THE NEW ERA.

AT THE CAPITAL.

Senator Sumner has prepared an elaborate bill providing for a resumption of specie payments, which he will introduce and speak on in the Senate to-day.

Twenty-six petitions from different parts of the country were presented to Congress on Monday, asking for the abolition of the franking privilege.

ORDERED TO THE WEST.—By direction of the President, Brevet Major General R. B. Ayres has been relieved from duty, Department of Louisiana, and ordered to Little Rock, Arkansas, to assume command of his regiment.

NAVAL ORDERS.—Assistant Surgeon E. J. Ware has been detatched from the Tallapoosa and ordered to the Naval Hospital at Philaddphia. Assistant Surgeon S. P. Boyer has been ordered to the Tallapoosa in place of Surgeon Ware.

WANTS TROOPS TO HELP COLLECT THE REVENUE.—James Mullins, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fourth District of Tennessee, has notified Commissioner Delano of outrages recently committed upon Revenue officers in his district, and asks to have troops detailed to assist the Revenue officers in that district.

MILITARY ESCORT FOR THE MAILS.—The application of Postmaster General Creswell for a military escort for the United States mails between Cheyenne and Denver City, made in consequence of the recent robberies upon that route, has been favorably referred to the General of the Army.

A dispatch was received here Monday from the Governor of Missouri, announcing that he Legislature had properly ratified the fifteenth amendment. It will be remembered that there was an irrregularity in the passage of the amendment by the Legislature of Missouri last year.

MINISTER WASHBURNE sends to the State Department information of a decree of the French government reducing postage on leters from France to the United States to sixty centimes for ten grammes, instead of eighty centimes for seven grammes. In other words, it is a reduction of four cents with an increase in the postal weight.

THE "ONPLEASANTNESS" IN THE NEW ORLEANS CUSTOM-HOUSE SETTLED.—The difficulties in regard to the appointments in the New Orlaus Custom-house have been settled, the Congressional delegation having agreed to leave tothe Central Committee of the Republican party of Louisiana the doubtful names of present incumbents. Collector Casey agreed to abide by their decision, and left for New Orleans Monday evening.

GOV. BULLOCK, of Georgia, telegraphed to a prominent Senator that the Democratic State Central Committee had held a meeting and decided to prevent the Democratic membersof the Legislature, who are qualified under all the acts to hold their seats, from resigning in order to prevent a legislative quorum. A quorumis therefore assured, and the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment and the immediate admission of Georgia is rendered certain.—*Washington Cor. N. Y. Times.*

FROM the records of the Patent Office it appears that it has never been so prosperous as now. The records show that the receipts of the Office during 1867 were $646,581 99; and during 1869 the receipts were $693,245,81, showing an increase of $46,564 89. The expenses during the same time were, in 1867, $639,263 32, and, in 1869, they were $486,430 78, showing a reduction in the expenses in two years of $152,832 54.

CHANGE OF MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE SOUTHWEST.—Brevet Major General Charles H. Smith, commanding 19th infantry, being the next in rank to General Joseph A. Mower, late commander of the department of Louisiana, has been assigned to the command of that department in place of Mower, deceased. Brevet Major General R. B. Ayres has been assigned to the command of the 19th infantry, at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Brevet Major General J. J. Reynolds has been assigned to the command of the 25th infantry, vice Mower, deceased, though General Reynolds remains in the command of the State of Texas.

ASSESSMENT OF THE INCOME TAX THIS YEAR.—Commissioner Delano will advise the Assessors of Internal Revenue to call at the earliest practicable moment a convention of the Assistant Assessors of their districts for the purpose of determining the most efficient method to obtain the most thorough and practical canvass of their districts in making the assesments of incomes this year. He further recommends this meeting of the Assessors and Assistant Assessors of the several districts that by an interchange of opinions they may profit by the general experience of the revenue officers in different parts of their respective districts.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Terrell has forwarded blank petitions for the abolition of the franking privilege to every postmaster in the United States, asking each postmaster to obtain signatures to the petition, and forward it to his Senator or Representative as early as the first day of February. He has also called a convention of the leading postmasters, to meet in this city on the 15th inst., to consider the same subject, and all postmasters are directed to weigh all free mail matter for the next six months, that the abolition, if it be not carried this session, may receive its death-blow next winter.

COUNTERFEITS OF THE NEW CURRENCY.—Three well executed counterfeit fifty cent notes of the new issue were detected at the Redemption Bureau of the Treasury Monday, being the first counterfeits of the new series, and are well calculated to deceive. There are indications that the employees of the American and National Bank Note Printing Companies, New York, have had in their employ men in league with the counterfeiters. It is a well-known fact that several years since there was printed at the Treasury Department a fifteen cent note, which was never issued, for the reason that one of the engravers was detected in taking an impression of the plates. It is stated he has since been in the employ of the National Bank Note Company, and although his record was made known to the officers, they retained him. The face of the vignette of Lincoln in the counterfeit differs in some respects from the original, and the seal is somewhat blurred. The backs of the notes are, however, a perfect imitation of the genuine.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT. Secretary Boutwell has purchased six millions of dollars' worth of bonds for the sinking fund since the 1st instant, which makes that fund $23,045,800, besides $67,433,000 worth of bonds which have been purchased and are held subject to the action of Congress, making the total amount of bonds purchased up to this date $90,478,800, the interest on which due on the 1st inst., amounted to $1,263,000, and has just been collected. This amount, in coin, was sold Tuesday at an average premium of 122 30-100 and the proceeds will be applied to the purchase of additional bonds for the sinking fund.

The amount of coin in the Treasury is $59,000,000 and $45,000,000 in gold-bearing certificates. The currency balance on hand is $5,000,000, being somewhat smaller than usual, owing to the large amount recently paid for bonds.

OBITUARY.

We gladly give place to the following letter, which is at once touching in its sympathy with a good and useful man in the hour of his bereavement, and lovingly appreciative of the character of the departed:

15TH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9, 1870.

Rev. Henry Highland Garnett:

DEAR BROTHER IN CHRIST: The telegram bringing the sad news of the death of your dear wife has reached us, and our deep sympathy for your irreparable loss prompts us at once to offer words of condolence. Yet in what words can we who know how great your bereavement is express the sorrow we feel. To us your dear wife was a sister beloved in Christ. To you how vastly more. Sorrow fills our hearts as we think of the grief that is upon you.

The tie cemented by so many years of affection and companionship is severed, but thanks be to God that the love which he gave to solace us here he purifies and reunites in Heaven. The feelings of sincere regard and of Christian love which we entertain for you, and the touching sympathies of this solemn moment, force us to act in the capacity of a church in showing a former pastor the hold which he and his wife had upon our hearts. The word goes from one to the other, "Mrs. Garnett is dead," and the first thought to which expression is given from many lips is, "how can Mr. Garnett live without his wife?" We feel your deep bereavement, yet we know that your sorrow is full of hope and your grief illumined by faith, and to-day as we come to the communion table of our Lord to receive the emblems of his dying love, and remember that you are taking a last farewell upon earth of her who was your helpmeet indeed, though we weep for your loss we will raise our thoughts, and instead of contemplating in imagination the dear dead face beneath the coffin lid, our spirits will seek to unite with her's who is now participating in the "marriage supper of the lamb," and catching her joy, we will still the murmur which would wish her again by your side, and say "Be still, it is the Lord," for though he try thee as gold is tried and refine thee as silver is refined, yet how blessed to understand the invitation, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He will sustain thee."

Being unable to be present, as we would gladly be, to join in paying the last tribute of respect to the remains of the dear departed, we, at the suggestion of our pastor, take this method of conveying to you our sincere condolence under this afflictive dispensation of Providence.

SELLA MARTIN, *Pastor.*

H. Bruce, Edward Crusoe, W. J. Wilson, David Fisher, elders.

Signed by the members of the church and congregation.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The inauguration of Gov. Claflin as governor of Massachusetts, for a second term, took place in Boston on the 8th inst. The Governor has an enviable national reputation as a sound and sagacious statesman, and is deservedly popular in the old Commonwealth.

We have only room for the following extract from his inaugural address:

We cannot forget that we belong to this great Union, made indissoluble by the events of the late war. The struggle for national existence has revealed to us our strength and the chief cause of our weakness. This cause has been removed, and no interest at war with human liberty now predominates in our land. The throes of the mighty contest are still felt, but each day lessens their force, and soon they will have passed away forever. The election of the Great Captain to the Presidency at once gave assurance of peace to the country. The hopes of the firmest friends of the incoming administration have been more than realized. The laws, so far as the general government is concerned, are enforced; integrity prevails in all its departments, and the steady decrease of National debt gives assurance of its ultimate redemption. The final act, the XVth Amendment to the Constitution, which will place all the people of this nation on an equality, politically, is nearly consumated. Its completion will add luster to our name, by proclaiming to the world that no prejudice of race will prevent justice being done and equal rights accorded to the most oppressed and obscure in the land. It will give to the freedman the ballot, the only power that will effectually save him from abuse and wrong, and all laws affecting personal liberty and political rights will be substantially the same in every part of the Union. Slowly but surely the great problem of the destruction of Slavery is being demonstrated. From its ashes will arise a nobler civilization than has hitherto been known in human history. The people of the Old World, in their attempts to wrest from the hands of tyrants the liberties so long withheld, and for which they have sacrificed so much, are receiving from our history fresh impulse and new encouragement. Let us, as a people, do our part in bringing in the better and brighter day.

The Philadelphia Morning Post gives an account of a wedding which, though "not fashionable," was more worthy of being chronicled than many of those which bear that designation in the newspapers. Mr. William Still, though a negro, is "a man of property and standing" in Philadelphia; and the wedding was at his house, the bride being his daughter, Miss Carrie V. Still. The bridegroom was Mr. Edward A. Wiley, of Alabama. The Post gives this account of them:

"The bride graduated at Oberlin College in the summer of 1868, with a class of forty-four and was the only colored graduate and the youngest member. At the anniversary of the Ladies' Literary Society held during the commencement, she was elected to preside—an honor never before conferred upon one of her race under similar circumstances. The record of the bridegroom's life gave additional interest to the ceremony. Mr. Wiley was born a slave in Alabama; and, up to the time that the Union army penetrated into the State; had had no opportunity to gain freedom or education. But the first sight of the flag was enough He joined the army, and after a time came to the North resolved that, being free, he would win education. He entered Oberlin College; but only by hard physical labor outside of college hours could he support himself. Thus he performed his task; and though the double lobor of three years was too hard, and he was compelled to leave college before graduating, he made remarkable progress, and won the esteem and confidence of the professors. This battle which Mr. Wiley fought was honorable from beginning to end; and the sacrifices he endured to win knowledge are an example to those young men who neglect better opportunities."

Mr. Still having held an honorable position in the anti-slavery cause for many years, some of those long associated with him took the opportunity afforded by the marriage of his daughter to testify their appreciation of his worth and their interest in his family. Among these, friends were Lucretia Mott, Robert Purvis, Dillwyn Parish, J. Miller McKim, B. P. Hunt J. C. Wears, J. M. Truman, Rev. Wm. J. Alston, Mary Grew, Sarah Pugh, Rachel Moore Townsend, Passmore Williamson and wife, and many others who have been earnest and active in the anti-slavery movement. The presence of Lucretia Mott was peculiarily gratifying to the friends of the family; and an unusual, but beautiful, feature of the evening was the address she delivered. Her words were heard with deep feeling and interest.—*Independent.*

RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

It would seem, to one acquainnted with the nature, extent, and results of the work of ameliorating the condition of the freed people, of preparing them for self-help in the future, and for the duties of citizenship, that no one could fail to acknowledge the vital importance of what has been accomplished to the South and to the nation at large. Yet, such is the case. Some of the newspaper press, emulating that *post mortem* adulation, so common in Congress, now that the Freedmen's Bureau is considered a thing of the past, make haste to compliment what it has done. Others now, as through evil report, frankly and justly accord due praise. The New York Tribune thus reviews the educational work:

* * * * * "The success of the undertaking has been remarkable. And this success is attested, not only by the hundreds of schools and the hundreds of thousands of pupils, who are instructed in them, but by the influence they have exercised on the general welfare and elevation of the colored people. If we see the liberated slaves everywhere orderly and industrious; if we see them emancipating themselves from the degrading effects of their former bondage; if we see them successful in all the departments of productive labor; if we see them increasing in intelligence, acquiring the power of self-government, and obtaining a knowledge of the duties of republican citizenship, we must attribute these extremely valuable results, in great part, to the efforts which have been made to give them the advantages of the education which, in other days, they were denied.

"We are sure no one can read the reports of the Bureau which controls the schools for Southern freedmen, without being satisfied that the Government has been amply justified in doing what it has done in this direction, and being filled with admiration for the results of this work which is so patiently and skillfully carried on. * * * * * *

"And the grand total of educational expenses paid by all parties during the half year covered by this report (of Mr. Alvord, General Superintendent) was $1,078,335, of which *more than half* was the product of benevolent contributions, and the payments of the freedmen themselves. Are not these results what may be called grand and noble? And should not all Christians and philanthropists, without regard to political distinction, unite in sustaining this beneficent system of education for the poor colored people of the Southern States."

The N. Y. Times says:

* * * * * "Considering all the good that has been done at the South during the last five years by this Bureau, surely never were thirteen millions better laid out, and never did an annual expenditure of two and three-fifths millions bring forth greater fruits."

The N. Y. Herald, generally found bravely fighting on the winning side, says:

* * * * * * "It is assuredly gratifying to learn from the report of General Howard that the Freedmen's Bureau has been instrumental in ameliorating, to so high a degree, within so short a period since the close of the war, the condition of the colored people in the South."

BUREAU ITEMS AND ANECDOTES.

The colored people of the South spent, it is said, more than $20,000,000 this year for tobacco.

It is estimated that more than 50,000 of the former slaves of Virginia have learned to read and write.

Petersburg, Virginia, is happy over the success ef its free-for-all school system, and Richmond is emulating the example.

In Louisiana more colored than white people can read and write.

Daniel Brogden, once a slave, now eighty-two years of age, who bought himself "because he wanted a free hour to die in," is now trustee of a colored school in Rockville, Maryland. Being asked if he had an education, "only what I got behind de plow-tail—stole it, like." "How was that, uncle?" "Why, when children gwine to school I goes up to de fence, git little lesson from dem in de book—give chile hen egg for it, you see." In this way he learned to read his Bible. And the old man said: "If I git de school going in Rockville, I gwine to go and study, too."

YOUTH, THE INSTRUCTOR OF AGE.—I have seen a little colored girl of ten years reading fluently leading editorials of a city daily, from the bulletin board, to a group of eagerly-listening gray-haired men and women, whose hearty and appropriate responses told that they appreciated the thoughts of the writer, as well as the miracle the child was working by translating the unmeaning type-marks to their comprehension. I approached and asked the little girl, "Where did you learn to read?" "In Miss Judah's school, sir," was the reply. I knew Miss Judah as a colored young woman, who secretly, and at the daily peril of her life, taught a school in Richmond during the war. The same service which this little girl was rendering to strangers, at their solicitation, is daily being given by children to parents in thousands ob homes of the poor freedmen, and is esteemed by them as the richest earthly good they have to thank God for.—*Bureau Supt. Education, Virginia.*

SOCIAL OSTRACISM.—The following extract speaks for itself:

Says a teacher, "It is very gratifying to know that the many hours of mental and physical labor are resulting in good to this people. It has been an interesting and happy employment, though I am looked upon as an outcast, and am shut out from the society of white people. I have not been in the house of a white person for ten months, nor spoken to except by four or five white women during the same period, two of whom live at a distance of several miles. Only one white lady has entered my door in seventeen months."

NOT far from the capitol of the State (North Carolina) lives a lady raised in luxury, the daughter of an ex-president of a popular college. Feeling deeply interested in the elevation of the freedmen, she at first started a school on her own account; but her little means being soon exhausted, ignored by her friends, threatened and warned, her character assailed, and every effort made to break up her school, she has been compelled to apply to the Bureau for a rental. For more than two years this excellent lady has withstood the pressure, says she knows the path of duty, and, by the help of God, means to pursue it.

RARE PROGRESS.—Intances of rare progress multiply so fast that it is difficult to make a selection for report. A lady writes from Granville that in December last a young man twenty-three years of age entered school, who could read but little, was entirely ignornant of figures, and so awkward that his hand had to be guided when he attempted to write. He now writes a good hand, reads in Wilson's Fourth Reader, has finished Monteith's Second Geography, and in arithmetic is studying compound numbers.

A little girl who entered school last January, spelling in words of two letters, is now in the Third Reader, and studies geography and arithmetic. A boy of six years, who entered school at the same time, with merely a knowledge of the alphabet, now reads well in the Third Reader.

Two little girls of five and six years, respectively, who entered school in Raleigh in January last, beginning the alphabet, are now reading well in the Third Reader, and are able to write a very good hand.

A teacher in the South reports the language of an old colored man, a slave all his life, which illustrate the common sentiment among the freedmen. The old man said: "If I nebber does do nothing more while I live, I shall give my children a chance to go to school, for I considers edecation next best ting to liberty." Another said: "Dere isn't money enough in all old Massysippi to buy what larning my chile got from you all."

A letter-writer from Richmond, Virginia, notes the interesting fact that the school where colored men are studying and fitting themselves as teachers and ministers is in the building formerly used as the slave-pen to confine the negroes at night. He writes: "It seems a sort of poetic justice that this very place, with the marks still at its windows of the iron bars that held back the negro to the dead level of ignorance, should now be the cradle of his instruction, and the place of his eager resort for draughts at the Pierian spring that has, till so recently, been closed to him."

SUSCEPTIBILITY OF CULTURE.—Among the freedmen the evidences of susceptibility of culture are abundant. Instances are rare in the history of any schools of such rapid improvement. Their thirst for knowledge is exemplified in the following conversation:

"Well, auntie, what are you doing?" "Please God, massa, trying to larn." "Who hears your lessons?" "Oh! I goes to de night school every week." "Where are the children?" "Gone to school. They larn a heap; and when we get 'round the fire at night dey gets small bundles light-wood and trows on, and dey reads to me out of their books; dey reads de Bible to me, too, and oh! how good it makes me feel to hear the blessed book." "But you want the children to aid you to get provisions?" "Dats very true, massa, but dere is better bread than comes out of de arth; no, honey, can't stop de children, *dey mus larn.* Dese old hands can wash for de folks a little longer. I gets a little meal and bacon for my work two or three times a week; we don't have much else; but I tells you, massa, we can't feel hungry *when we reads; dats better than vittals, massa.*"

WAR DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND
ABANDONED LANDS,
Washington, Nov. 19, 1869.

Honorable Secretary of War:

SIR: In accordance with your request, I have the honor to submit to the President and Congress, through you, my views respecting the educational work which the Freedmen's Bureau, in co-operation with the Benevolent Societies of the country, has organized and carried on for the last four years.

I believe any thinking man will admit the necessity of continuing in some shape the educational advantages we have furnished, and of so extending them as to meet the wants of large classes in the South still destitute of them.

The welfare, or, as I view it, the very existence of our Free Republic demands this. But gentlemen say: "Let each State care for the education of its own children." I answer: Yes, just as soon as it can meet the exigency and is willing to do it. But at present this is simply impracticable wherever the majority are ignorant of the advantages of a thorough system of free schools or are opposed to them. It is impracticable also where a State or community fancies itself so poor as to necessitate dispensing with the luxury of education.

I believe that a Department of Education may be so organized as to meet speedily the imperative wants to which I have briefly referred, and to do it in substantial conformity with the policy of having each community take care of its own schools, and that we may thus avoid the alternative of leaving ignorant masses to gravitate downward, without the means of acquiring knowledge, in the midst of those who are practically opposed to their education.

The plan I offer is to consolidate the Educational Department of the Government and the Educational Division of the Bureau, under a new name, if you please, but embracing the powers of both. This will enable the Commissioner to gather statistics from those States where adequate educational systems now operate, and, further, to establish schools by co-operation with Benevolent, State, and Local agencies, where no such systems exist. The power of incorporating into the work of the new Department or Bureau the State Superintendents of Schools, with or without additional compensation, will produce organic unity and gradually accomplish what is so much to be desired, the correction of adverse sentiment, the practical demonstration of the value of schools, and the gradual assumption of the school work by the States themselves. All this can be effected by an act of Congress carefully drawn and put in the hands of proper men for its execution.

This organization may not only extend its benefits to the impoverished whites not yet reached, but may also tend to develop the limited educational advantages now offered to the Indians.

If objections are offered to this proposition on the ground of its cost, or of the tendency to centralization, it may be answered—

1st. That education is generally the very best possible investment that can be made in a free government. Intelligent citizens, as every one knows, in all their varied occupations, make constant returns to the government largely in advance of the money expended by it for their education.

To the second objection, it is sufficient to oppose the well known fact that the general education of the masses always tends to the procurement of the largest liberty consistent with good government, thus counteracting all centralizing tendencies.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
O. O. HOWARD,
Brevet Major General, Commissioner.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Of the sixteen Governors of Pennsylvania seven were of German descent.

Portland, Me., is agitating the subject of running horse cars on Sunday in that city.

Napoleon is going to stamp the profile of his son's face on the French coin.

The old runaway slave cuts reappear in the Southern papers to advertise truant apprentices.

California has 800,000 peach trees—five to every voter,

There will probably be 100,000 miles of railroad in operation in this country before 1900.

Columbus, Ky., has 3000 inhabitants and no school-house.

The composition of the United States five and three cent pieces is one-fourth nickle, the balance is copper.

Northerners are arriving in Florida in large numbers, and many have purchased land and gone to work.

It is said that there are now four times as many cattle in Texas as there was before the war.

A real workingman, a man named Odger, a shoemaker by trade, is likely to be returned to the British House of Commons.

The colored people in various parts of the South kept the anniversary of the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation on the 1st instant.

If Andrew Johnson's autograph sells for five dollars, as a Southern paper asserts, there must be a check to it.

There have been 153 deaths from small-pox in St. Louis during the last three months. A nice place for Congress to meet.

Girls of eighteen are allowed to vote and hold office in Wyoming Territory, but the other sex do not arrive at the years of discretion until twenty-one.

The Italians of Memphis are making arrangements to erect a handsome monument in Court square to Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America.

It is said that South Abington, Mass., produces more boots and shoes, in proportion to its population, than any other town in the United States or in the world.

Gen. Lee has taken fifty shares in the stock of the Educational Journal in Virginia. He will find them more profitable than Confederate bonds.

The debt of South Carolina is $6,988,434 23, of which $3,173,571 27 has accrued since the close of the war. The State will henceforth pay the interest on the debt in gold.

It is asserted that absentee landlords hold in Ireland four millions of acres of land, from which they draw an annual rental of $12,500,000.

Among the wealthy citizens of Philadelphia are Stephen Smith, coal merchant, worth $600,000; William Whipper, lumber dealer, $300,000; and William Still, coal merchant, $100,000, all colored men.

The population of San Francisco by the Directory of 1869 is 172,050, including 8,600 Chinese and 2,850 colored. In 1868 it was 147,950, showing a gain in one year of 24,100. This constitutes it the tenth city of the United States in point of population.

The entire number of sheep in the United States is over 23,000,000. One-half of these are kept in seven States, Ohio taking the lead, with 6,730,126 head, and producing nearly one-sixth of all the wool in the country. Michigan shows third in this list.

The Central Union Baptist Association of Pennsylvania recently received a lady as one of their delegates, and passed the following resolution on the subject:

Whereas, Some surprise was expressed at the appointment of a sister delegate to this body.

Resolved, That we regard such appointment as proper, and we will welcome our sister—"last at the cross and first at the sepulchre"—to seats in our body.

A Washington correspondent of the Boston Traveller says of political affairs in Georgia:

"Advices from Georgia, from Democratic sources, are to the effect that the Democrats will have 10 or 15 majority in the Legislature on a joint ballot, and that it will be utterly impossible to ratify the fifteenth amendment with the present legislature. The Democrats concede that the Senate is in the hands of the Republicans, but they claim to have a large majority in the House, based upon the idea that numbers of Conservative Republicans will oppose all measures recommended by Governor Bullock."

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT IN SOUTH CAROLINA. In Charleston, S. C., last week, a colored man, for whom a ticket had been bought by a white man, applied for admission to the dress circle of the Academy of Music, and was refused admittance by John T. Ford, of Baltimore, the manager and lessee. Another colored man applied for a ticket for the reserved seats, and was refused by order of the lessee. Subsequently warrants were issued upon the affidavits of the two colored men, and Mr. Ford was arrested for violating the State law to carry out the provisions of the civil rights act. He gave bonds to appear at the next term of the Court of General Sessions.

THE FREEDMEN IN ALABAMA.—The Montgomery (Ala.) *State Journal* says that a as general thing the colore people, during the present year, have done well. Many of them engaged in farming on their own account, and succeeded in making good crops. The result is an increased good feeling among them, and a renewed determination to build up fortunes for themselves. A considerable number have already purchased land and stock, and the close of the next year, if the seasons are favorable, will find them in much better condition than was dreamed of by any one two years since. They have shown that they will work and in every instance where they have been treated kindly and dealt with fairly, they show disposition to leave their employers.

THE ANNEXATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Senator Corbett introduced in the Senate a preamble setting forth the desire of the people of British Columbia to be annexed to the United States of America, as appears by their petition to the Queen, and that as questions of difference exist between the Government of Great Britain and the United States, as to the boundary line between their respective territories; that as the United States claim that they have suffered great loss by reason of vessels being fitted out in British waters to cruise against and destroy American commerce, and that as it is difficult to calculate and settle in money the damage done to said commerce and the Government of the United States by the prolongation of war to the great injury and suffering of our people, and as it is our desire to establish the most friendly relations with Great Britain upon a firm and enduring basis: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of State inquire into the expediency of proposing to Great Britain to include in any treaty for the adjustment of all matters of difference between the two Governments an article for the transfer of British Columbia to the United States.

CELEBRATION AT NASHVILLE—*Speeches and Resolutions.*—The colored people of Nashville, on Saturday January, 1st, celebrted the anniversary of President Lincoln's Proclamation of Freedom. After parading through the streets they assembled in the capitol and organized a convention. About 2,500 participated. Letters from General Howard and others were read excusing themselves from attending. Several speeches were made and resolutions adopted expressing gratitude to President Lincoln for their freedom, thanking the army for their services and the ante-war abolitionists for what they had done for them while in Slavery; pledging themselves not to engage in rebellion or support those who do; expressing confidence in the President, Cabinet and Congress; declaring they know but two parties—Republican and Democratic, and pledging support to the former; expressing the opinion that the present Legislature is hostile to their interests; approving the action of Congress in the case of Georgia; indorsing the resolutions of Mr. Kelley of Pennsylvania, offered in the Federal House of Representatives; looking to the reconstruction of Tennessee by placing her under military rule, and call upon our Senators and Representatives to support the movement—this they regard as necessary under the present State government, as they have no security for life and property. J. H. Sumner and J. C. Napier were appointed a committee to bear the resolutions to Washington.

MISSOURI.

Governor McClurg, in his message to the Missouri Legislature calls attention to the peaceful condition of the State; and, in view of this fact, he asks the consideration of the expediency of removing political disabilities from those who participated in the rebellion. He does not think it necessary to amend the the Constitution to effect this, as the Constitution now provides that the Legislature may remove such disabilities after January 1st, 1871. He recommends that this be made a question for discussion in the canvass next fall; so that candidates for the legislature may run, in part at least, upon this issue. He opposes a convention for the revision of the Constitution, but recommends submitting to the people the proposition to allow negroes to vote; and another striking out from the Constitution what is known as "the double liability clause." The debt of the State in 1869 was $3,000,000. The general financial condition is favorable, but the Governor urges strict economy. The interest on the bonds for July is already provided for; that of January following can easily be managed. There is now in the Treasury nearly $600,000, which belongs to the interest fund. The principal of the bonds maturing in 1872 amounts to $477,000, and that of 1873, of $680,000, can also be promptly met.

In the tariff question, he says the present tariff should, and no doubt will, be modified, and the duties placed on luxuries; but hopes the free trade movement may be regarded with suspicion.

The public school fund amounted to over $1,600,000, and the schools throughout the State are prosperous.

The Governor urges the adoption of the fifteenth amendment immediately on the receipt of the attested copy from Washington.

THE great glory of America is in its ability to give every human being here a fair chance. There are still some gross restrictions upon this primary human right; yet, under the tremendous strokes of the past ten years, these restrictions are swiftly falling to the earth. A few years ago, even throughout the free States, a human being of a dark complexion had no "scope" but that presented in the careers of a barber, a boot-black, and a table-waiter. Every generous person must view with delight the eagerness and success with which the long-restrained race is now rising to higher and more responsible spheres in American life. A fine example of this rapid development of negro intelligence and enterprise lately came to our notice in Springfield, Ohio. In that town lives a colored barber who, by industry, has accumulated a comfortable fortune; and who, years ago, resolved to give his children those educational advantages which were denied to himself. His eldest son, James Pyles, accordingly was sent to Oberlin, where he graduated with some distinction four or five years since. Immediately after his graduation James returned to Springfield, studied law in the office of Shellabarger & Good, was duly admitted to the bar, and commenced in that place the practice of his profession. Though he had a fine reputation for integrity and ability, the wretched prejudices of caste hindered his progress; and he resolved last spring to go South and to cast in his lot with the State of Mississippi. He went there with good credentials from such men as General Howard; and, being both a cultivated man and an eloquent speaker, he at once attracted political notice. In the recent canvass of Mississippi Mr. Pyles has been indefatigable, and has done his full share toward the success of the true side. He himself has been elected a member of the Legislature; and his friends confidently expect that by his good sense, legal learning, honesty, and speaking talent, he will take a high rank in that body, and will commence an honorable political career. It has been a proud thing for Mr. Pyles, as well as for his father, that the son of the Springfield barber could return, as he has just done, on a visit to his native town, and be heralded in the papers as the Hon. James Pyles, of Mississippi.—*Independent.*

WHAT THE GREAT LABOR CONVENTION THINKS ABOUT THE SAVINGS BANKS.

During the first days of November there was in session in Washington city a Convention representing the laboring people of color throughout the United States. That Convention appointed a committee to consider and report upon the matter of SAVINGS BANKS and as the result, the following report was presented and *unanimously* adopted with great enthusiasm in a full meeting of the Convention:

REPORT.

Gentlemen of the Labor Convention:

In all communities where labor is properly organized the interest of the poor man is held to be of chief importance. It is the man who, in days of health and prosperity, can save but little above a bare living, and who, in days of sickness and forced idleness, must, with his family, suffer or live on charity, whom wise laws seek to protect. And this is right, because the poor are in all places the vast majority. For this great multitude the way to a better condition should be laid open, and the free school, the open Bible, the Savings Bank, and every invitation to intelligence, virtue, and economy meet all who travel it.

After a careful examination of the statistics of Savings Banks, we have found that wherever labor is best paid, and the improvement of the condition of the laboring classes most carefully considered, there Savings Banks abound; there depositors are most numerous, and the aggregate of savings the largest. Thus—

In Massachusetts, at the date of the latest report to the Legislature, there were in the State, 108 Savings Banks: 350,000 depositors, and $80,431,583.

In the little State of Rhode Island, 25 Banks; 59,071 depositors, and $21,413,648.

In the cities of New York and Brooklyn, 41 Banks: 405,591 depositors, and $116,971,953; and in the whole State of New York, in 1868, the aggregate capital in all the Savings Banks reached the enormous aggregate of $151,127,562.

In the State of Rhode Island one person out of every three has a deposit in some Savings Bank.

In Massachusetts and Connecticut, one in every three and one-half.

In the six New England States, one in every 4.89. In New York, one in 7.22.

But the Savings Bank as an *institution*; as a great conservator of the well-being of the poor; as a perpetual invitation in each city, town, and village to youth and health to put safely by something against the day of old age and sickness, is just beginning to find a footing South of the Potomac. Until the close of the late war there was no civilized labor in the South. The *employer* was at the same time the *owner* of the laboring man. What inducement was there for the toiler to put by his money? What money of his own had he to put by?

With the earnest desire to place within reach of the disenthralled race the opportunity and incentive to careful savings and safe-keeping of small earnings, at the close of the war, Congress granted a charter to a company called *The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company,* with authority to establish, in any one of our States, Savings Banks for the safe keeping and investment in the stocks, bonds, and Treasury notes of the United States the savings of the colored people. One of the last acts of the lamented President Lincoln was to affix his signature to the charter giving legal existence to this company. This was in March, 1865. Let us now show, in a few words, what has been done by this company in the space of less than five years:

In that comparatively short time, Banks for savings have been established in Augusta, Macon, and Savannah, Georgia; in Beaufort and Charleston, South Carolina; in Jacksonville and Tallahassee, Florida; in Mobile and Huntsville, Alabama; in New Orleans, Louisiana; in Vicksburg, Mississippi; in Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville, Tennessee; in Louisville, Kentucky; in St. Louis, Missouri; in Martinsburg, Richmond, and Norfolk, Virginia; in Raleigh, Wilmington, and Newbern, North Carolina; and in Washington, Baltimore, and New York, with a parent or principal office in Washington.

Beginning with nothing, of course, in the midst of a people just escaped from the shackles of slavery, at the end of one year from the date of its charter, to wit, on the 1st day of

March,	1866,	deposits were	-	$305,167 24
"	1867	"	-	1,624,853 33
"	1868	"	-	3,582,378 36
"	1869	"	-	7,257,798 63

and to-day the aggregate of all the deposits is over *ten millions!*

Of course there have been constant and heavy drafts from these aggregates. Depositors, when they have accumulated a few hundred dollars in the Bank, quite naturally desire to buy a piece of land, or to enter upon some mercantile or mechanical pursuit. So they draw out money which, but for the Bank, would probably never have been saved, and invest as they see opportunity. A population of small land-owners, traders, and mechanics—the very element of a true Democratic civilization—is appearing on the once lordly domains of the planter. The former chattel, thrown upon his own resources, is called, by the necessities of his position, to look out for to-morrow. So he needs his earnings from time to time. The drafts, for the period above specified, were as follows:

Year ending March 1,	1867,	-	$1,225,928 16
"	"	1868	-	2,944,079 36
"	"	1869	-	6,184,368 71

At the last date, the net deposit remaining in the Bank, invested in United States securities or in cash and office property, was $1,073,429 92.

On the 31st of October, the date of the latest published report, this deposit had reached $1,340,133 94. It will probably have reached *two millions* within the next year.

These savings, as fast as accumulated, are loaned to the United States, *i e,* invested in their bonds and stocks. The company has paid up to November, 1st, 1869, regularly to its depositors interest at the rate of 5 per cent. in triennial instalments, which, on being entered on the depositor's book as a new deposit, gives him really 1⅔ per cent. each four months, compounded three times per annum.

In connection with the other work of the Bank, it issues monthly,—for gratuitous distribution, to stimulate its patrons to habits of temperance, thrift, and frugality—a newspaper, which is sought for eagerly.

We may add that we find this Bank to be established on the mutual principle. Each depositor is a stockholder to the amount of his deposits. After paying, out of its income, the expenses of the business of the institution, the balance of its profits are distributed to its depositors every four months. The larger the amount of its deposits the greater the advantage to the stockholder, *i e* to the depositor.

Every man, woman, or child, who is able to deposit $5 in this Bank is a stockholder to that amount, and receives his or her share of the profits which may accrue from the successful management of its business.

Your committee have to report that the opposition among the white people of the South to the progress of these Banks is disappearing; that the security and safety of the Bank is now thoroughly established; that it has purchased, in the city of Washington, a property directly opposite the United States Treasury, where it will build a convenient Banking-house in the coming year; that the best friends of the colored people are the friends and patrons of this Bank. Major General O. O. Howard calls it the "best educator in the field." Among the names of its trustees are found those of Henry D. Cooke, Esq., of the house of Jay Cooke & Co.; Hon. J. M. Brodhead, of the United States Treasury; Gen. B. W. Brice, Paymaster General, U. S. Army; Bishop S. Talbot, of the M. E. Church, and others well known throughout the land.

But, though the deposits have reached one-and-a-half millions of dollars, your committee think that such amount but poorly represents the savings of the colored people within reach of the influence of this company. There are within easy reach of its 25 Bank 300,000 laboring people of color. If each had only $10 in the Bank the aggregate would be *three millions*—more than double the sum now on deposit in them. Or if, out of the three hundred thousand people referred to above, the same proportion were depositors as are found among the laboring people of Rhode Island, we would have 100,000 depositors and $2,660,000.

In conclusion, your committee would report the following resolutions:

Resolved, That, as an aid to the laboring man, affording a safe and profitable place of investment for his small savings, we commend the National Freedman's Savings Bank.

Resolved, That we are of the opinion that in all the principal cities of the South the colored people should unite in establishing these Savings Banks, which we believe to be an incentive to economy, as well as a proper place for keeping its fruits.

WILLIAM J. WILSON,
F. G. BARBADOES,
ABRAM SMITH,
J. M. TURNER,
JAMES HARRIS,
Committee.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

NEW ERA!

A Colored American National Journal.

A new journal, to be called the NEW ERA, devoted especially to the promotion of the Political, Educational, Industrial, and Economical interests of the Colored People of the United States, and to their Moral and Religious improvement, will be issued weekly in Washington City, D. C., commencing January 13, 1870.

Such a paper is regarded by those whose judgment is entitled to consideration as a necessity of the times, and is approved by prominent public men and philanthropists in every section of the Union. In response to these demand this paper is established.

The NEW ERA will partake of a two-fold nature—that of an Advocate and an Educator. As an Advocate, it will assert and maintain every right pertaining to the American citizen, independent of race, color, or accident of birth. It will demand the recognition of these rights wherever the Constitution extends or the national ensign waves. As an Educator, its columns will be an especial medium for the effective diffusion of right principles and much-needed instruction. For the inculcation of those habits of industry, economy, and self-reliance which conduce to independent manhood, and give vitality and energy to free government, insuring in return blessings to the governed.

While the editors of the NEW ERA will be colored men, and the contributors will be mainly colored, yet the columns will be open for the discussion of all questions of vital importance to the country by any of its citizens. Communications suitable for publication in these columns are solicited from our friends in all parts of the country, especially in the Southern States.

THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Upon all questions involving the especial interests of the colored American citizen, the simple rule of equal justice for all men will govern the policy of the NEW ERA. It will demand the recognition of no right for one citizen which it will not freely accord to every other. It will oppose any attempt to confer privileges upon a class, that are withheld from the humblest citizen in the land. It will demand for every citizen equality before the law, and full protection of person and property in every State and Territory of the National Union.

The NEW ERA will take high national ground upon all public questions, and labor to inspire a oneness of purpose and encourage unity of action, especially among the newly-enfranchised people of the Reconstructed States. Remembering the past history of the Republican party, and recognizing what it has done for the colored people of the nation, the NEW ERA will give its hearty support to that party, reserving to ourselves, however, entire independence on political questions, and the right to go further than party platforms and party policy, whenever in our opinion the rights of humanity or the interests of any portion of the people require it at our hands.

THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

By education the people of a free Government, such as ours is intended to be, are better qualified to discharge their duties to the State, to one another, and to God. The nation will ever find its surest safeguard in the intelligence of its voting masses, and the journal which would promote the highest good of government and people must lend its energies and its power to the work of educating that people. Especially is the agency of the press needed by that portion of the people, colored and white, who, either in slavery or under the ban of its blighting influences, have been deprived of the opportunities enjoyed by their more favored brethren of the free States.

The Freedmen's Bureau had under its charge during the past year, as shown by the last annual report, 114,523 colored pupils in the day schools and 89,731 in the Sunday schools, employing 6,650 teachers. About 190,000 of these pupils were slaves at the commencement of the war. The educational department of this paper will contain regular contributions from the Freedmen's Bureau and other matter adapted to the capacities and needs of this large number of pupils and teachers, thereby making the NEW ERA a valuable auxiliary in the scheme of education.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

The industrial interests of the colored people will claim and receive a large share of our attention. We adopt the following extracts from the address promulgated by the Colored Labor Convention held in this city in December last, as indicating the views and policy of the NEW ERA on this subject:

"With a voting power under our present and just system of reconstruction of seven hundred and fifty thousand electors, and an actual laboring force of three millions, out of four millions and a quarter of hardy sons and daughters of toil, native to the soil, inured to the climate, acquainted with the habits and customs of the people generally, and knowing by an experience more valuable, perhaps, than the learning of the books, the methods of agriculture, the different systems of mechanical labor, and the common and less complicated affairs of commerce, we are an element in the industry of the country of importance, value and power.

"But for our own good and the welfare of our country in all things pertaining to her material and moral well-being, we seek a better and broader opportunity to gain knowledge in the fields of agricultural, mechanical, commercial, artistic, and professional labor, and this knowledge we would energise, direct, and make more largely effective through the enlightening and sanctifying influence of education. Our mottoes are liberty and labor, enfranchisement and education! The spelling-book and the hoe, the hammer and the vote, the opportunity to work and to rise, a place on which to stand, and to be and to do. We ask for ourselves and children as the means in the use of which, under God, we are to compass these achievements which furnish the measure, the test, and justification of our claim to impartial treatment and fair dealing.

"That this end may be reached, we ask, first of all, that trades be opened to our children, and that they be given the benefit of a just and equitable system of apprenticeship; in the second place, that for every day's labor given we be paid full and fair remuneration, and that no avenue of honest industry be closed against us; and thirdly, since we believe that the intelligence, the elevation, and happiness of all people depends in no small degree upon the diversity of their indusdrial pursuits, we ask that we may work in the printing office, whether private or governmental, in the factory, the foundry, the workshop, upon the railroad, the canal, the river, the steamboat, in the warehouse, the store, wherever labor is to be done and an able and faithful workman is wanted we conceive that we may claim a place without distinction as to our color or former condition, since all that can be demanded by the employer is ability, faithful performances of the contract made, and the employee reasonable treatment and the compensation promised. Hence, while we condemn that spirit which in its proscriptive regulations denies us industrial opportunity and the fruits of honest toil, we rejoice in all those evidences of prospective good which we and other laboring classes see in the erection of factories and foundries in Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, promising that our strong and labor-hardened hands, our intellectual powers, quickened by the influences of education, and our purposes made doubly earnest by considerate treatment and the prospect of just compensation, shall all be given to the development of the industrial resources of our several States in the interest of our employers.

"Recognizing ourselves as native Americans, and knowing ourselves as members of the great American body politic, while we ask the recognition and protection due any and all of like political condition, as in the past, so in all time to come, with unfettered limb and manly endeavor we shall labor with our white fellow-countrymen, native and naturalized, in mine, on farm, in workshop, in foundry, in factory, everywhere, to develop the material and industrial powers of our land, making wind, water, and earth to aid in the accomplishment of its mission of liberty and law, honor and justice, Christianity and civilization."

The NEW ERA will be made a desirable visitor for the family and the fireside, and we earnestly appeal to our friends everywhere to aid us by their subscriptions and their influence.

A well-written ORIGINAL TALE, of considerable interest, by FRANK J. WEBB, Esq., a colored man, author of the somewhat famous book entitled "*The Garies,*" published in London in 1858, with prefaces by Lord Brougham and Mrs. Stowe, and extensively read in England and this country, will be commenced in the first number of the NEW ERA.

The subscription price of the NEW ERA will be $2.50 a year for single subscriptions, invariably in advance. A liberal reduction will be made to clubs. For clubbing rates address the publishers.

Address **Publishers NEW ERA,**
Lock Box No. 31.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 1, 1870.