Richmond Dispatch.

TUESDAY..... .....DECEMBER 12, 1876.

PETERSBURG.

FATAL CASES OF BURNING—COLD WEATHER—THE FENCE-LAW—PERSONAL.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

DECEMBER 11, 1876.

Two cases of fatal burning have occurred in this city within the past two or three days. On Saturday evening Sarah Brown, an aged colored woman, died of injuries which were received the day before. While sitting asleep in a chair she fell forward into the fire, and was dreadfully burned before she could be relieved of her burning clothes.

On Saturday night a colored woman named Eliza Johnson, living on Halifax street, was fatally burned by her clothes taking fire from the grate. She died yesterday.

Such was the intensity of the cold Saturday night and yesterday that the river was frozen over and the ice was thick enough to bear.

At a meeting of citizens of Dinwiddie, held at Church Road on Saturday, resolutions were adopted declaring that the condition of the county rendered it necessary that some action should be taken in regard to a fence-law, and the counties of the State were requested to send delegates to a meeting to be held in this city on the 23d of January to consider the matter.

James Alfred Jones, Esq., was in the city today, and argued a case before Judge Mann, of the Hustings Court, sitting in chambers.

The Appomattox river is now lower than it has been known for twenty years.

ROBIN ADAIR.

A BLACK OUTLAW AND DESPERADO.—*New York*, December 9.—A dispatch from Seatauket to Hunter's Point this morning states that a terrible outrage was committed in the village last evening by a negro desperado known as Joe Saunders, but better known as "Black Joe." About ten years ago Saunders came North from the rice-fields of the Carolinas, and making his way to Long Island, soon gathered under his leadership a number of outlaws equally as bad as himself. They finally made their rendezvous at South Oyster Bay, where Jackson and Jarvis, the murderers of old Mr. Jones, at Oyster Bay, joined the gang. Within the past two months Saunders has been lodged in jail three times.

Last evening Mrs. Morris, residing at East Seatauket, was walking along the road, and when near the Sunswick barn a man sprang from the doorway and forced her to the ground, where the ruffian securely bound his victim, and while insensible carried her across the road into some underbrush, where he threw her. Her family becoming alarmed, instituted a search for her. About 3 o'clock this morning, while passing through the woods with lighted torches, they discovered Mrs. Morris where Saunders had thrown her, almost frozen to death. A party of men are now scouring the country in search of the villain, whom, should they find, they will immediately lynch.

DAMAGES TO PROPERTY IN BALTIMORE.—The intensely cold weather and icy hurricane which swept over Baltimore after 1 o'clock Saturday morning, and continued more or less until last night, was one of the severest winter blows known in this locality for a long while. First there was a slight rainfall, then a fierce snow squall and the hurricane, which ripped up a number of roofs, exposing the occupants of dwellings in elevated sections to the cold blasts of the pitiless storm. Ice-making, which had been interrupted by previous mild weather, has now eventuated in a fine crop six or more inches thick. The skating-ponds of Druid Hill and Patterson Parks are in fine condition for sport; Lake Roland has six-inch ice over its surface; Jones's falls is sealed up, and there is a thin skim of ice on the basin. Predictions of milder weather remove present fears of a lock-up of the harbor. The Susquehanna river is frozen over tightly, and ice-cutting at Havre de Grace and Port Deposit will begin this week. The canals are frozen, and navigation has been suspended. The Potomac river was frozen over sufficient to seriously impede navigation. It is expected that in Baltimore and suburbs ice-harvesting will be renewed today with vigor. The total damage by unroofing houses in Baltimore, &c., aggregate about five or six thousand dollars.—*Sun, 11th.*

ARCHBISHOP BAYLEY.—It is reported from New York that Archbishop Bayley, of Baltimore, and Bishop Corrigan, of Newark, are to leave New York on Wednesday next for Rome. The Archbishop left Baltimore last week suffering from asthma, and gave no intimation to any of his household of an intention to go abroad. Since he has been away a letter has been received from Seaton Hall by a seminarian at St. Mary's, Baltimore, stating that the two prelates would go to Rome. Rev. Alfred A. Curtis, the Archbishop's secretary, thinks it likely that Dr. Bayley will go abroad, but he has no positive knowledge of the fact. In the Archbishop's absence the administrator *ad interim* will be either Rev. Joseph Paul Dubreul, vicar-general, or Rev. William S. Starr, chancellor of the archdiocese. Bishop Corrigan goes to Rome to make the required decennial papal visit. It was stated some time ago that Archbishop Bayley desired the appointment of Bishop Gibbons, of Richmond, as coadjutor of Baltimore, with the right of succession. It is now rumored that the proposed visit to Rome is in that connection.—*Baltimore Sun, 11th.*

YOU MUST HAVE OLD PROMISSORY NOTES STAMPED—AN INTERESTING CASE IN COURT.—In Court No. 1, yesterday, before Judge Allison, the case of William F. Potts against Charles Middleton was called for trial. The plaintiff, no doubt, expecting plain and easy sailing to a verdict, immediately offered in evidence, as the foundation of his action, two promissory notes, made in the year 1870, for upwards of $5,000. The defendant's counsel, on examining the notes, observed that there were no revenue stamps upon them. He objected to their being given in evidence on the ground that by the revenue laws in force in 1870 they should have been stamped. His Honor sustained the point, and to avoid a non-suit the plaintiff asked to withdraw a juror.—*Philadelphia Times, 9th.*

SEAMEN LOST—VESSEL WRECKED—*Annapolis*, December 10.—The schooner Laura, Captain William Hitch, of Baltimore, was capsized on Hackett's bar, in the Chesapeake bay, early yesterday morning, and all the crew, including the captain, have doubtless perished. Captain Hitch was on his way to Annapolis with money to pay the fine of his father, who had been adjudged guilty of dredging at night. There were five or six men aboard.

The pungy Rochester, Captain James West, of Baltimore, was driven ashore off Greensbury Point during yesterday's gale, but the crew all escaped.—*Special to the Baltimore American.*

SAD CASE OF DROWNING.—*Louisville, Ky.*, December 9.—The two Misses Campbell, Miss Choate, and James Gregory were drowned in a mill-pond ten miles from Olmstead, Ky., on Friday night, by the sinking of a canoe in which they, with six others, were proceeding to a dance.

The proceedings against the three French Centennial commissioners at Philadelphia, charged with slandering a former policeman, whom they had accused of theft, have been stopped at the instance of Secretary Fish, on the ground that two of them are consuls and the third the military attaché to the French legation, which diplomatic relations entitle them to immunity from arrest. It now remains to be seen whether the French legation will take further proceedings in pursuance of laws providing for the punishment of persons concerned in the arrest of diplomatic agents.

Gold was lower on Saturday, with one exception—November, 1873, when it fell to 106¼—than it has been since the war.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Progress of the Great Presidential Struggle.

FLORIDA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Recusant Returning Board in Trouble---Judge Bond Discharges the State Canvassers, and Declares that the Supreme Court Didn't Have Jurisdiction.

MATTERS AT THE CAPITAL.

Interesting Proceedings in Congress Yesterday---Washington Gossip.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Riotous Negroes in the South---Destructive Fire in the North.

OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

&c., &c., &c.

The Latest from Washington.

DEMOCRATIC STATEMENT OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS—THE CHANDLER DISPATCHES—THE CASE OF THE COLORADO REPRESENTATIVE—PERSONAL ITEMS—VIRGINIA'S ELECTORAL VOTE HANDED IN—THE COLD SNAP, &C.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

The news at the National capital is not specially interesting; it rarely ever is on Monday night.

The Democrats who visited the southern States to witness the counts made by the Returning Boards are preparing a statement of their observations, which will be made public some time this week. Representatives Hewitt and Watterson left here on Saturday night to consult with Governor Tilden with reference to the text of the document.

The managers of the Western Union and Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph companies, in New York and this city, have been subpœnaed to appear in New Orleans at 12 o'clock on Tuesday next, and are directed to bring with them copies of all telegrams sent by or to Secretary Chandler since the 1st of October last with reference to the conduct of the campaign in the southern States. They are also directed to furnish the dispatches sent by W. E. Chandler and others who visited the southern States to witness the count of the Returning Boards. Such dispatches as have application to other States will be sent from New Orleans to the Florida and South Carolina committees.

The case of Mr. Belford, the representative from Colorado, came up for discussion before the Judiciary Committee of the House this morning. Chairman Knott said that there was no precedent governing the matter, and the committee would have to act upon its discretion. A case approximating to the one under consideration, quoted by one of the members, was the Kansas case. It appears, upon the adoption of the Lecompton Constitution, President Buchanan issued his proclamation declaring Kansas a State. Subsequently an election was held, at which members of Congress were chosen. They presented their credentials and asked for admission to the House, and that body refused to seat them, holding that Buchanan had exceeded his powers, and had no authority to declare the Territory a State; that it was a power solely vested in Congress, which body could not legally delegate its powers, and that its Constitution had never been approved by Congress according to law. The discussion in the committee to-day clearly indicates that the Democratic members will report against the admission of Belford. Chairman Knott, and Messrs. Hurd, Hunton, and Ashe leaned that way certainly in giving their views. The Republican members opposed them. It was decided to take a vote to-morrow.

Among those who had interviews with the President to-day were the Secretary of War, Postmaster-General, Senators Harvey and Booth, Representatives Townsend, Phillips, Magoon, Thornburg, Darrall, and Kelly, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, accompanied by the Indian Commission.

Judge Kelley, of Pennsylvania, the oldest representative in Congress so far as years of continuous service are concerned, appeared in the House to-day for the first time during the present session.

Senator Gordon, of Georgia, returned today from Columbia, S. C., where he has been for some time past in the interest of the Democrats.

E. S. Gregory, Esq., of Petersburg, arrived in this city on Saturday, bearing the electoral vote of the State of Virginia, and deposited the same with Mr. Ferry, the president of the Senate.

Navigation of the Potomac is suspended for the present by the freeze.

A movement is on foot looking to the engagement of Major Hahneman's artillery to fire a salute in honor of Peter Cooper. It is proposed to fire a salute of 38 guns—one for each State—which should have cast its vote for Cooper and Cary, but didn't.

[By Associated Press.]

CAUCUSES

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The Democrats of both houses held caucuses this evening, but nothing is known yet of the proceedings beyond the exaction of a pledge of secrecy.

Second Disptch.

ACTION OF THE TWO CAUCUSES REGARDING THE ELECTORAL VOTE.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The Democratic senatorial caucus, after discussing the political situation, appointed Messrs. Thurman, Bogy, Bayard, Kearnan, and Eaton a committee to confer with a committee of the House for adjusting any difference regarding the counting of the electoral vote.

The House Democratic caucus to-day, after a very animated discussion, agreed, on motion of Mr. Hunter, to instruct the Judiciary Committee to report what course the House should pursue in regard to counting the electoral votes, and what legal power the House and Senate respectively possessed on the subject. Some excited speeches were made, but the general determination was to take no other action until the receipt of the reports of the southern investigation committees.

Third Dispatch.

A SPIRITED DEBATE—GOVERNOR TILDEN'S VIEWS COMMUNICATED TO THE CAUCUS.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—There was a general and spirited debate in the Democratic House caucus concerning the political situation and the difficulties between the two houses as regards the counting of the votes and the inauguration of a President. Messrs. Randall, Wood, Hunton, and Caulfield were among the speakers. A determined spirit was manifested to maintain all the constitutional rights of the House, and give effect to what is claimed by the Democratic members to be the expressed wish of the people in the presidential election. With a view to this end Mr. Hunton, of Virginia, moved to procure the passage by the House of a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report what course the House should pursue in reference to the counting and distinction of the electoral votes; and also, what are the respective rights and duties of the two houses separately or jointly regarding the entire subject of the presidential election. Several members, including Messrs. Randall, Watterson, and Ely, having recently had interviews with Governor Tilden, are understood to have communicated to the caucus the views expressed by him to the effect that no action except of the preliminary character above indicated should be taken concerning the existing or possible future of the political complications until after the return from the South of the investigation committees.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—In the Supreme Court to-day Mr. Solicitor-General Phillips presented the petition of the United States District Attorney for the District of South Carolina, requesting that an order be made in accordance with the provisions of the revised statute directing a special term of the Circuit Court for that district to be held at an early day for the trial of parties recently arrested there for murder and other crimes against the United States. It is probable that among the cases to be presented for trial there will be a number of those involving the question of intimidation of voters.

THE SUPREME COURT DECIDES THAT THE UNDERWOOD CONFISCATION OF M'VEIGH'S PROPERTY WAS NULL AND VOID.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The Supreme Court to-day decided the case of Windsor *vs.* McVeigh, Gregory *vs.* McVeigh; errors to the Corporation Court of Alexandria, Va. These were actions brought by McVeigh to recover his property, which had been confiscated. The Court below held that McVeigh had not had sufficient notice of the confiscation proceedings, and judgment was for him; "that judgment is here affirmed," says the Supreme Court, the Court holding that the jurisdiction acquired by the seizure in such cases is not to pass upon the question of forfeitures absolutely, but to pass upon that question after opportunity has been afforded the owners and parties interested to be heard upon the charges against them. Some notification besides, arising from the seizure, is essential in prescribing the time within which appearance must be made, and not being given in the cases by the usual modes, the decrees of condemnation are held to be void. Judgment affirmed.

MITCHELL'S OREGON RESOLUTION.

WASHINGTON, December 11.—The following is Mitchell's Oregon resolution as amended. It comes up to-morrow: The Committee on Privileges and Elections, to which was referred the resolution relating to the electoral vote in Oregon, having considered the same, have instructed me to report that said resolution be amended to read as follows; and they recommend its adoption: Strike out all after the word "whereas" in the first line and insert the following in lieu thereof: It is alleged that at the late election for electors of President and Vice-President for the State of Oregon the people of said State, by a majority of over 1,000 votes, elected W. H. Odell, John C. Cartwright, and J. W. Watts; and whereas it is also alleged that the Governor of said State did subsequently, in violation of law and in defiance of the expressed will of the people, issue a certificate of election to one E. A. Cronin instead of to said J. W. Watts; and whereas it is also alleged that said E. A. Cronin did, in violation of law, upon some pretext assume to select for his colleagues one J. N. T. Miller and Parker in lieu of said W. H. Odell and J. C. Cartwright; and whereas it is further alleged that said Cronin, Miller, and Parker have assumed to cast the vote of Oregon for President and Vice-President, and to certify the same to the president of the Senate; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Privileges and Elections are hereby instructed to inquire into the legality of said J. W. Watts and investigate the facts attending the appointment of said electors and pretended electors, and report the same to the Senate, and for these purposes may employ a stenographer, send for persons and papers, administer oaths, and examine witnesses.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE LOWNDESVILLE MURDERERS IN JAIL—ONE OF THEM COMMITS SUICIDE—JUDGE BOND HAS DISCHARGED THE BOARD OF STATE CANVASSERS.

COLUMBIA, December 11.—Positive information has been received here that the Lowndesville murderers were not lynched, and have been removed to Walhalla, O'Conner county, as a precaution against violence. An investigation discloses the fact that the plot to murder whites indiscriminately was horrible, and aroused excitement among the whites to the extent of threatening summary punishment. The precaution taken averted this, and everything is now quiet.

One of the captured murderers took laudanum, and died from the effects. A jury in his case rendered the following verdict unanimously: "We, the jurors, upon our oaths, do say that Sam. Benton came to his death from the voluntary use of laudanum taken by himself, and received by him from the hands of his brother." The prisoners are now all safe in Walhalla jail.

Judge Bond has delivered a decision discharging the Board of State Canvassers from custody on the ground that the Supreme Court of the State had no jurisdiction.

FLORIDA.

TRIAL OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR CONTEMPT.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., December 11.—The trial for contempt against Cowgill and McLen, of the Returning Board, was continued to-day, pending the trial of the *mandamus* ordering them to open the canvass again and make a purely ministerial canvass of the returns. This cause will be tried to-morrow.

The judge had given unmistakable evidence for the bench during the trial that he did not think the Board had purged itself of contempt, and the sentence was arrested at the instance of the Democratic counsel. The Congressional Committee have not arrived; they are detained by an accident.

THE BODY OF A SAILOR PICKED UP IN NORFOLK HARBOR—EFFECTS OF THE COLD WEATHER.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

NORFOLK, VA., December 11.—The body of a white man was picked up this morning by a schooner in the harbor, and was recognized as being that of Captain B. B. Gonsey, of the schooner Dreadnought, from Tuckahoe, Cape May county, N. J. The deceased had been on a big spree for several days.

The recent cold snap injured nearly all the cabbage-plants put out during the present season. Some patches have been killed outright. We do not remember any season where the cold this early has done so much damage to young plants. Nearly all the hot-beds in the trucking region have suffered. It is warmer to-day and raining.

DWELLING-HOUSE BURNED IN MURFREESBORO', N. C.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

BOYKIN'S, VA., December 11.—The residence of W. B. Day, in Murfreesboro', N. C., was destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon. Nothing was saved. The fire was accidental. Loss, $4,000; no insurance.

PARTY MOVEMENTS.

TALLAHASSEE, December 10.—The members of the Supreme Court have been summoned to Tallahassee, and will arrive tonight. It is understood if the Circuit Court decides to commit the Returning Board for contempt an appeal will be made at once to the Supreme Court.

VESSEL MISSING.

BALTIMORE, December 11.—The agents of the steamer Leipsig, from Southampton for Baltimore, due on the 2d, have no advices of a disaster to the vessel.

SMUGGLED GOODS SEIZED.

NEW YORK, December 11.—Ten cases of smuggled brandy and 1,500 cigars were seized last evening from the Bremen steamer Weser by Inspectors Nevin and Jackson, special agents of Brackett's office.

XLIVTH CONGRESS—Second Session.

WASHINGTON, December 11, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Bogy desired to present for the purpose of having it printed the report of five Democrats invited by the Returning Board of Louisiana to be present at the canvass of votes.

Mr. Hamilton asked if it was addressed to the Senate.

Mr. Bogy replied "No"; nor was the report of the other committee.

Mr. Edmunds said if Mr. Bogy turned the paper into a petition it would be proper to print it.

Mr. Bogy said he would have the paper read as part of his speech. He finally decided to present it in the form of a petition to-morrow. It covers 8,000 words.

The chairmen of the sub-committees on Privileges and Elections were empowered to administer oaths. Mr. Boutwell was excused from serving on the committee.

The petitions of General Joseph E. Johnston and General M. Bonham for the removal of political disabilities were presented.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the unfinished business, being the joint resolution of Mr. Edmunds proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States so as to have the electoral vote for President and Vice-President counted by the Supreme Court, and the amendment of the Judiciary Committee authorizing the electors to vote *viva voce* instead of by ballot was agreed to.

Mr. Morton opposed the clause providing the court shall in the discharge of the duty disregard errors of form and be governed by the substantial right of the matter. He argued that this clause would give to the Supreme Court a boundless jurisdiction. It would authorize that body to do almost anything—perhaps to go and count the votes in the State of Vermont. Such a jurisdiction should not be conferred upon any tribunal, as it was dangerous.

Mr. Edmunds said the object of the clause was not to authorize the Court to exercise boundless jurisdiction or go anywhere to count the votes of citizens, but it was to authorize the Court to do exactly what all courts do in matters which they are called upon to try, and that was to disregard forms and decide the substantial right of the matter.

He then explained at length the provisions of the joint resolution proposing the amendment to the Constitution, and said it was not a device, as some of the newspapers had intimated, to swap horses in crossing a stream. It was introduced by him in the Senate on the 22d of March last—almost a year ago—and reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, with amendments, on the 12th of May following—before either of the presidential candidates were nominated.

He then referred to the proceedings of the convention which framed the Constitution, and said he had been unable to find anything in the debates of the convention which threw light upon the clause of the Constitution in regard to the count of the electoral vote in the presence of the two houses of Congress. The extent of the power of the presiding officer as to the count was not defined. In referring to the last section of the proposed amendments making it applicable to the present contest, if ratified in time, Mr. Edmunds said he did not share in what was said by parties, who should not have made use of such expressions, that there was danger of any civil convulsion by force. There would not be such trouble unless it was forced by the men who care more for what they can make out of war than they do for the peace of their country. If the two houses of Congress could not agree in regard to the last election it did not follow that the wise men and patriotic men would think they must fall back on their muskets. He did not think the good sense of this nation, with its love for law, was going to allow any dispute as to which of the two men voted for last November should appoint postmasters and sign commissions during the next four years. There would be found somewhere in the Constitution a way to settle it peaceably.

No action was taken. Mr. Oglesby was appointed on the Committee on Privileges and Elections *vice* Boutwell.

The Senate passed the House bill appropriating $21,000 to defray the expenses of the special committees of the House to investigate the recent elections in South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida, with an amendment appropriating $50,000 to defray the expenses of the Committee on Privileges and Elections in making the investigation authorized by the resolution of Mr. Edmunds.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate agreed to take up the Oregon investigation, as proposed in Senator Mitchell's resolution.

This investigation has been referred to a sub-committee consisting of Senators Morton, Logan, and Kernan. Governor Grover and the Secretary of State of Oregon will be summoned. The programme telegraphed Saturday is in all other respects adopted.

The committees for Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana leave for South Carolina on their labors to-day.

The Judiciary Committee of the House considered the representative from Colorado this morning, and will take action to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Under the usual Monday morning call the Speaker proceeded to call the States and Territories for bills and joint resolutions, and resolutions of State legislatures for reference only. Under this call the following, among others, were introduced and referred:

By Mr. Eames: To reduce postage on letters. [The bill proposes that after July 1, 1877, the postage on all letters, except drop letters, shall be two cents per each half ounce. It was referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.]

By Mr. Cox: To regulate the compensation of letter-carriers, graduating the pay according to length of service.

By Mr. Davy: To amend section 1015, Revised Statutes, so as to permit commissioners of the circuit courts of the United States to take bail for the appearance of parties accused before them from time to time until the final disposition of the case.

By Mr. Darrall: To apply the next proceeds of the sales of the public lands to the education of the people.

By Mr. Hunter: To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase silver bullion, and to authorize the same to be coined into silver dollars, each to be of the same value and fineness as the silver dollar authorized to be coined by the act of 1869, and the same to be a legal-tender in the payment of all debts, public and private, and receivable for all duties on imports.

By Mr. Cannon: To promote commerce between the States, and to cheapen transportation of persons and property between the Atlantic seaboard and the western States and Territories by a system of railroads.

By Mr. Glover: For the protection of States against domestic violence.

Mr. Banning asked leave to offer a preamble and resolution reciting that the President has sent to this House what purports to be a report of gentlemen sent to New Orleans to witness the count of the Returning Board of the State of Louisiana, in which report the members are referred to in complimentary terms, and the following language is used with reference to J. Madison Wells, one of the members of said Returning Board. [Here is quoted the language eulogistic of Governor Wells.] Therefore

Resolved, That the President be and he is hereby requested to furnish to the House copies from the War Department of all reports, orders, correspondence, and telegrams connected with the removal of said J. Madison Wells from the office of Governor of Louisiana by General Sheridan in 1867.

Mr. Kasson objected.

Mr. Banning then moved to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

The House refused to suspend the rules and pass the resolution—yeas, 141; nays, 80—two thirds not voting in the affirmative.

Mr. MacDougal offered a resolution for the appointment of select committees on the election frauds, as follows: A committee of nine for New York, Brooklyn, and Jersey City; five for Virginia—the Second and Fourth congressional districts; nine for Mississippi; five for Philadelphia; and three for Alabama. Lost—yeas, 124; nays, 88—not the necessary two-thirds.

Mr. Cox then offered a resolution for a select committee on fraudulent registration and fraudulent voting in the cities of New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, and Jersey City. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Goode, of Virginia, the Judiciary Committee was instructed to inquire and report on the legality of a circular-letter issued by the Attorney-General during the late presidential campaign to United States marshals in relation to their powers and duties on such election.

A resolution offered by Mr. Spencer, of Louisiana, for inquiry into intimidation practices on Government employes during the late election to compel them to contribute to election funds, was defeated for want of a two-thirds' vote.

Interview with General Grant on South Carolina Affairs.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10.—President Grant in the course of a long and free conversation with a representative of the New York Associated Press, Mr. L. A. Gobright, concerning political affairs, said that recently he had received a dispatch from Governor Chamberlain informing him it was currently reported in Columbia that the President had in an interview with Representative Hewitt, of New York, a week ago, remarked that when sixty-three members of the South Carolina House of Representatives holding certificates from the Secretary of State should convene, he would recognize them as the legal House. The President, in reply to Governor Chamberlain, telegraphed him that if Mr. Hewitt had sent or authorized the sending of such dispatch it was untrue; that he had not so expressed himself. The President says he had a free and agreeable conversation with Mr. Hewitt, in which he said that in his judgment not less than sixty-three members were able to organize the House and to transact business, including the qualification of its members. This was the view that he had; but it was merely a private opinion, and he might have been wrong. The President on that occasion further expressed his views with regard to the matter on grounds on which each wing of the members of the House previously claimed their seats, and in this connection the President showed a note addressed to him by Mr. Hewitt, dated House of Representatives, December 6, as follows: "*To the President:* I have received a reliable telegram from Columbia stating that sixty-three members holding a certificate from the Secretary of State have been sworn into the House presided over by Speaker Wallace, which is therefore organized in accordance with the requirements of law, as stated by you." On the same day Mr. Hewitt sent another note, as follows: "I have just received a late dispatch saying that the Supreme Court of South Carolina has pronounced its judgment, and declared the House presided over by W. H. Wallace to be the legally-constituted House of Representatives, and that Mackey is a private person, not Speaker or in any respect an officer of the legislative body." The President said, with reference to these notes, that he did not think after his free conversation with Mr. Hewitt that the latter would make use of what he said for the purpose of defeating the party which he represented. Mr. Hewitt and Senator Randolph called on him several days ago. He informed Mr. Hewitt of the contents of the dispatch he had received from Chamberlain, and the reply he made to it, and intimated to Mr. Hewitt that he thought his confidence had been abused. Mr. Hewitt denied that he had sent to Columbia such a dispatch as that mentioned. The President then reported to Mr. Hewitt the substance of the dispatch in reply to Governor Chamberlain as to the report current in Columbia. Senator Randolph then produced a dispatch from General Hampton in which he said if the President would recognize the Wallace House and withdraw the troops he would do everything possible to preserve the peace. The President remarked that he looked on this as a piece of impertinence on the part of General Hampton in telling him what to do; that the sending of troops to South Carolina was in obedience to the call of Governor Chamberlain, the danger there being too formidable for the authorities of the State to control; that organized rifle clubs representing General Hampton were in the city of Columbia, and that if the Federal troops should be withdrawn there would be peace, but it would be the peace of death. Senator Randolph then explained that the President should not think that General Hampton sought to advise him what to do, and that the dispatch which was shown to the President was a reply to one that Senator Randolph had sent to General Hampton. In response to a question the President said he never instructed General Ruger to place the troops in the State-House, but that was the way General Ruger understood his orders. The troops were in South Carolina, the President repeated, in obedience to the call of Governor Chamberlain, to suppress insurrection too formidable for him to control. Had it not been for these troops Governor Chamberlain would be a refugee to-day, as Governor Ames now is from Mississippi. The President said in the course of the conversation that he had looked on the situation to be embarrassing, to say the least. A good deal of bad temper had been shown on the Democratic side, and many were acting unreasonably. They seem to fear that he was doing what was not right, and they abused everybody for not yielding to their views. This struck him as strange, considering the times through which we have passed. Governor Hayes represented the party that carried in the late election all but four of the States that furnished the means for the suppression of the rebellion, and Governor Tilden carried all but three of those which sought to destroy the Union. In allusion to frauds, he said the majority for Tilden in the city of New York was larger than his total majority in the whole State, in which city much crime is perpetrated, and where there is a large number of men who have very little interest either in the State or in the Republic. Some frauds were committed in New Jersey and Connecticut, while it was true that down in the southern States many of them voted more than once, but nobody claimed that Tilden did not carry such States. The same party that perpetrated frauds in the southern States for Mr. Tilden complain of frauds in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana; but if there had been no frauds in Mississippi, North Carolina, and Arkansas, these States would have gone for Hayes and Wheeler. The President justified the exclusion of Laurens and Edgefield counties from the South Carolina returns on the ground that Georgians voted in these counties frequently, and cast more votes than there were voters for the Democrats. Much had been said about the use of troops, but considering the number of lives sacrificed and the many political murders in the South it was necessary to afford the required protection. The President thought all was quiet in the South, and so far as he could he would protect every one from violence. All steps taken to this end had been duly considered. The President, in reply to a remark that many of the Democrats had abandoned the idea of impeachment, says he would advise them not to attempt it, for it would bring out evidence which they would not like to see spread on the record. He would rather trust rebels than their northern allies, and tried to say as much in his annual message. He said, in response to a question, that he would answer the House resolution, and inform them why he sent troops to the South. In response to other questions he said there were now 600 or 800 troops in Washington. If there should be any necessity for more he would order them here. We should have peace if we have to fight for it. Some days he received five or six letters threatening assassination, but he paid no attention to them. The President, referring to political complications, said he had an abiding faith in the people. As we have had one rebellion he did not believe the people were anxious for another, and thought there would be some way out of our present difficulties.

NEW YORK, December 11.—The steamship Weser, which arrived this morning, brought £181,000 gold coin.

Address of the Democratic Candidates for Electors to the People of Oregon.

Inasmuch as grossly false statements purporting to relate what occurred at the holding of the Electoral College to-day are being industriously circulated by members of the Republican party, we, the undersigned, submit the following as a faithful detail of the proceedings in question in said Electoral College, held in Salem on the 6th day of December, 1876, at the hour of 12: "There were present in the room designated as the one in which the electoral vote should be cast the following persons: J. C. Cartwright, J. H. Odell, J. W. Watts, Henry Klipple, W. B. Caswell, and E. A. Cronin. At the said hour the door of the room in which the said electoral vote was to be cast was opened and the Secretary of State handed to Mr. Cronin an envelope containing the certificates in verification of the election as electors of E. A. Cronin, J. C. Cartwright, and J. H. Odell. After handing the certificate to Mr. Cronin the Secretary retired from the room immediately. Afterward Mr. Cartwright opened the door and admitted one Mr. Minte, a police-officer of the city of Salem and deputy United States marshal.

Upon entering, Minte closed the door, locked it, and took out the key. Whereupon he was requested to leave the room. Cartwright and Odell insisted at first upon Mr. Minte remaining, but finally, upon the request of Cartwright, Minte retired, leaving the key in the door. Odell then locked the door and took the key, but on request of a Democrat replaced the key in the door. Cronin then read, in the presence and hearing of all those in the room, one of the certificates showing the election of himself, Odell, and Cartwright.

After the reading Cronin inquired of Odell and Cartwright if they were ready to vote with him and proceed with their business as electors? They answered by demanding the certificates in Cronin's possession, Cartwright acting as principal spokesman. Cronin, in reply, proposed to proceed with the vote for President and Vice-President, stating in effect that the certificates would be produced and attached to the certificates showing the result. Cartwright and Odell refused to proceed, and requested Klipple and Casswell to retire, which they declined to do. Cartwright then arose, and addressing Cronin, said: "If you want a row, you might as well have it now as at any other time." Cronin replied: "Sit down; we are not here to have a row, but to vote for President and Vice-President." Cronin then again requested Cartwright and Odell to proceed with the election. Cartwright then moved that Odell should act as chairman. Upon the vote, himself and Odell declared the motion carried, and Odell then appointed Cartwright secretary. Dr. Watts then read a paper purporting to be his resignation as elector. Cartwright moved the acceptance of the pretended resignation, and it was declared carried; and immediately thereafter, by the votes of the two, Watts was declared elector to fill the vacancy.

These proceedings were interrupted throughout by dialogues which had the character of altercations between Cronin on the one side and Cartwright and Odell on the other, Cronin insisting that the latter should act with him and pronounce the vote of the College and they refusing to do so. After the pretended appointing of Watts, Cronin arose, and, addressing Cartwright and Odell, said in effect, if not in these precise words, "Gentlemen, do you refuse to act with me in proceeding with the business of the Electoral College?" One or both of them replied, signifying an unqualified refusal. Cronin then said that this refusal to act created two vacanies in the Electoral College, and that he appointed J. N. L. Miller, of Jackson county, to fill one of said vacancies. Mr. Miller having been introduced in the room and informed of what had taken place, asked Cartwright and Odell if they refused to act with Cronin in counting the vote of the State? Cartwright answering, said they had refused, and Mr. Miller then signified his intention to accept the appointment. The two then appointed John Parker secretary, and the votes were taken by ballot for President and Vice-President, and the business formally proceeded with to the end. Pending these proceedings Cartwright, Watts, and and Odell were engaged in signing papers.

E. A. CRONIN,
W. B. CASWELL,
HENRY KLIPPLE.

OBITUARY.

POUGHKEEPSIE, December 11.—Smith T. Van Buren, only surviving son of ex-President Martin Van Buren, died to-day; aged sixty.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

France.

DUFAURE'S ATTEMPT TO REÖRGANIZE THE CABINET.

PARIS, December 11.—The interview between Dufaure, president of the Ministerial Council and Commission which was held on Saturday last, and during which M. Simon was offered the portfolio of the Interior, has proved abortive.

The *Journal des Debats* says: "Dufaure has now abandoned further efforts to reörganize the Cabinet, and insists upon resigning definitely."

Germany.

A DREADFUL EXPLOSION—TWENTY-FIVE MINERS KILLED.

DRESDEN, December 11.—Twenty-five miners were killed last night by an explosion in a colliery at Wendberg.

Terrible Fire in New Jersey.

AN INCENDIARY IN BURLINGTON—OVER THIRTY BUILDINGS BURNED—UPWARD OF FORTY FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS—A SCANT SUPPLY OF WATER—THE CITY GUARDED BY THE MILITIA.

BURLINGTON, December 10.—A terrible fire occurred here this morning about 2 o'clock, destroying over thirty dwellings, four barns, and rendering about forty families homeless. Burlington is on the Pennsylvania railroad, sixteen miles from Philadelphia, and is a city of about five thousand inhabitants. The fire originated in a stable in the rear of Belden's Hotel, at the corner of Main and Broad streets, owned by Edward Briggs. From here the sparks were carried by the heavy gale which was blowing across a street eighty feet wide, and a dwelling owned by Mr. Birch was destroyed; then back to the south side, and another one of his houses was levelled. A strange feature of the fire was that sparks were carried over the roofs of houses in the immediate vicinity, and set fire to a row of fourteen dwellings on the north side of York street. These were entirely consumed, as were also fourteen more frame residences on the south side of the street. On this street the small-pox was raging, and it was with great difficulty that men could be found who would go into some of the houses and rescue those who were sick in bed and unable to flee to save their lives. Three persons were carried from one house as their dwelling was pulled down to save the further spread of the flames. Several persons were badly injured by falling from the roofs of the houses.

VALUABLE MILLING AND OTHER PROPERTY IN FLUVANNA COUNTY, VA., FOR SALE.—I will offer for sale on the 25TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1876, at Palmyra, Fluvanna county, Va., the following properties:

1st. The RIVANNA MILLS, situated on an extension of the James River and Kanawha canal, in Fluvanna county, Va., consisting of two distinct mill-houses—a new framed grist-mill with two pairs of stones, and plaster-mill, and a large brick flouring-mill, capable of turning out fifty barrels per day, provided with improvided smut and other machinery. There is on the place a framed dwelling, an excellent and roomy storehouse, almost new; a large lumber-house, cooper's and brick blacksmith's shops, and stable. The whole included in about four acres of land.

2d. A TRACT OF LAND in same county, near Wilmington, containing about THREE HUNDRED ACRES, which has been surveyed in two parcels, and will be sold in whole or separately, as may be thought best. This place has all necessary buildings and some flat land.

3d. A TRACT OF LAND in same county, on the Rivanna river, containing ONE HUNDRED ACRES. This place is unimproved, but has a portion of river bottoms.

TERMS: One, two, and three years' credit, with interest from day of sale, secured by bonds with ample personal security and retention of legal title. Personal security may be dispensed with, however, by the payment of one third cash.

L. J. WALTON,
Administrator c. t. a. R. W. Ashlin, deceased.
oc 24-lsw Tu&FtDe25

BILL-HEADS, $7 to $10 per ream, at the DISPATCH PRINTING-HOUSE

FINANCIAL.

RICHMOND STOCK EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, December 11, 1876.

American Gold.—107 bid, 109 asked.

State Securities.—Virginia consols, 66⅝ bid; Virginia consols, new, 34 bid; Virginia fundable, 26 bid; Virginia deferred, 6¼ bid; Virginia interest certificates, 15 bid; Virginia tax-receivable coupons, 52½ bid, 54¼ asked.

City Securities.—Richmond city 8's, 116 asked; Richmond city 6's, 99¼ asked; Petersburg city 6's, 84½ bid; Lynchburg city 8's, 106½ bid; Lynchburg city 6's, 91 bid; Fredericksburg city 7's, 94 bid; Manchester bridge 8's, 99 bid.

Railroad Bonds.—Virginia Central Railroad third mortgage 6's, J. and J., 75½ bid, 80 asked; Virginia and Tennessee