of the most favored nations in the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington the 15th day of December, A. D. 1841, and of [..] the Independence of the United States of America, the sixty-sixth.

By the President: DANIEL WEBSTER, Secretary of State.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We shall continue to embody public opinion on this subject, so far as the press may be considered its organ. We cannot give all that the papers say in relation to this subject, nor is it necessary; extracts in most instances, will be all that we can find space for; and all that will be required, in order to reflect the views of the press:

From the Albany Evening Journal.

The President's Message.—We have, in the Message of the President, the "agreeable surprise" for which more of hope than of confidence was indulged. The Message is indeed a benefit most unexpectedly conferred. With this demonstration of wisdom and patriotism, from the President, the people and the country may look confidently forward to "better times."

There is so much to commend in this Message that we shall leave to others the task of detecting its defects, if such there be. Ours is the grateful privilege of congratulating our readers upon the appearance of a document auspicious to the public interests and the National honor.

That portion of the Message devoted to the subject of Finance and Currency, is not only the most important but the most acceptable. The plan to be submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury—an idea of which the welfare and prosperity of the country meet the requirements of the Government and answer the wants of the people. The reasoning of the Message upon this whole subject, is clear, sound, forcible and practical. It repudiates the iron-age doctrines of a metal currency. It furnishes, in issues of Paper based upon and convertible into Specie, a currency of equal and uniform value. This gives to agriculture, manufactures and commerce, the elements of their protection and prosperity. All this is accomplished without any of the objections and drawbacks to which a United States Bank is liable. And here—should Congress carry out the plan—having provided a financial agent for our own uses, and furnished a sound and sufficient currency to the people, ends the duty of Government.

From the Troy Daily Whig.

The President's Message.—This document, we are gratified to perceive, seems to be received with undisguised satisfaction by men of all parties. It is temperate in its tone, free from sectional prejudices, and imbued throughout with what appears to be a sincere desire to promote the welfare and prosperity of the country. The Whig journals award it almost unqualified approbation, and those of the opposition either approve of it in whole or in part, or else are silent as to what they conceive to be its merits or demerits.

That portion of the message which relates to our foreign affairs, is equally satisfactory, yet a firm and decided. The British aggressions upon our commerce on the west coast of Africa are adverted to in the proper manner, and we look for the speedy action of Congress on this subject which so nearly concerns the national interests and the national honor.

With regard to the Tariff question, it is gratifying to observe that the President's views are sound. He distinctly advocates discriminating duties, and a fixed and permanent policy.

The most interesting portion of the Message is that of course which relates to the establishment of a Fiscal Agent.

It is of course impossible to form an accurate opinion of the character and probable benefits of the proposed institution until the plan itself in all its details shall be received. But we feel no hesitation in saying that there is a strong probability, judging from the outline before us, that it will, if adopted, prove eminently useful and beneficial, provided the necessary checks shall be imposed upon it by Congress, to prevent it from ever becoming a party engine, or an instrument of oppression to the State Banks, and the commercial interests of the nation. That feature of which provides for the issuing of certificates of deposit in sums to suit depositors, is, as it strikes us, peculiarly worthy of commendation. For such certificates will always be current as a circulating medium in every portion of the country, and thus a great evil of which we are now laboring be effectually remedied.

It is greatly to be desired that the Secretary's plan for the restoration of the currency should be discussed by Congress in a cool and dispassionate manner. A National Bank, the great object of the question, at least for the present, it behoves us all to concur in the adoption of whatever other measure may conduce to the same benefits of such an institution, and at the same time be free from all the objections which have been urged against it, whether justly or unjustly.

BANKS, &c.

Matters of Course.—There are certain things in this world which have so uniformly turned out in the same way, that nobody dreams of their resulting in any other. In short, they are set down as "matters of course"—that is, events have always happened from the same cause, or attended by the same circumstances, or produce the same effects. For example:—When a bank suspends specie payments, it is always done for the public good, as a matter of course. If the said bank becomes irrevocably insolvent, and is forced to liquidate its affairs, the directors publish a card stating that the assets are amply sufficient to pay every thing, as a matter of course.—Boston Transcript.

People who put any degree of confidence in such statements are always deceived and disappointed, as a matter of course.

Extensive Forgeries.—At the close of banking hours, yesterday, it was discovered that successful forgeries had been made upon the National and other banks, by checks purporting to have been drawn by Mr. J. Johnston, (late of Boorman, Johnston & Co.) \$17,000 are already ascertained to have been drawn out in this way.—New York Sun.

We hear it stated that the Rock River Bankers have not only been indicted for swindling in La Salle county, but that one of them has been lodged in the jail of that county. Nothing can be more certain than that those men acted under a law of the last legislature, and it becomes a serious question whether the legislature or its dupes deserve jail privileges.

P. S. Bangs is safe, but Teall, his cashier, has "absquated."—Springfield (Illinois) Journal.

Defalcation.—We understand that Mr. Sinclair, of the Tellers of the Mechanics' Banking Association, was discovered on Friday last to be a defaulter to the institution to the amount of \$1,000 or \$1,500, by overdrafts of his account, and was dismissed from the bank, and the other banks notified of the fact.—N. Y. Sun.

USBY & DUVALL, Merchant Tailors, adjoining Newton & Galsby's hotel, Pennsylvania avenue, desire respectfully to call the attention of citizens, members of Congress, and strangers visiting the Metropolis, to a choice and well-selected assortment of superfine Cloths, Cassimeres, Vestings, Beaver cloths, &c., which they will make up to order in the most superior and fashionable manner at moderate prices. In addition to the above, we have many other desirable articles for gentlemen's wear, such as silk and Marino Shirts, Drawers, Fine Linen and Muslin Shirts, Scarfs, Cravats, Stocks, Hdk's, Gloves, Suspenders, Hosiery, Dressing Gowns, &c.—all of which will be sold as cheap as they can be purchased in the District. dec 6—3aw12w

C. H. VAN PATTEN, M. D. DENTIST. Pennsylvania avenue, a few doors from Brown's Hotel. nov 23—41y

New York Correspondence.

LETTER VIII.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12, 1841.

The only part of the President's Message generally discussed in this city, is that relating to the fiscal agent. The whole of the Message, with this exception, has produced a very favorable impression, and has, moreover, tended materially to allay the irritation of party and produce a quietude in the political world favorable to the discussion of the important topics to which the Message refers.

Calling on an old friend of considerable experience in every thing relating to politics, one who has for some time retired from the press, the conversation naturally referred to the fiscal agent. "I was," said he, "warmly in favor of passing the Bank bill at the extra session, but am now free to confess that, in the present condition of the country and of public opinion, it would have been impossible to have filled up the stock and the project would have been abandoned from that important and primary difficulty. The next experiment would, in all probability, have been precisely the one now proposed by the President, which is intended to establish a circulating medium throughout the country, based upon the solid and ample capital and revenue of the Government. Treasury notes of a large and small denomination, say as low as ten dollars, payable to bearer, without interest, would circulate at par throughout the Union.

It is said that this circulation would necessarily diminish the circulation of State Bank notes, most of which, at present, are at a discount—the answer is, "so much the better—it is time that the people, particularly the laboring classes, should be furnished with a circulating medium of unquestionable security and credit; and if all the State Banks cannot offer a similar guarantee, let the General Government come to the aid of the people, and all the weak and infirm Banks go into a state of liquidation."

We cannot, said he, produce a healthy condition in the currency until the field is entirely clear of doubtful or insolvent paper. As the agency is not to discount mercantile or accommodation paper, that power is reserved to the State Banks; and those in a sound condition will not be curtailed of their usual profits.—State Banks, also, are to be used by the Agent whenever required as auxiliaries; and where their capital is sound, and their affairs discreetly conducted, they will form the links in the great chain of institutions throughout the country necessary to regulate the exchanges and produce a uniformity in the currency.—So far from hoarding gold and silver, which are the mere representatives of credit, the bullion will be placed in sound institutions in such parts of the Union where the precious metals may be most required.

Not having the details of the conversation before me, I can only say that the outlines of this able politician's idea present a very simple plan amply secured, and calculated, particularly at the present crisis, to revive public confidence. It has been said that this agency will, from its power and resources, control and keep in check all the State Banks, and will, moreover, be a complete union of the purse and sword. This is decidedly an error! Power in this country is in the State, not the General Government. The moment this experiment shall be found injurious to the interests of the States, or the power exercised to swell Executive influence, or managed oppressively, or calculated to produce injurious results, that moment the Agency will be repealed by Congress. The project is at all times in the hands of the people, and public opinion will control its operations. Here is the safe check against political abuse of the power which is to be created by this institution, the Federal Government having an undoubted control over the safe-keeping of the revenues. I see no reason why this project, with some modifications, will not answer all the objects and purposes contemplated; and we must venture something for the interests of the country, the renewal of public confidence, and the stability of State credits.

The Custom House Commission has closed, and two of the Commissioners have departed for the Seat of Government. Governor Pointevis would also have left on Saturday, but I regret to learn he has been several days suffering under severe indisposition, which not only forbade his travelling, but delayed the completion of his report. To-day, however, he is better, and engaged every moment in the completion of this important document, the extraordinary revelations of which will soon be made manifest.

We are looking with some interest for the report of Mr. Forward. That it will be a sound, clear, and able state paper, those well know who are familiar with the distinguished abilities of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The report of the Secretary of War appears in this morning's papers. It is a noble state paper, and worthy the distinguished source from which it emanated. How an individual in so short a space of time, as Mr. Spencer has held his present position, should make himself so familiar with its details, is surprising. Mr. Spencer has plainly carried with him into the War Department the energy, industry and talents, that distinguished him as Secretary of State. His report will gratify the Army, and he promises to make the most popular Secretary of War that has yet held that high and responsible position.

There is little local intelligence of interest, but I give what there is. A duel in high life was reported to have come off at Hoboken yesterday. One of the parties had been challenged early in the week, and fled to the protection of the police, binding challengee and second over to keep the peace, his plea being that the challenger was "no gentleman," from the suspicion of having cheated at cards a few years ago. Therefore the challenger's brother took his place, and this plea of "no gentleman" not holding good with him, the challengee fought with him, and was, so rumor says, desperately wounded.

The Lectures still are in high fashion. Dr. Lardner has made his very interesting, illustrating them by diagrams, transparencies, &c. The theatres are well attended, and the Bowery in particular is thronged. Too much praise cannot be given to the proprietors for the manner in which they have got up the magnificent spectacle of Napoleon's obsequies. It is one of the most extraordinary scenic productions ever represented on any stage. Elsie plays to night in La Salle, at the Park.

The Home square is here and is likely to be frozen up and so lie over till spring. Captain Macintosh, who commands the Falmouth, is one of the most popular and efficient officers in the navy.

The weather is delightful, more the October than wintry December. We have had no snow since our first great storm which set all Gotham crazy with sleighing for two days. The rivers are still open and navigation unimpeded to Albany.

Yours, HURDIS.

DUVALL & BROTHERS, Merchant Tailors, at their old stand, near the corner of 3d street, Pennsylvania avenue, under Poik's Boarding-house, have just received by the latest arrivals at New York.

A new and splendid stock of Cloths. The newest and latest style of French and English Cassimeres and Vestings. New style figured Beavers, latest fashion, for frocks and overcoats.

Plain water-proof Beavers, suitable for navy overcoats. Also, new style embroidered Scarfs, very rich Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, Gloves. Silk and Woolen Shirts and Drawers, &c.

They particularly invite the attention of members of Congress, their old customers, and citizens generally, to their present stock of goods, all of which they will sell at their usual moderate prices. dec 7—4e2wif

CONCHOLOGY.—For sale, a collection of 1000 species of Shells, arranged and labelled according to Lamarck, and contained in cedar trays, inquire at this office. dec 15—3t

WINTER ARRANGEMENT. CITY POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 10, 1841. THE great Northern and Eastern Mail will arrive daily at 9 P. M. and be closed at 9 P. M. The Great Southern Mail will arrive daily at 5 P. M. and be closed at 9 P. M. The Great Western Mail will arrive daily at 11 A. M. and be closed at 9 P. M. This arrangement goes into operation this day. Letters and papers will be closed at 9 P. M. one hour after the arrival of the mails respectively. dec 11—4t WM. JONES, P. M.

JOHN A. W. W. NODINE, TEACHER OF THE LIBERAL ARTS AND OF THE SOLID SCIENCES, Corner of 12th and F streets, WASHINGTON, D. C. dec 11—3t

BOARDING HOUSE.—MRS. CONNOR, north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, a few doors East of 4th street—has a spacious and pleasant accommodation for a mess of six or seven gentlemen, with or without their families, during the session of Congress. 20—1m

WIGS AND TOUPEES.—W. BACHELOR, from the Astor House, and 165 Broadway, New York, begs to announce that he has now ready for the inspection of connoisseurs, a splendid assortment of Wigs and Toupees, of all sizes and colors. In those fine specimens of the art of Wig making he is found every known improvement. And W. B. is proud to say, many of the most important have originated with himself. Call and see them at Bachelor's Fashionable Hair Cutting and Dressing Rooms, Elliot's Buildings, Pennsylvania av., Washington. JOSEPH PALMERI, late of the Astor House, New York, Government Hair Dresser, begs to inform his friends and customers that he is ready to attend them in the Hair Dressing department. dec 15—4e3t