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SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 28

Mason and Slidell Given Up.

The telegraph announces that Messrs. Mason and Slidell have been released. This, we presume, will be a satisfactory answer to the question asked so often of late—"Will we have a war with England?"

Stand from Under.

The House Investigating Committee will reach this city to-day, it is understood, to look into and investigate matters and things connected with army contracts, &c.

Success of the Stone Fleet.

We print to day an account of the sinking of a portion of the old vessels which went laden with granite to block up the entrance to Charleston harbor. The work is said to have been well done.

The State of the Rebellion.

The New York *Post* takes a "look back" at the events of the past month, and concludes that the prospects of the insurgents within that time have, although almost imperceptibly, very materially changed for the worse. For a long time they maintained a show of aggressive operations along the border; invaded Missouri; invaded Kentucky; threatened Cincinnati, and talked loudly of carrying fire and sword into the homesteads of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. It was by this kind of bluster, more than by any actual success, that they gave to their bad cause an appearance of solidity which it has never possessed. It was simply the swagger by which a scared bully seeks to impress the crowd while the man he has insulted is getting his coat off and his sleeves rolled up.

The capture of Port Royal made a great change in the prospects of the insurgents. We have not done much there as yet, it is true, but we have a base of operations on the South Carolina coast, which is more valuable to us, in a military point of view, than it would be to the enemy to have established himself in force on the shores of Connecticut. Before many days pass our flag will fly over Charleston and Savannah; and moreover, by Port Royal is our shortest road to the military center of the infected States.

At Fort Pickens, Colonel Brown has proved to General Bragg that he can drive him out of Pensacola whenever the Government sends a force down to hold the place against the return of the insurgents. We have an army on Ship Island, ready for a movement against New Orleans. The Memphis *Avalanche* reports that the Confederates have evacuated Galveston, and it is probable that the *Santee* frigate has destroyed the place and its defenses, as we know that this was intended some weeks ago by the captain of that vessel. Meantime, there is reason to believe that before many days we shall have Fernandina and Cedar Keys, Florida, in our possession, and with them the Florida Railroad, together with certain forts and batteries not generally known, which will give us command of the whole peninsula, and will rally to our side the many loyal men in that State.

In Missouri we find that General Price and Ben McCulloch could not muster force enough to repossess the districts abandoned by our armies when they marched back upon St. Louis; and the ease with which the rebels have been driven back and dispersed by a small force under the gallant and active General Pope, proves that Price, though, we believe, a man of talent, has not the means for formidable movements; while the capture of thirteen hundred men, with much material of war, will still further weaken him.

In Kentucky there are signs of a battle, which may have, perhaps, more decisive results than any yet fought in this war. The affair at Belmont defeated Pillow's project of reinforcing Price and McCulloch. Since then the rebels have turned their attention to their own defenses on the Mississippi. A defeat in Kentucky will cause them the loss of a great portion of Tennessee; it may even give us Nashville with scarce another blow. Polk and Pillow, who six weeks ago threatened St. Louis and Cairo, are now defending Memphis and Nashville. General Halleck has his gunboat expedition nearly ready, and will quickly seize any advantage he may find resulting from operations in Kentucky. Halleck and Buel threaten the rebels by two converging lines; they will attack, doubtless, wherever Polk is weakest; and they will advance with the knowledge that a successful blow either at Memphis or toward Nashville will rouse the East Tennesseeans to open demonstrations.

The campaign has closed in Western Virginia, and the country is ours. Floyd, who has twice escaped capture within six months, each time with the loss of all his camp equipage, is sent with his ragged followers to aid Zollicoffer in Kentucky; and meantime Beauregard and Johnston maneuver before General McClellan.

For the insurgents the war has arrived at that critical point where a single defeat will ruin their cause. One decisive battle might end the campaign and the war—just as the capture of Delhi virtually put an end to the Sepoy mutiny, and converted Nena Sahib from a ferocious conqueror into a criminal flying for his life. Already there are plentiful signs that the people of the South are heartily tired of the oppression and lawless cruelties of the insurgents. In Arkansas several secret Union clubs have been discovered, but more are probably in existence; the New Orleans papers complain of the reviving Union sentiment there as "dangerous to the Confederacy;" in Florida, Union men are lifting their heads hopefully; and when East Tennessee rises in force, the Union flag will be hoisted in Northern Alabama and Georgia, and in Western South Carolina. In Texas, too, the rebels are having trouble with "Union sentiment," and the sugar-planters of Louisiana will hail our arrival as deliverance from an oppression which grinds them to powder. In every Southern State Union men are impatiently waiting for deliverance; and we are as anxious as they that they shall be relieved.

It is the policy of the insurgents, now, to avoid great risks—to avoid even a great battle, of which the result must always be doubtful. It is their cue to waste our strength and patience by feints and unimportant attacks; to spread their forces, and thus keep us from concentrating our hosts upon any one point. It is ours to force them to a decisive engagement; and all our movements now tend to that object. How soon we shall gain this end depends upon our generals; but there is every reason to believe that Halleck and Buel, in the West, will accomplish it before many days are over. Every thing, so far, tends to inspire respect for General Halleck's abilities. He is both silent and active; he has immense material at his command, and he has it in his power to strike one blow which must tell more loudly against the *morale* of the insurrection than any one blow which can be struck by land forces in the East.

The insurgents are now surrounded on all sides. If they had an army ten times as numerous as ours they could not defend themselves at all the points where we are steadily advancing upon them. They do not attempt it, indeed; the seacoast they leave almost bare; the forces now in South Carolina can not oppose such an army as General McClellan will gather there before he advances toward Atlanta; and the lack of means of transportation not only makes it impossible for Davis to move his forces quickly from point to point, but it makes more fatal to him the consequences of a retreat, in which his army must inevitably leave all its equipage.

Though our affairs advance slowly, it is evident that they do not halt. The tide has turned; it sets in slowly at first, but it is as irresistible now as when, by and by, it will rush with the headlong speed of a mill-race.

England the Turnkey.

In reference to the difficulty of arranging an exchange of prisoners during the war, Forney's *Press* says that so many persons pine in captivity in the North and in the South, is to be attributed to England. We surely do not err in believing that not only do the public desire to see this condition of affairs changed, but that Congress, the Cabinet, and the President himself, also unite in the desire to have an exchange of prisoners. England, which talks so loudly of freedom, is the real jailer—the actual turnkey. Suppose that by mutual arrangement an exchange of prisoners were made, what would England do and say? Her words would be: "While you treated the South as *rebel*, we could not acknowledge it as *independent*. All we could do was to acknowledge it as *belligerent*. Between a nation and her revolted territory, exchange of prisoners can not be admitted, because the exchange would show equality. The moment you do exchange with the South we shall insist that you thereby concede to it the status of national independence, and we shall at once acknowledge it by recognizing its flag, breaking the blockade you have proclaimed, and sending our merchantmen into its ports for cotton and tobacco, rice and turpentine, under the escort, if necessary, of our ships of war." This is what England would say. She would act upon it, even if the present difficulty had not arisen, and thus England keeps, in North and South, the prisoners who, but for her, might just as well be restored to freedom and home, to friends and relatives. If they remain in prison, England holds the key.

Eclipse of the Sun.

On Tuesday, December 31, the shadow of the Moon will pass over the Earth and cause, to a narrow strip thereof, a total eclipse of the Sun. The width of the Moon's shadow on the Earth will not at any place exceed forty miles, and the duration of total darkness a minute and a third. The center of the shadow first touches the Earth at a point in the Carribean Sea, about two degrees south of Cape Antonio, Cuba, and leaves the Earth near the ancient city of Corinth, having occupied in its passage across the Earth 3 h. 40 sec.

The whole of the approaching eclipse will be visible, as a partial one, in the British Provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; but at all places in the United States, except Eastport, the Sun will not rise until after the beginning. Throughout the Atlantic States, however, it will rise before the greatest obscuration, and before the end, at all places situated east of a line drawn from the southern extremity of Texas to the middle of Lake Superior; west of that line the eclipse will end before the Sun rises.

EX-MINISTER Jones, now in Fort Lafayette, for treasonable correspondence with Jeff Davis, is a Missourian by birth. He was first prominently known as delegate to Congress from the Territory of Michigan and Wisconsin. After Michigan was set off as a State, he was chosen delegate to Congress from the Territory of Wisconsin. He was next Clerk of the Supreme Court of the same Territory, under Chief-Justice Dunn, and subsequently was appointed Surveyor-General of the Territory of Iowa, a very lucrative position. He was then elected United States Senator from the State of Iowa, to fill a vacancy, and was afterward re elected, and occupied the position of United States Senator until the winter of 1858, when President Buchanan appointed him Minister Resident at Bogota.

IT is said that English opinion in Washington is to the effect that the death of Prince Albert will probably modify the war fever, lead to the resignation of the Palmerston Ministry, and possibly to the abdication of the Queen, whose mind is likely to suffer seriously from the late sad event.

GENERAL BUTLER recently said: "Mark my words, before sixty days a servile insurrection will be raging over the South. I know the material is there for it, and have studied the matter."

The State of New York is to be reimbursed by the Federal Treasury 40 per cent. upon her war expenses The amount to be received is $1,113,000.

A CUTE observer says that two-thirds of all the letters sent home from the army are directed to "Misses."

BRIGADIER-GENERAL PHELPS, now in command at Ship Island, is a brother-in-law of Hon. John Hickman.

WAR WITH ENGLAND.—Dr. Haven, of *Zion's Herald*, thus concludes an editorial:

The dictate of common sense would be, let the question whether it was right for the United States to seize Mason and Slidell be submitted to arbitration before an impartial and competent tribunal, and let both parties abide by the decision, and let that decision be the law for both nations ever hereafter. If England does not want to favor slavery, this course would be easy. If she does, let it be left to the stern arbitrament of war. God will defend the right.

At Frizington, England, a lad fell head foremost one hundred and seventy feet down the shaft of an iron mine, striking on his head in ten feet of water at the bottom of the pit. His head was jammed in mud at the bottom of the pit, but he had presence of mind enough to press himself free; he then floated on the water, and was happily recovered not much the worse of his perilous descent.

The Great Topic in Paris.

"Malakoff," the Paris correspondent of the New York *Times*, writes under date of December 8:

I should say that in France people generally are firmly convinced that the English desire a fight, or, at least, will not yield one inch of the position they have taken to evade a fight; and they base their belief on the assumption that England really desires to weaken the Republic by breaking it up. On the other hand, I should mention that I have just seen a letter from an English gentleman, in a position to know the motives of the English government in their present action, who says that the government does not desire a war, if they can evade it honorably. Yet, I repeat, that the conviction is profound in France that England is bent upon a weakening of the Republic, and will gladly seize upon any plan, even a war, to accomplish this object.

Up to the present moment we have not been able to obtain any indication of the disposition of the Emperor in the present question, and nothing further of that of the Cabinet than is foreshadowed in such of the French papers as are supposed to represent the views of individual members of the Cabinet. A consultation took place yesterday between Mr. Dayton, General Scott, Mr. John Bigelow, Mr. Thurlow Weed and Archbishop Hughes, to arrange for an interview with the Emperor. This interview will undoubtedly take place, and will be attended with important results.

In regard to the attitude of the French press, it may be summed up in one word—hostility. The *Moniteur* guards the same imperturbable neutrality on the question which I signalized to you in my last letter. This paper states, however, that the English law officers place their demand upon the American Government upon ground which will admit of a settlement—that is to say, the complaint is laid more in the form of the act than in the law. If, according to the official journal, the English Government admits that the *Trent* should have been carried into an American port and judged by a Maritime Court as to whether she was carrying objects contraband of war or not, then the question is clearly susceptible of adjudication without a resort to arms.

I ought to mention that a Spanish gentleman, who was a passenger on the *Trent*, and is now in Paris, declares to every body that the English accounts of the manner of the arrest of Messrs. Slidell and Mason are grossly exaggerated. The conduct of Lieutenant Fairfax and his men, on the contrary, was in every way polite and proper. The gentleman has made this declaration to the American Minister at Paris.

THE INSANITY OF GENERAL W. T. SHERMAN.—Assistant Adjutant-General J. H. Hammond, in a letter to the Philadelphia *North American*, dated St. Louis, December 18, denies the allegation that General W. T. Sherman is insane. He says:

The statements that General Sherman telegraphed three times in one day for permission to evacuate Kentucky; that he frightened the people of Louisville out of their wits, and that he said Louisville could not be defended, are all maliciously false. As to his conduct at Sedalia, I say that he never had a command of any kind whatever in this department, and of course could have done nothing of the kind mentioned and charged against him. He was employed in matters of the utmost importance until the afternoon of the 3d December, when he went home to see his family. Some malicious person seized the occasion to circulate the above, commencing in Chicago by telegraph from St. Louis. I send this communication entirely on my own responsibility, assuring all who may read this article, that I know more of the position of General Sherman and his career in Kentucky and Missouri than any other person possibly can know. At the moment of my leaving Louisville, several of the most prominent men of the city and State expressed most earnest wishes that he might be enabled to take the field in Kentucky instead of Missouri. General Sherman will resume his duties in the Department of Missouri on the 23d inst.

THE PRESIDENT ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.—We assign very little importance to the current rumors respecting the exciting topic of the day, but the following, from an editorial in the New York *Commercial Advertiser*, seems entitled to some notice on the score of its source:

We *know* that within a few hours of the fact of the arrest of Mason and Slidell being make known to the President, he entertained and expressed the opinion that *the prisoners must be given up;* and few men could bring to the examination of the subject a clearer head, a purer patriotism and a keener sense of what is right in the premises than President Lincoln.

The same difficulty probably presented itself to his mind that has been raised by the law officers of the English Crown, viz: that it was Captain Wilkes' duty to *fulfill the whole law* and not to elect which part of it he would obey and what part disobey, however much he might shrink from the suspicions and the allegations which might in consequence be directed against him.

The difficulty of providing forage for so large an army as that of the Potomac, is said to be increasing daily, notwithstanding the immense stores at Washington. The whole country this side of Fairfax Court house, says a Washington letter in the New York *Express*, has been nearly exhausted already, in addition to the enormous supplies furnished by the Quartermaster-General from the North. Still the cry is "for more." How will it be, then, when the army is advanced twenty miles further into the bowels of Virginia, where the Confederates have already cropped every kind of herbage so close as to leave hardly enough, per acre, to afford a good browse for a goat? Napoleon's army in Russia was destroyed, not by the frosts of winter, but primarily by the loss of his horses, and consequently, of transportation, through want of forage.

DR. ELLIOTT.—We omitted to state in our last that Dr. Elliott, of the *Central Advocate*, spent Sabbath, December 8, in Cincinnati, preaching in Morris Chapel. He made an address to the children in the morning, and in the attempt to contrast the condition of affairs in Ohio with those in Missouri, his emotions got the better of him, and he yielded to his seat in uncontrollable sobs. "There is not a place in all Missouri, outside of St. Louis," said he, "where you could now gather so many as half a dozen children in the capacity of a Sabbath School; but here, there are hundreds before me, all smiling and cheerful, and happy, and none to molest or interrupt." In this strain the veteran Doctor proceeded, when his heart swelled too full, and he was compelled to cease.—*Western Christian Advocate, 24th.*

A CUTE DARKEY.—"Bob," now called "Belmont Bob," is the body servant of General McClernand, and at the battle of Belmont it is said of him that when the retreat commenced he started for the boats. Reaching the banks he dismounted and slid rapidly down, when an officer, seeing the action, called: "Stop, you rascal, and bring the horse." Merely looking up as he waded to the plank through the mud, Cairo's character answered: "Can't 'bey, Colonel, Major told me to save most valuable property, and dis nigger's worf more'n a horse." It is seldom an estimation of difference in value is more quickly arrived at.

HEAVY TAXATION IN BOSTON.—Boston, like New York, groans under heavy taxes. The *Advertiser* calls to remembrance the halcyon days of 1835, when the rate of taxation was only $5 70 on $1,000, and contrasts that time with the present, with the rate fixed at $8 90, and speaks of the increase of city expenditure in the interval as "something appalling."

The New Orleans *Crescent*, of December 12, trusts that if Mason and Slidell die while imprisoned, "President Davis will order the execution of every prisoner of war in his possession, and announce in an informal proclamation that no prisoners will be taken hereafter. He will be fully justified before the nationalities in so doing."

From Hilton Head.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., December 14, 1861.—The Union troops now possess the sea coast for eighty or ninety miles. Beaufort and Port Royal Island is our first advance island, and from it the march to Savannah or Charleston will be a short story when we get ready. The new expedition down the coast has been abandoned for the present. A few stone ships in Charleston harbor will make Sumter and Moultrie valueless, and shut out the nest of treason from all commercial importance hereafter, and trade will find a new channel through Beaufort. Tybee Island is ours, and from it Pulaski can be reduced; we have already found the inside passage, and our gunboats have been between the fort and Savannah.

A Mr. William Harding and his wife came in to-day from Tybee Island, claiming the protection of the authorities as loyal citizens. They rode through the camps, and are the first who have come out in the Union cause. They represent Savannah as in a deplorable state; the whole city completely demoralized; great want of provisions, and all leaving who can get away. If the Government really understands the importance of our success here, it will give us 50,000 men, and then—as good as 50,000 more—lend us General McClellan for sixty days (no disrespect to our general officers). I believe that the rule of the traitors will be at an end, and then the good and loyal men of the South will dare to speak. The average of our weather is glorious, like our pleasant June weather.

The Cotton Trade with Mexico.

The editorial correspondent of the New Orleans *Picayune* writes as follows of a late visit to Braunfels, Texas:

I was astonished to see the life and bustle in New Braunfels—cotton coming in and cotton going out; cotton here, cotton there, every-where. The enterprising house of F. Moreau is purchasing largely for the Mexican market, making all payments in Mexican dollars, and there is no lack of hard currency in Comal County. Cotton is hauled in American wagons and Mexican carts; the roads are lively with the sharp cracks of drivers' whips as they jog along toward the Rio Grande.

A Frenchman in Mexico is also engaged in the transportation on huge wagons, drawn by twelve mules, and I was told that he loaded no less than twenty-four bales on one of his immense vehicles, and that he attracted as much attention on the road as a traveling circus or menagerie. He has been heretofore hauling cotton from Matamoras to the interior of Mexico, but is now going regularly into business from this section. If the war is to go on, and the blockade continues, king cotton must hold court for awhile at New Braunfels, and Mr. Moreau will prove a prompt and active first load of the treasury. He will disburse hundreds of thousands of dollars this year all in Mexican castings.

There are amusing as well as serious doings in Richmond. A letter from there to the Nashville *Union* says:

We have had recently a number of remarkable matrimonial alliances. Last week, the most beautiful girl in town married a widower with eight children, some of them grown. On the day this wedding took place a man of eighty carried to the altar a Miss of seventeen summers. Mr. "Black Diamonds" Polard, one of the editors of the *Examiner*, is among the list of hymeneal victims. Some of these marriages took place in a church, and were attended with very noisy and very ludicrous demonstrations. It is said that when the old man mentioned above saluted his bride, the whole congregation shouted, and the boys poured a perfect hail storm of peanut hulls at the bald scence of the aged groom. Richmond is evidently rottening rapidly.

THE COTTON FROM PORT ROYAL.—The New York *World* says that the value of the cotton brought by the *Atlantic* is about sixty thousand dollars. The greater part of the staple was picked on the plantation of Dr. Jenkins, the remainder on the adjacent plantations. The crop this year is pronounced a fine one, yielding above the average number of bales per acre. On account of the great haste necessary, the cotton brought by the *Atlantic* is packed in bales of various sizes; about half of it ginned, and the other half as it was picked from the bolls. It is Sea Island cotton, and the samples of it shown are of fine fibre and in good condition. The cargo is consigned to Colonel Tompkins, of the Quartermaster's Department. Colonel Tompkins' orders are to store the cotton until the arrival of the Government agent from Port Royal to see to its disposition. It will probably be sold soon.

The Nashville *Banner* of the 12th instant says that as Kentucky has at last been made a State of the Southern Confederacy, "no qualms of conscience can now be urged" against marching the Confederate armies over her soil. We wonder whether such "qualms" have given the rebel conscience much uneasiness hitherto.

Great Britain has always found us her best customer, but if she forces a quarrel with us she will find us an ugly customer.

The Milwaukie *Wisconsin* says that an old man in that neighborhood, "wonderful for his weather wisdom, stakes his reputation upon the prediction that we are to have a mild winter with the prevailing winds from the South." We don't expect much wind from the South. It can't be raised in that quarter.—*Louisville Journal.*

Things must be coming right at Washington, for Abolitionism has commenced howling at the prospects. It it is reported that several Republican Senators and Representatives who have been confidently counted for extreme measures have determined to count themselves out of that programme, and it is over this that the howl has broken out. The news is magnificent, if the same can not be said of the music.—*Louisville Democrat.*

A melancholy story is related of Miss Bowles, of Belfast, Me., who, last week, sent to boarding-school by her highly respectable parents, preferred rather to run away to Milwaukie, made an improper acquaintance in the cars, and is now an inmate of a brothel in Springfield. She is only sixteen years of age, and speaks French, German, and English too.

MARRIAGE OF A GRAND-DAUGHTER OF DANIEL BOONE.—Captain Elmore Otis, of the United States Army, and Miss Boone, daughter of Major A. G Boone, Indian Agent, and grand daughter of "General Boone, backwoodsman of Kentucky," as Byron calls him, were married at Fort Wise, Colorado Territory, recently.

Thurlow Weed writes from Europe to the Albany *Journal* that George L. Schuyler, the agent of the U. S Government, has obtained from the government arsenals in Austria and Saxony over one hundred thousand rifles, equal to any in the world. These arms are now on their way to America.

SEVERE DROUGHT.—The Boston *Herald* states that the lack of rain is felt with considerable severity in that vicinity, and many old wells, never dry before, have given out. In one case, a well in use uninterruptedly for sixty years, is now perfectly dry.

Ex-Governor Hunt, of New York, came near bleeding to death recently from the extracting of a tooth. Before the effusion of blood could be stopped by a physician, he was reduced to a dangerous condition, but is now convalescent.

The Canton *Democrat* announces the death in hospital, in Kentucky, of Captain Rakestraw, of the Nineteenth Ohio Regiment. His disease was diptheria. His remains were brought to Canton last week for interment. He was a gallant officer and popular with his men.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—The eight Methodist Episcopal Churches in Newark, N. J., have contributed this year to the Missionary Society $2,500, this being a large advance upon last year. In 1858 the same churches gave only $716.

SOLEMN ADVICE TO IRISHMEN IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH.—The Dublin *Freeman*, of the 4th inst, says that at a meeting of the National Brotherhood of St. Patrick, held at their rooms, No. 2 Marlborough-street, on Tuesday evening, Nelson Underwood, Esq., barrister, in the chair, the following resolution was moved and carried by acclamation:

Resolved, That we have viewed with the deepest sorrow the fratricidal war in which the States of America have been engaged, and that, in the presence of the possibility of war between Great Britain and the United States, we implore our fellow-countrymen on the American continent to remember the deep obligation under which they lie to the friendly and compassionate government of the United States, and the dept they owe to the government which permitted their homes in Ireland to be levelled—which drove them into exile by oppression.

HOW PRICE SUBSISTS HIS ARMY.—It has been a puzzle to many how Price, without governmental resources, has managed to subsist a considerable army in a country almost desolated. His system is not known in the "regulations." He never complains of a want of transportation, whether he is about to move ten miles or a hundred. He pays for what he takes in Missouri State scrip. His men go into the corn field, shuck the corn, shell it, take it to mill and bring it into camp ground into meal. Or should they have no flour, they take the wheat from the stack, thresh it themselves, or with horses or oxen, and as with the corn, ask the aid of the miller to reduce it to flour. Such an army can go where they please in an agricultural country.

WHAT NEXT?—They are building a railway under ground through the city of London. Deep down, beneath gas pipes, and water pipes, and sewers, a large artery will in future drain the overflowing surface of that mighty city. The first portion of this great work, extending from Paddington to the Victoria Station, will be opened by the first of May next. It will be so wide and well lit that it will seem more like a well-kept street by night than a subterranean passage. It passes right under Fleet street ditch, the fullest and foulest of the London sewers.

A worthy farmer who thoroughly detested tax and tax-gatherers, was once called on by a collector a second time for money, for which he had mislaid the receipt; and as he told the story to his friend: "Well," said the friend, "what did you do?" "Do! why I remonstrated with him." "And to what effect?" "Well, I didn't know to what effect, but the poker was bent."

DON'T JUMP.—Never jump out of a third-story window where there is any means of escape. Never jump at conclusions. Try to avoid jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. Never jump off the dock because you are in debt or in love. You'll get wet if you do. Never jump at a flash of lightning—you can't catch it.

The other night a landlord, discovering one of his customers drunk, sloshing about in the mire, went to his assistance, and setting him upon his feet, inquired if "he was sick, or what was the matter?" "No," replied the boozy customer, "I ain't sick; I ain't drunk—but I'm almighty discouraged!"

"Dan," said a little four-year old, "give me sixpence to buy a monkey." "We've got one monkey in the house now," replied the eldest brother. "Who is it, Dan," asked the little fellow. "You," was the reply. "Then give me sixpence to buy the monkey some nuts." The brother "shelled out" immediately.

A young lady who wore spectacles, exclaimed in a voice of enthusiasm, to a plowman, who was walking on the road, "Do you, sir, appreciate the beauty of that landscape? Oh, see those darling sheep and lambs skipping about!" "Them ain't sheep and lambs—them's hogs, miss."

A vender of hoop-skirts was lately extolling his wares in the presence of a customer's husband. "No lady should be without one of these skirts," said the shopman. "Well, of course not," dryly responded the husband, who was something of a wag, "she should be *within* it."

They say that woman caused man to commit his first sin. But, if she hadn't induced him to sin in eating, no doubt he would very soon have sinned of his own accord in drinking.

LAW REPORT.

SUPERIOR COURT.

In Room No. 2, Judge Hoadly tried the case of Hartburn, Administratrix, *vs.* Brown & Bro. An action for work and labor, in which the defense set up was payment and statute of limitations.

PROBATE COURT.

WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS.—John McGlashen, a volunteer in the First Regiment Artillery, appearing, according to the testimony, to be under eighteen years of age, and to have enlisted without the consent of his father, was discharged from the service.

An application for the discharge of Jos. Francel from the same regiment was laid over, at the request of the recruiting officer, Captain Hyman, who said he had a paper purporting to have been signed by the mother of the volunteer. Mrs. F. said it was written by her sister, without her authority.

A young man named Bush was discharged from his regiment, on proof of minority.

CINCINNATI HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—There was a fair attendance at the rooms of the Society this morning. Among the visitors present, we noticed W. Bateham, editor of the *Ohio Cultivator*, at Columbus, and the Messrs. Taylor, practical horticulturists, from the vicinity of Cleveland.

Vice-President Wm. Orange occupied the Chair, in the absence of President Gerard.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting a committee to name officers to be voted for at the coming election, was appointed—consisting of Messrs. Heaver, Pierson, and Dr. John Taylor.

Mr. Bateham, in reply to a remark from the Chair, stated that he had visited the peach orchards in the neighborhood of Cleveland, and had found a great quantity of fruit, which was deserving of cultivation. The supply of early peaches, he stated, was rather meager. He found other varieties which were profitable. He found no late peaches.

An estimate of the quantity of peaches raised between Milford and Deerfield, in the little Miami Valley, was stated at fifty thousand bushels during the past year. It was stated that the apple crop in this vicinity would be a failure. Our peach orchards have suffered much from the severe weather of the past two winters, and the peaches have been premature.

Mr. Orange referred to his experience in peach raising, having in his orchard trees which have borne fruit for fifteen years in succession. Mr. Bateham referred to Hale's early peach, cultivated in the northern part of the State, which was considered the best grown there. Mr. Taylor stated that he had seen four hundred of these trees planted in his orchard, but they were too young to report upon at this time.

Mr. Bateham desired to know the sentiment of the society in regard to "Heart Cherries" as a market crop. A member replied that in his experience the bending of the "Heart Cherries" low was a sure preventive to what he termed "sour scalding."

Mr. Taylor confirmed the remarks of the gentleman, in regard to the heading low of the Heart Cherry. It was the result of his experience that the lower branches of the trees should be allowed to grow. He had not seen a single tree topped low but what it had proved advantageous.

Many other matters of interest were discussed by the society, but the lateness of the hour at which they adjourned precludes the possibility of our giving the particulars.

HOME INTEREST.

☞ A. J. EYSTER, Clocks, Watches and Jewelry, Nos. 243 and 271 Central-avenue.

MARRIED.

PORTER—HUNTER.—December 26, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. David Gould, Mr. Charles G. Porter, of Toledo, to Miss Mary Ellen Hunter, of Ripley, Ohio.

FOLGER—NEWLAND.—On Wednesday morning, December 25, at the home of the bride, No. 302 West Fifth st., by Elder Wm. P. Stratton, Mr. John C. Folger, of Cumminsville, Hamilton Co., and Miss Elizabeth A. Newland, of Cincinnati.

DIED.

FISHER—On Thursday, Dec. 26, of consumption, Isaac Fisher, aged forty years.

RUFFNER—At his residence, in Malden, Kanawha County, Va., Dec 17, after a lingering illness of some months, Rev. Henry Ruffner, D. D., in the seventy-second year of his age.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A SPEEDY CURE.—THE UNDERSIGNED was annoyed for several weeks with a most irritating cough. A friend advising me to try the "Extract of Tar and Cough Elixir," I did so, and less than one bottle of it effected a permanent cure I have no hesitation in recommending this preparation to the public.
JAS. BROWN, 127 West Fifth-st.;
At Geo. Snyder's Boarding House.
de28-b

I. O. O. F.—THE MEMBERS OF OHIO LODGE, No. 1, I. O. O. F., are hereby notified to attend the Regular Semi-annual Meeting of the Lodge on MONDAY EVENING, December 30, at 7 o'clock, for the payment of dues and the election of officers.
GEO. A. PETER, Per. Sec.
a*

MR. GEORGE LOVELASS, OF Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan, writes as follows:
Dr. G. W. ROBACK—DEAR SIR: My wife has been bed-ridden for the last year, and most of the time has doctored until the doctor's bills have made me poor. Your agents here, Case & Turner, persuaded me to give your Scandinavian Remedies a trial. I got six bottles of the Purifier and four boxes of the Pills, and they entirely cured her, and she is now as smart as ever. I would recommend the Medicines to all who may be in a like situation. I believe your Medicines to be what they are recommended. Yours respectfully,
GEORGE LOVELASS.
For sale at the Principal Office, 6 East Fourth-st., Cincinnati, and by Druggists and Merchants generally throughout the country.

A HOLIDAY PRESENT,
That one can use and appreciate through life, is
GOOD BUSINESS EDUCATION,
Which can be acquired in the most thorough manner at
Bacon's Mercantile College,
Corner of Sixth and Walnut-sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.

SUCH A CAPITAL, TO A YOUNG man is a treasure, that will last with the lapse of time—an acquisition that "neither moth nor rust can corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal."
☞ THE EVENING SESSION will be discontinued during the Holidays. Will resume again on the 3d of January next.
☞ THE DAILY SESSION will not be interrupted, save on Christmas and New-Year's Days.
Tuition rates liberal. J. H. DOTY,
de24 eToTh8MW Principal.

U. C.—ALL MEMBERS OF THE U. C. Club and their families are respectfully invited to attend the next Regular Meeting, on SATURDAY EVENING December 28, at Oddfellows' Hall, Newport, at half-past seven o'clock. Judge WILLIAM JOHNSON, of Cincinnati, will address the Club. By order of the President.
J. RAIPE, Secretary.
NEWPORT, KY., Dec 21, 1861. de27-b
[Charge Times.]

THE FAIR FOR THE ORPHANS will open at CATHOLIC INSTITUTE on MONDAY, 23d, and continue until New-Year's Day. de23 tf

FEMALE PHYSICIAN.—MRS. KING, M. D., offers her services as Physician and Accoucheur. Patients boarded, if required. Residence, 80 Wade-street, between John and Cutter. no23-tf

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Dr. Marshall's Uterine Catholicon
IS A PERFECT REMEDY FOR DISEASES OF THE WOMB, Irregularities of the Monthly Discharges, Disorders incident to Pregnancy, etc. Patients who have used this remedy can not sufficiently express their gratitude for the relief experienced. Sold by
DAVIDSON & BRO., Druggists,
(Successors to G. M. Dixon,)
Market place, N. E. cor. Pike and Main-sts.,
To whom all orders should be addressed. de28

New-Year! New-Year!
THE BOSTON CANDY-STORE,
220 Fifth-st., Refitted and Enlarged,
IS NOW PREPARED TO FURNISH TO the public the finest assortment of rich-flavored
Loaf-Sugar Candies,
Fresh made and free from all injurious substances. Superior French Mottoes, Kisses, Soft-shell Almonds, etc. Call and see them. de23-e

Toilet Goods for the Holidays.

TOILET GOODS MAKE VERY DESIRABLE Christmas and New Year's Presents, being Fancy, Useful and Ornamental. I have now a good assortment of every thing in the line:
Fine Handkerchief Perfumes;
Oils and Pomatums for the Hair;
Satchels for Perfumery Drawers, &c.;
Fine Hair-brushes;
Shell, Horn and Rubber Dressing-combs;
Shell and Rubber Tuck Combs;
Fine assortment of Pocket Cutlery and Scissors;
Tooth and Shaving-brushes;
China Shaving-mugs;
Hand-mirrors;
Shaving mirrors;
Pocket-Books;
Fine Toilet Soaps;
Fine Puff-boxes,
And I expect to receive by Express to-day an assortment of Odor-boxes and Gentlemen's Shaving Cases.
SOLON PALMER,
Manufacturer and Importer of Perfumery,
de23 No. 36 West Fourth-st.

UNITED STATES HOTEL,
Corner of Sixth and Walnut-streets,
CINCINNATI, O.
ONE DOLLAR PER DAY.
C. C MACLISH, Proprietor.
J. M. HARPER, Clerk and Book-keeper. de24 tm

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES
SEMINAL WEAKNESS,
IMPOTENCY OR INABILITY,
Diseases of the URINARY ORGANS,
And IMPURE BLOOD.
How many thousands of men and women are there who are at this time suffering out a miserable existence, or from that pernicious practice, self-pollution! Look at their pallid, emaciated and disfigured faces, and their broken down constitutions, disqualifying them from the happiness of marriage, or the enjoyment of life. In this horrid situation thousands suffer, until death closes the scene. Let parents, guardians or friends attend to those who are suffering with any of those horrible, life-destroying maladies, see that they are cared for, and cured before it be too late. Send them immediately to Dr. J. KATES, No. 153 Sycamore-street, first door below Fifth-street, Cincinnati, Ohio, a physician who has made private diseases his especial study for 20 years, and who is certain to cure the most inveterate cases, without MERCURY OR ANY OTHER INJURIOUS DRUGS. It is important to those afflicted, or to those who are interested in the welfare of their friends, to be careful of the many PRETENDED DOCTORS, who infest all cities, publishing their great skill in curing all diseases in a few days, imposing upon the public by using the names of eminent physicians from Europe and other places. Be, therefore, careful, and make strict inquiry before you risk your life, or you may fall into the hands of these charlatans.
N. B.—Dr. J. KATES will attend his patients personally, and can be found in his office, No. 153 Sycamore-street, first door below Fifth, from 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 in the evening. All confidential. no13-tf

BUTLER'S PREMIUM BLACKING—Small, New Medium and Large.
Butler's IXL Oil Blacking,
IN EARTHEN POTS.
Factory, 39 Vine-street.
dec1-f T. S. BUTLER, Agent.

Rice.
300 BAGS PRIME EAST INDIA Rice in store and for sale by
JAS. A. FRAZER & CO.,
no27 Nos. 66 and 68 Walnut-st.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

CHRISTMAS GOODS!
SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY.
WE HAVE A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
Ivory-handled Table Cutlery;
Best Silver-plated Spoons and Forks;
Fine Pocket Cutlery;
Polished Steel Fire-sets;
Coal-vases and Rods;
Plain and Fancy Toilet Sets;
Tea Trays;
Best Britannia Ware;
Ladies' Work-cases;
Porte-monnaies, &c.;
Children's Hobby-horses;
Ladies', Gents' and Boys' Skates;
Young America Artillery;
Boys' Sleds;
Toy Tables, Bedsteads, &c.;
AT LOWEST PRICES.
HOLLIDAY & SMITH,
Hardware and Housekeepers' Emporium,
de24-f N. E. cor. Fifth-st. and Central-av.

SUTLERS' STATIONERY DEPOT.
J. McMULLEN & CO.,
NO. 167 WALNUT-ST., (near Gibson House)
CINCINNATI, OHIO,
Deal exclusively in ARMY STATIONERY, and manufacturing their own goods are enabled to supply SUTLERS and DEALERS at the lowest prices. The stock consists of
Union Paper and Envelopes,
(About 100 Styles)
Soldiers' Portfolios,
Officers' Desks and Portfolios
PLAYING CARDS,
Army Chess and Backgammon Boards
TUCK MEMORANDUMS,
BLANK BOOKS, PURSES, POCKET-BOOKS, POCKET INKS, PENCILS, PENS, INKS, PEN-HOLDERS, PLAIN PAPER and ENVELOPES.
Diaries for 1862.
[de23 x2dp]

MILITARY GOODS!
India Rubber Outfits,
BLANKETS!
MEXICAN PONCHOS FOR CAVALRY OFFICERS,
MACINTOSH TALMAS,
Dark blue (imitation of cloth) for officers
LONG TOP AND SHORT BOOTS;
CAPS WITH CAPES;
RIDING LEGGINGS;