THE WEATHER TO-DAY.

Fair.
Decidedly Colder.
Northwesterly Winds.

The MORNING Times

237,609 was the TIMES' circulation for last week.

The STAR'S circulation for last week was . . . 200,392

VOL. 2. NO. 650. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1895.--EIGHT PAGES. ONE CENT.

LEADS LOCAL PAPERS IN AMOUNT OF READING MATTER

HOUSE PASSED IT

Revenue Bill Rushed Through on Schedule.

YEAS WERE 205, NAYS 81

Democrats Offered no Obstacles to Its Course.

WARM BUT LIMITED DEBATE

In Brief Speeches the Democratic Leaders Denounced the Measure and the Majority's Action in Forcing It Upon Them—Republicans Disclaimed Any Attempt at Tariff Revision and Declared the Bill Was Demanded by the Country's Distress—There Was No Filibustering on the Final Vote.

By a vote of 205 to 81, the House at 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon passed the bill reported by Mr. Dingley from the Committee on Ways and Means "to temporarily increase revenue to meet the ex-

Mr. Crisp Protests.

penses of the government and to provide against a deficiency."

The bill was presented to the House immediately after the reading of the Journal, and Mr. Henderson reported a resolution from the Committee on Rules providing for debate on the bill until 5 o'clock, a vote to be then taken on its passage.

In anticipation of this program, the galleries were crowded to the doors, even the diplomatic gallery being occupied by a representation of the official foreign colonies residing in Washington.

Among those in this group was Baron Von Ketteler, counsellor and first secretary of the German embassy.

During the entire period of the debate the corridors were filled by an ever-anging crowd, waiting and watching for an opportunity that did not come of securing admission to the galleries.

SENATORS ON THE FLOOR.

On the floor were more than 300 members, and many Senators were interested spectators. Among these were Messrs. Brown, Wilson, Berry, Quay and Peffer. The latter amusedly listened to the strong protection speeches of the Republican leaders, and from time to time carried on a joking conversation with Uncle Joe Cannon and others. The Senator occupied a conspicuous seat on the Republican side, and did not appear so altogether out of place.

The rule limiting debate was antagonized by Messrs. Crisp, McMillin and Turner of Georgia, on the ground that it affords no opportunity for amendment and not sufficient time for debate; and advocated by Messrs. Dalzell and Henderson, who argued that the situation admitted of no delay. It was finally passed—yeas 213; nays 85. Several Republicans were reported as voting against its passage.

When this had been disposed of there remained three and a half hours for the discussion of the revenue bill. The debate was participated in for the Republicans by Messrs. Dingley Dalzell, Hopkins, Illinois; Grosvenor, Ohio; Arnold, Pennsylvania; Knox, Massachusetts; and Dolliver, Iowa; in support of the bill, and by Messrs. Crisp, Wheeler, Alabama; McMillin, Tennessee; Dockery, Missouri; and Turner, Georgia; Democrats; and Bell, Populist; against the bill.

TEXT OF THE OPPOSITION.

The opposition was based on the theory

Mr. Dingley Argues.

that the remedy proposed—an increase of revenue—was not what was needed, that there was money enough in the Treasury to meet all claims for two or three years to come, even if the present rate of deficit were maintained. It was also contended that the bill was a general revision of the tariff.

Republicans insisted that more revenue was the key of the situation and denied that the bill was in any sense a general tariff measure. It did not represent Republican ideas on that subject at all; was intended only as a temporary revenue measure to meet a pressing exigency; and its passage was advocated on the high ground of patriotic duty in the hour of the republic's peril.

Mr. Dingley, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, opened the debate and spoke at length in favor of the bill. He said that if it became a law it would not only increase the revenue by over $40,000,000 a year, but would also give to the business interests of the country the moral influence of a government which was insolvent, which paid its debts, and whose credit was second to no government on the face of the earth. (Republican applause).

MR. CRISP'S SPEECH.

Mr. Crisp, following, said that the bill in order to be responsive to the request of the President, ought to be in line with the suggestions that came from that source. He insisted, from Secretary Carlisle's report, that the cash balance in the Treasury on December 1, last, was $170,000,000, being nine millions in excess of the gold reserve and seventy-seven millions in excess of any sums necessary to build up the gold reserve.

Mr. Crisp taunted the Committee on Ways and Means with reporting a bill for a horizontal rise of duties after all the ridicule which had been cast on Mr. Morrison's bill for a horizontal cut; and he said that the effect of the pending measure was to declare that the McKinley tariff act was 60 per cent right and 40 per cent wrong. (Laughter.)

He quoted Mr. McKinley's criticism of the Morrison bill as patchwork and a proof of indolence, and said that on the issue of the pending measure the parties would go before the country in the next Presidential campaign, and he had no doubt that the people would respond, as they had always responded, in favor of themselves—that was, in favor of lower taxes. (Democratic applause.)

Mr. Wheeler argued against the pending measure.

PREDICTIONS BY PAYNE.

Mr. Payne, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, said that the Republicans in the House, being ready to meet the responsibility which was on them, had presented a bill to increase the revenue. Two years from now, however, they would meet the responsibility of that hour, and would present to the House and Senate and to a Republican President a bill for the protection of American labor and American agriculture, and would write it on the statute book. (Applause.)

"You have," Mr. Payne exclaimed, addressing the Democratic side of the House, "borrowed $181,000,000 since you came into power; and if not the Treasury would have been bankrupt in a sum of over $6,000,000. Do you want to continue that same thing? Do you want to deal with a syndicate that will have a profit of $6,000,000 on a loan of $60,000,000?

"Does not your cheek blush in shame at even the newspaper suggestion, whether true or not, that one of the European powers is offering gold to our government to help us out of the difficulty? Is it not time that the American people ceased to be put in the position of a mendicant and suppliant to the governments and syndicates of Europe begging for gold to replenish the Treasury?

"You have been crying year after year for a tariff for revenue, with incidental protection, and this is your time. We give it to you as a temporary measure. We give it to you to increase the revenue. We give it to your President and your Secretary of the Treasury to help to lift the country out of the bankrupt condition which it seems to be the fate of every Democratic administration that ever had full control of the government to get into from the time of Monroe to the time of Grover Cleveland. (Loud applause.)

RECALLED REED'S SPEECH.

Mr. McMillin, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, argued against the bill and reminded the Republicans of the wise warning given by the present Speaker in the Republican caucus which nominated him in these words: "History will accord us praise for what we did in the Fifty-first Congress; and it may accord us praise in this Congress for what we do not do." What the House was doing today was one of the things to which that warning was applicable; and the country would give them more praise for abstinence than for continuance in such a course.

Mr. Henderson—"It Admits No Delay."

"Go on," said Mr. McMillin, apostrophizing the Republicans of the House, "go on in your wild career. (Laughter.) You have the majority. We are willing to rest with the people this controversy for high taxes or low taxes, for tariff for revenue or tariff for protection, for taxation or robbery, and we will abide the result. (Applause on the Democratic side and in the galleries.)

Mr. Dalzell, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, said that the pending measure was in no sense a protective tariff bill, or a revision of the tariff or an attempt to correct tariff irregularities, but was simply an emergency revenue measure, matured in haste, under the whip and spur of a pressing and cruel necessity. When passed it would be a conspicuous tribute to the patriotism of the Republican party rising above party prejudice at the summons of a Democratic President.

WISHED IT GOOD LUCK.

He trusted that when the bill went to the Senate it would find Republican support there, and that when it went to the President he would do that which patriotism demanded, and that the bill would become a law, for the immediate relief of the country.

"And then," he said, "a year hence, when a succession to the two tidal waves that have already swept the land shall sweep some great Republican leader into the White House and give us a Republican Senate and House, we will frame a tariff bill that will be in the interest of America for Americans."

Mr. Bell, Pop., Col., did not believe that the remedy for the trouble was in increasing taxation, but in the coinage of the silver bullion in the Treasury and paying it out.

Mr. Dockery spoke against the bill.

Mr. Hopkins argued in favor of its passage. He said the measure presented (while not a Republican measure) would in his judgment bring additional revenue enough to make the receipts of the Treasury equal to its expenditures.

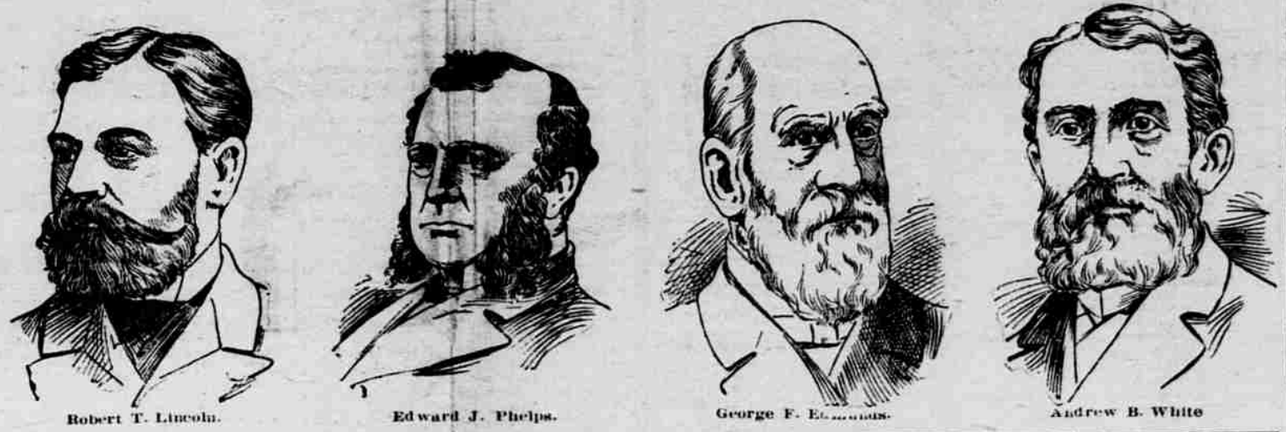
Mr. Grosvenor said that he gave his support to the pending measure because it was a revenue measure and because it was demanded by the message of the President.

Mr. Grosvenor excited laughter on the Republican side of the House and in the galleries by exclaiming that the danger line had begun to be reached when God Almighty, for some inexplicable reason, had afflicted the country with a Democratic victory.

Mr. Johnson, Rep., Ind., said the Republicans must be excused from confid-

Continued on Fourth Page.

PROBABLE MEMBERS OF THE VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.



Robert T. Lincoln. Edward J. Phelps. George F. Edmunds. Andrew B. White

FECHNER KEPT HIS WORD

He Inhaled Gas but Is on the Road to Recovery.

NOW IN NORFOLK JAIL

Police of That City Have Him in Custody Awaiting Action by His Friends Here—News Broken to His Wife—Business Troubles Caused the Attempt.

G. W. Fechner, of No. 231 Pennsylvania avenue, tried self-murder, and now pines for home and friends in a Virginia jail, while his wife in Washington sheds tears of joy that he failed to make his journey to the Great Beyond.

As stated in The Evening Times of yesterday, a letter was received from Fechner dated at Norfolk, in which he announced that he was about to commit suicide. His wife also received a letter saying that he had lost everything, but would make one more effort.

At 10 o'clock last night Sergt. Perry at police headquarters received the following dispatch from W. H. King, chief of police at Norfolk, Va.:

"George W. Fechner of Washington attempted to commit suicide at the Hotel Portsmouth last night by inhaling gas. Doctors attended him from 11 a. m. till 3 p. m. today and pronounce him out of danger."

BREAKING THE NEWS.

Sergt. Perry forwarded the dispatch to Mrs. Fechner.

"Your husband is safe," shouted his messenger as Mrs. Fechner answered his ring.

"Thank God," said Mrs. Fechner. The daughter rushed on the scene and she and her mother embraced.

It may be that Mrs. Fechner will go to Norfolk today to see her husband, but this had not been determined on last night.

Fechner is a jeweler and has been doing business at No. 231 Pennsylvania avenue. For some time his business has been growing slack and two months ago he went to Norfolk to dispose of some stock. He has had a struggle to live, and Mrs. Fechner, who has been conducting the store here, says that they have not been making enough to live on.

TO THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

Probably, in his misfortune, Fechner turned to The Times and sent the letter quoted above, because when he became involved in a legal difficulty some time ago he appealed to The Times for aid. The Times' lawyers, Messrs. Ralston and Siddons rendered him valuable service.

Yesterday morning The Times sent a dispatch to the chief of police at Norfolk, requesting him to look into the Fechner case.

A reply was received last night containing the same information as that given in the dispatch to police headquarters and also stating that Fechner would be taken to jail for safe keeping as soon as he was able to be moved.

None of the details of the attempted suicide reached Washington last night.

SUFFOCATED HIS DAUGHTER.

Husband Quarrels With His Wife and Sets the House Afire.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 26.—Fire today almost entirely destroyed the residence of Edward Lynn in South Scranton and his nine-year-old daughter Belinda was suffocated. Just before the fire started, Lynn quarrelled with his wife and in his fury he drove her and another daughter from the house.

Belinda was asleep up stairs at the time. Soon afterward the dwelling was found to be on fire. Lynn was arrested on the charge of arson.

MINERS ON A RAMPAGE.

Drunken and Dissatisfied, They Loot the Co-operative Store.

Madisonville, Ky., Dec. 26.—A riot is raging at the mining town of Barnesty, six miles from here. Dissatisfied miners and whisky are the cause.

The local officers were overpowered and the co-operative store was looted. The miners are in power. Several people were hurt. Sheriff Thompson left Madisonville for the place with fifteen armed deputies.

COL. GRIGSBY DEAD.

He Served in Both the Mexican and Civil Wars.

(Special to The Times.)

Richmond, Dec. 26.—The death is announced of Col. A. J. Grigsby, at his home in Albermarle, near Charlottesville. He commanded the Forty-seventh Virginia in the Stonewall brigade and served through the Mexican war with General Doniphan.

He was the oldest brother of the late General "Jack" Grigsby of Lexington, Ky.

Canada's School Muddle.

Winnepeg, Me., Dec. 26.—The full text of Manitoba's reply to the dominion government on the separate school question is made public. The Manitoba government positively refuses the proposal to establish a system of separate schools in any form.

Wabash River Rising.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 26.—Specials from Central Indiana and Illinois say that a very heavy snow storm is in progress. Along the Wabash River valley snow is already six inches deep. The Wabash rose fifteen feet within five days and is still rising.

Crocker's.

For New Year's what can be a daintier gift than a pair of satin evening slippers from Crocker's, 939 Pennsylvania avenue.

PREACHED AGAINST GROVER

Hagerstown Divine Violently Attacks the President.

"By One Breath of His Mouth He Threw Millions Into the Maelstrom of Financial Ruin."

Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 26.—The Rev. Henry Evans Cotton, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, in his sermon yesterday morning made a violent attack on President Cleveland, for whom he had voted twice for the Presidency, though the pastor is a Republican.

"Hour by hour," he said, "the President's utterance stands publicly impeached by the honest common sense of the people. Bitter disappointment has come to many who felt that, with his great gifts, he might have lifted the nation to higher, surer planes of action; but he has been dragged from his place as a statesman down to the level of the political leeches that surround him.

"By one breath of his mouth he threw millions of the people's money into the maelstrom of financial ruin; in another breath he piteously invokes his Congress to avert the crash he has called down upon our heads, and millions of lives are disturbed by the horrible possibilities—God grant the impossible possibilities—of cruel war."

The pastor's words created a great stir in the congregation.

NEGRO DAY AT ATLANTA.

Weather Was Bad, But the Attendance Remarkably Large.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—This was Negro Day at the exposition, and large numbers of the race braved the severe weather to attend. Very interesting exercises were held at the Auditorium. Gov. Atkinson and State School Commissioner Glenn delivered interesting addresses.

Prof. W. E. Holmes of the Atlanta Baptist Seminary, acted as chairman. Prof. R. R. Wright of the Georgia Industrial School for Negroes, delivered an address on the history of Negro Education in the South, and Isaiah Montgomery, negro commissioner for Mississippi, delivered an address in behalf of the commissioners for the negro exhibit.

The board of directors this afternoon voted to terminate all salaries and wages at the exposition with December 31.

The last day was made Directors' Day and Woman's Board Day, and souvenir tickets with a likeness of Mrs. Joseph Thompson, president of the Woman's Board, have been ordered printed.

WITH KNIVES AND PISTOLS.

Christmas in the Coal Regions Was a Day of Rioting.

Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 26.—A colored man named France was fatally shot last night at a dance in Bridgeport by a stranger who quarreled with France over a young woman, who had promised to dance with both.

At Vanderbilt coke works last night the foreigners were celebrating Christmas by firing a salute. Steven Sinclo was fatally shot in the groin.

Alfred Johnson, colored, was shot in the head during a fight at Connellsville, last night and will probably die. The shooting was done by unknown parties.

During a fight at Scottdale last night Ted Collins was fatally stabbed and several others were badly injured. It is not known who stabbed Collins. Several arrests have been made today.

MORE BOY BURGLARS.

They Beat a Shoemaker Into Insensibility and Loot His Shop.

Bethlehem, Pa., Dec. 26.—A gang of four boys, aged about eighteen years, Fred Carl, Charles Culver, George Culver and Harvey Williams, last night beat Saffron Haas, aged seventy years, in his shoe shop, into insensibility and then looted the place.

He has twenty-three cuts on his head and cannot recover. The police arrested the boys this morning. Carl made a confession in which he swore that the gang had held meetings and laid plans. Carl gave Haas drugged whisky and the boys then assaulted him. All four were committed to jail on a charge of intent to rob and kill.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A TOWN.

Fire in a Stable Within 100 Feet of Cases of Dynamite.

Ansted, W. Va., Dec. 26.—The Gauley Mountain Coal stables at this place were destroyed by fire at 4 o'clock this morning. The company's magazine, containing seven cases of dynamite and 1,000 pounds of powder, was less than a hundred feet from the stable, but was saved.

If it had reached it, half the town would have been destroyed. Two tramps who were seen at the stable yesterday evening are supposed to have slept in there. They may be buried in the ruins.

AITKEN FOR GOVERNOR.

The Michigan Representative Is in the Hands of His Friends.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 26.—Congressman D. D. Aitken has decided to make a fight to the finish for the nomination for governor at the hands of the next Republican State convention. In letters to close personal friends in Lansing received this morning, Mr. Aitken informed them of his determination and told them that he was pushed into the announcement of it by friends throughout the State who gave him assurances of their support and urged him to publicly announced himself at once.

Suicide of John S. Husted.

Denver, Col., Dec. 26.—John S. Husted, a wealthy citizen, formerly of Westchester county, New York, and related to ex-Speaker Husted of the general assembly, shot himself in the head this morning. Ill-health and the hallucination that he was losing money was the cause.

EAST WAS STORM SWEPT

Heavy Gales and Torrents of Rain Along the Coast.

DAMAGE DONE IN CITIES

Church Unroofed and People Trampled in Philadelphia—Wires and Poles Down and the City Partially Cut Off From the Outside World—Cold Weather to Follow.

Washington felt last night the indirect effects of the great storm, which was central in New York State, which was the result of a low pressure in the North Atlantic States and a high pressure in the Rocky Mountain region.

The storm struck this section about 6:30, when a slight rain set in, which was followed an hour later by winds from the northwest of alarming velocity, accompanied by a heavy rainfall.

In the northwest it rattled windows and shook foundations, and elsewhere in the city the recurring blasts were suggestive of the fury of a cyclone.

A great many of the telegraph poles of the Western Union were blown down in the suburbs, two of them having gone down on Brightwood avenue near Irwin street.

The telegraph system north and northwest of Washington was badly disarranged. Communication was completely cut off. Reports today will undoubtedly bring stories of a general wreck of wires and poles.

As a result of the northwest winds and rain there will be fair but cool weather today.

PANIC IN A CHURCH.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—The high wind that accompanied tonight's rain storm nearly caused a terrible disaster at the Mariners Bethel Church at Front and Union streets. A Christmas tree celebration was being held at the church, and the little building was packed with about 600 people, many of whom were children.

Just before 10 o'clock the merry participants in the festival were startled by what sounded like a heavy blow on the roof above their heads.

The noise was followed by falling bricks and mortar, and in the effrots to escape from the impending danger a wild panic ensued among the people in the church.

A rush was made for the single exit and women and children were trampled under foot by the stronger in the rush for safety. About half of the people succeeded in getting out of the church before some of the cooler heads in the crowd pacified the fears of the panic-stricken people.

GALES IN PHILADELPHIA.

New York, Dec. 26.—About 9 o'clock tonight this city was visited by an unusually heavy wind and rain storm. The velocity of the wind continued to increase gradually up to about 10:30 o'clock, when the registers in the weather bureau indicated that the wind was blowing at the rate of sixty miles an hour.

At that hour the rain fell in torrents and the streets were almost wholly deserted. Up to a late hour there were but few accidents reported, however, and they were of a trifling character.

WIRES BLOWN DOWN.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 26.—A blizzard struck this city early this morning and continued with increased violence until at noon the streets were almost impassable and the telephone and electric wires were in a tangled mass.

Not a telephone is in working order in the city and at least fifty poles are broken off or toppled over. One horse was killed and several persons knocked senseless by coming in contact with live wires.

Large gangs of men are at work trying to get the wires off the streets, but the storm is increasing in force and bids fair to leave the city without an electric light tonight.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 26.—A violent wind storm swept over the city about 8 o'clock tonight. Several trees and some of the telephone wires were blown down, but no serious damage was done.

PITTSBURG NEARLY ISOLATED.

Pittsburg, Dec. 26.—One of the worst storms in a long time for telegraph and telephone companies in this vicinity passed over Pittsburg and Western Pennsylvania tonight. Wires are down in all directions and communication with the East is badly impaired. Rain began here early in the afternoon and the down-pour gradually increased until 8 o'clock tonight.

High winds also prevailed which played sad havoc with the telegraph wires. The storm seems to have been at its worst east of Pittsburg. Near Hopewell on the Huntington and Broad Top railroad a tree was blown down across the railroad tracks. A train crashed into the obstruction and a railroad foreman was killed.

The rain has now ceased and a wet snow is falling. The signal station here has had no communication with points east of Pittsburg up to 9:45 o'clock tonight.

STORM CENTER THERE.

Pittsburg seems to have been the central point of the storm, which the officials at the Weather Bureau say extended from Nashville, Tenn., as far North as Buffalo. While the wind was not so high in this city, as the storm increased it prostrated all wires in its path.

It was so threatening here, however, that all movements of coal from this harbor were discontinued until tomorrow. Outside of the damage done to telegraph and telephone companies, no other serious results werer eported up to midnight.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 26.—At Halltown, this State, three houses were blown down and completely wrecked by the storm today. A mill took fire and was burned to the ground. The total damage to property is estimated at $20,000.

Southern S. A. E. Chapters Meet.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 26.—Representatives of the two Southern chapters of the Southern S. A. E. fraternity met here today. Forty colleges are represented. Tonight the fraternity men were given a reception by Gov. Atkinson.

M'KENZIE EXTENDS THANKS

Our Minister to Peru Replies to the Congratulatory Expressions.

He Reminds South America That the United States Is the Bulwark of the Western World.

(Special to The Times.)
(Copyright by James Gordon Bennett.)

Lima, Peru, Dec. 26.—Mr. James A. McKenzie, the United States minister, formally replied today to the resolutions of congratulation offered by the deputation of the National Society of Peru in connection with the attitude of the President of the United States in the Venezuelan question.

Minister McKenzie told the delegates of the society that they deserved, as representatives of the youth of the country, strong recommendation for their expression of patriotic ideas and their quick recognition of the spirit of justice which inspired the President of the United States to assume the position outlined in his message to the Congress.

It was impossible, added Minister McKenzie, that the great republic of the North should forget the fact that she was the bulwark of the liberty of America; that she should lose sight of her noble traditions and abandon her post of honor.

The National Society has organized a grand reception in honor of the United States and Venezuela, to which all American diplomats in South America will be invited.

ZEITOUN IN TURKISH HANDS.

Izzet Pasha Under Arrest and to Be Court-Martialed.

Constantinople, Dec. 26.—The capture of Zeitoun by the Turkish troops is officially confirmed. No details of the fall of the place are given.

Izzet Pasha, who recently addressed a large report to the sultan, pointing out the deplorable situation in the country, has been placed under arrest, and is now awaiting trial by court martial. His troubles are due to his report, which the sultan refused to read.

When Izzet Pasha found that his majesty refused to pay any attention to his report he resigned his office of chief equery, but the sultan refused to accept his resignation. Five times was the resignation repeated, but the sultan refused to allow Izzet to retire voluntarily.

An official report has been issued stating that the government is making an inquiry into the outrages at Harpoot. It denies that any missionary property was burned in the presence of the troops.

On the contrary, it says that the officials used the troops to the utmost of their ability to protect the missionaries and other foreigners, and thereby prevented the burning of a large part of the missionary buildings. A company of troops, the report adds, is still guarding the missionaries' property.

NEW WOMAN RESTRAINED.

She Cannot Have Access to the Board of Trade.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—The appellate court this morning reversed the order entered by Judge Gibbons restraining the open board of trade from prohibiting women coming upon the floor of the board or entering the galleries.

The injunction was issued upon the application of Marson French, a broker, who showed in his bill that his business was suffering because most of his clients were women, and owing to the restrictions of the board they could not advise him in regard to their tradings.

Justice Waterman in rendering the opinion of the upper court, said:

"We see no reason why in this age the 'new woman' has not the same right to use the board as a trading or gambling agency as has any man; but we are not aware of any right which any man not a member has to access to any of its quarters.

"It does not appear that privileges allowed to other members are denied to complainant, but the fact that he has female customers who deal on the board does not give him the right to require that such women shall be admitted to the floor or gallery of the exchange."

ON THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

Senators Martin and Bacon Assigned by the Caucus.

The Democratic Steering Committee of the Senate yesterday afternoon failed to to finally complete its labor but will report to the caucus called to meet today at 10:30 o'clock.

In addition to the committee assignments heretofore reported in these dispatches it was decided to place Messrs. Martin and Bacon, two new Senators, on the committee on the District of Columbia; Mr. Lindsay on Education and Labor, and Mr. Murphy on Public Buildings and Grounds.

In others of the important committees where the Democrats were compelled to give up their majority membership they left the old Senators as they stood on the list and dropped the newest man at the foot of the list.

RUMORS OF A RECESS.

Senators Discuss the Prospects of a Ten-Day Rest.

Such Senators as happened to be about the Capitol yesterday were discussing the possibility of getting a short holiday recess.

The proposition of passing a ten days' recess resolution after the bond and tariff bills came over from the House is being advised. The committees of the Senate have not been reorganized, and as the bills will remain in committee some time, there appears to be no reason why the recess should not be taken.

The matter was being discussed both in the Senate and House ends of the Capitol.

Justice Peckham's Plans.

Rufus W. Peckham, the new associate justice of the Supreme Court, expects to reach Washington and take the oath of office January 3.

FLAMES FANNED BY WIND

Fire Destroys a Big Clothing Establishment in Baltimore.

QUARTER OF A MILLION LOSS

Oehm's Acme Hall Ruined by a Midnight Conflagration—One of the Richest Business Sections in the City Was Threatened—Trolley Wires an Impediment to Raising of Ladders.

(Special to The Times.)

Baltimore, Dec. 27.—A fire broke out at an early hour this morning in Oehm's Acme Hall, 1 to 7 West Baltimore street and 6 South Charles street.

A high wind sent showers of sparks in all directions.

A blaze was first seen shortly after midnight, and an alarm was immediately turned in. The department responded, but the detachment of engines was insufficient to check the blaze.

Additional alarms were sounded, including the general signal "four twos." Nearly every engine in the city was on the scene.

Chief Sedden worked like a Trojan and soon had the water towers and trucks in positions where they were most effective.

WHOLE BLOCK IN DANGER.

At first it was thought that the fire had gained a headway in the center of the block bounded by Charles, Baltimore Hanover and German streets, and would soon consume the wholesale drug house of John J. Thompson & Sons, where enormous quantities of acids and inflammables are constantly stored. A stream of water was kept on the Thompson building continuously.

Armstrong, Cator & Co., wholesale dealers in millinery and straw goods, was threatened, but the valiant efforts of the firemen to save the structure and its contents were rewarded with success.

Great trouble was experienced with the trolley wires which, with those of the telegraph and telephone companies, form an almost impenetrable network from one end of Baltimore street to the other.

CONQUERED AFTER A FIGHT.

About 1 o'clock the fire was under control.

The building at the corner of Charles and Baltimore streets is a three and a half-story brick structure and was used as an annex, the main building, adjoining it on the west, being built of iron, and is five stories high.

Both buildings were well stocked with clothing and men's furnishings.

The loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars.

The origin of the fire is unknown.

ANTI-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

Reported Coalition of England, France, Holland and Spain Against America.

London, Dec. 26.—The Daily News will tomorrow publish a dispatch from Vienna stating that Lord Salisbury, the British prime minister, is negotiating with France and Holland with a view to adopting common action against the policy of President Cleveland.

Spain, the dispatch adds, has already assured Great Britain of her agreement with the latter on the question.

It is believed that Great Britain, France, Holland, and Spain will form a quadruple alliance to protect their American possessions against the United States.

London, Dec. 26.—The Daily News tomorrow, commenting on the report that Secretary of the State Olney has forwarded a private dispatch to Lord Salisbury, will say:

"There is nothing incredible or surprising in such an announcement. On the contrary, it would be highly honorable to him. There is no reason to believe that in pushing the Monroe doctrine Secretary Olney had any design of insulting or annoying England."

The paper discredits the various far-fetched explanations of President Cleveland's policy, and says he meant no harm by his message to Congress. Whatever mischief he did he has since conscientiously and laboriously endeavored to undo.

BLOWN INTO THE RIVER.

Seven Persons Drowned During a Storm and Deluge in Texas.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 26.—News reached here this afternoon of a disaster in which seven lives were lost and much property destroyed last Tuesday night. The wind and rain storm which swept over western Texas assumed the fierceness of a hurricane and deluge at Hambrick's ranch, near Sterling City, on a branch of the Concho river about sixty miles northwest of this place.

Hambrick had a large flock of sheep and a big herd of cattle, being looked after by three Mexican herders, Ortano Cardes, his wife and daughter, lived in a cabin, and Juan Vergas and Emilo Deltro, two herders, boarded with them. The cabin was wrecked and blown into the stream and the five occupants were drowned.

Two miles further down the river Alberto Jardin and Pedro Sardis were drowned while trying to escape from a sudden rise in the Concho.

The storm coming on suddenly in the night, the victims had no warning, and could not protect themselves in the darkness. The whole country in the Concho valley is overflowed, and many sheep and cattle have been drowned.

Usual Fate of a Peacemaker.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—During a quarrel between Petrangelo Mambredi and Luigi Consendino at Manayunk, a suburb of this city, yesterday, the former drew a revolver and pointed the weapon at Consendino. Angelo Arieo, who attempted to act as peacemaker, ran between the men just as Mambredi fired, and he was shot through the brain. Arieo died shortly afterward. The murderer escaped. The men are Italians.

Eminent Southern Scientist Dying.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 26.—Dr. James Edmund Reeves, bacteriologist and physician of more than natural eminence whose contributions to medical science have been considerable, particularly in the line of a microscopical study of the origin and growth of disease germs is tonight pronounced by his physician to be dying.

Auction Sales Today.

Duncanson Bros., Ninth and D streets northwest—G street northeast, No. 1226, brick dwelling, lot 283, square 1004, by order of A. A. Wilson and J. B. Larner, trustees. Sale today at 4 p. m.

Florida avenue northeast, brick dwelling, No. 1116, lot 77, block 2, Trinidad, by order of Charles F. Benjamin and William H. Duncanson, trustees. Sale today at 4:30 p. m.

Walter B. Williams & Co., 1001 Pennsylvania avenue—R street northeast, No. 48, brick dwelling, sub lot 30, block 8, by order of W. E. Edmonston and J. D. Coughlan, trustees. Sale today at 4 p. m.

Dyrenforth.

The best clothing for the least money at 621 Pennsylvania avenue, Dyrenforth's.