ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.

Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24, 1877.

Christmas with all its cherished associations has come again. Family reunions, Christmas gifts, preparations for the expected visits of Christmas Nick, fire crackers and toot horns are the order of the day and night, and are more honored in the observance than in the breach. Christmas is the especial holiday of the South, and the children should be taught to observe it as such. Those of older growth, too, should allow themselves a proper indulgence in the festivities incident to the season, and, above all, the poor should not be forgotten. Peace and good will should prevail on the earth at least during the holidays.

And now to cap the climax of financial disasters, the Bank of—Berryville, in the county of Clarke, in this State, has *suspended*! Worse still, it is announced that the liabilities are *unknown*! But, it is thought, "depositors will be paid in full." Happy thought!—happier if ever realized. The announcement of the suspension must have been as "a clap of thunder from a clear sky," for the correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, who gives the intelligence to the public, writes:—"It had been thought if there was an institution on the continent beyond the reach of frivolous freaks of fickle fortune it was the Bank of Berryville." And so everybody says after a collapse. We are told that the Bank "has been a great convenience and accommodation to the business public," which it is no longer—having now "busted." Alas for the good people of Clarke! that little county away up in the mountains, where Banks are few and far between. How their bright anticipations of a merry Christmas have thus been clouded. But, let them take comfort and learn to lay up for themselves treasures in Heaven, where "thieves do not break through and steal," values do not shrink, and where riches do not take wings unto themselves and flee away. If in order at this season—we condole.

The President and his family are more liberal minded on religious matters than any people who ever before occupied the White House.—Blatant infidelity and orthodox Methodism are equally influential with them, and when they were in New York, yesterday, the President attended a Methodist church in the morning and a Presbyterian church at night, while his sons attended the Episcopal church.

Dr. J. B. Hodgkin, formerly of this city, but now a professor in the Dental College at Baltimore, read an excellent article at the late meeting of the Dental Association of Virginia in which he recommended the organization of a life assurance company for the benefit of the members of the Association.

Mr. Evarts in his speech in New York, last Saturday, said his New England ancestors and their descendants have always held that it was what a man did and not what he said that was of any account. If Mr. Hayes' Southern policy is to be judged by this rule it won't amount to much.

Mr. J. J. Davies has assumed the editorial management of the Manassas Gazette. He has had charge of the paper for some time past, and under his management it has improved considerably.

The Legislature which will be elected in November, 1879, will elect a United States Senator, Colonel Withers' term not expiring till March, 1881.

The Lexington Gazette hopes that Mr. Frazier will be expelled from the Legislature for his comments on the Governor's message.

The January number of the South Atlantic, a monthly magazine of literature, science and art, the editor and proprietor of which is Mrs. Cicero W. Harris, of Wilmington, N. C., where it is printed, has been received. Its contents are: On the Threshold; The Festival of Shem-Neen; A Baptism of Fire; James Clarence Mangan; The Ride of the Seventh Cavalry; A Terrible Retribution; General Pinder; For the Love of God; Evelyn's Choice; The Trial Trip; Thought and Movement, &c.

THE POPE'S HEALTH.—Father Audreas, one of the assistant priest of St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Church, on North Front street, delivered, last evening, in the basement of the church, a lecture on "The Pope's Sickness and his Doctors." The drift of the lecture was that the reports in American newspapers as to the state of the Pope's health are generally unreliable and emanated from an enemy of the Catholic Church. As a general thing, the speaker said, the American newspapers receive their information about the Pope's illness from the London Times, and the correspondent at Rome of that journal is an Italian, a revolutionist, who was under Mazzini in his struggles against the Italian Government. He is an enemy of the Church, and circulates reports without knowing whether or not his statements are correct. It may be safe to say that he has never seen the Pope. Yet dispatches are received day after day, stating that the Pope was at the point of death, all emanating from the same source. He read from the Unita Cattolica to show that on the very day the Holy Father was reported as in a critical condition he gave audience to several delegations who had called upon him. At the same time it was reported in the newspapes of this county that an eminent physician at Padua had been sent for in haste to attend a consultation of the Pope's physicians at Rome. The truth of the matter was that the physician was sent for to come at his convenience to attend to the removal of an ulcer on the Pope's leg. The lecturer assured his hearers that the Pope enjoys good health, and grants audience almost daily to visitors. He asked his hearers not to place much reliance on what they read in American newspapers about the Pope's health.—*Balt. American.*

Hanging up the Stocking.

One of the most picturesque of all the customs connected with the Christmas holidays is the hanging up of the stocking on Christmas eve to await the coming of St. Nicholas. The custom of making gifts to little folk on Christmas day wins a charm from this pretty anonymous; and the figure of the saint himself is as clearly defined in the minds of imaginative children as any in history—far more so. They know his jolly round face, his jolly round belly, that does not, however, impede his descent into the smallest of chimneys, and they love him with as much love as imaginative childhood can ever love the unseen. Dear old St. Nicholas! It is a sad moment when growing childhood becomes skeptical and finds out that he is a myth. But a glow of gratitude toward the parents who had practiced upon them the pretty deception soon fills the void left by the saint. No one who has ever seen the little folk tumble out of bed long before the first gleam of daylight to explore their stockings would ever again willingly miss that pleasure. No dramatic performance of a Salvini or Ristori ever was so full of poetry as their unconscious delight. They are too happy to know that they are happy. Of course they must wake up papa and mama to share their overflowing joy. Up climb the little folk on the bed, curly heads all rumpled, cheeks rosy with sleep, and eyes sparkling with pleasure. Then begins the explorations, and every treasure that is exhumed by chubby fingers from the depths of the stocking is rewarded by a whoop of rapture such as Schlieman never heard in all his excavations at Troy. It makes grown folk young again to enter into the joys of childhood. It was a custom in some families, after the stockings were exhausted, for the little folk, still in their nightgowns and sitting on the bed, to sing the Christmas hymn, "While shepherds watched their flocks by night." All the old-fashioned children knew it by heart. How sweet it sounded! The shrill treble of the children, the fuller voice of the mother blending them and keeping them steady, and the tremor of the paternal bass—for somehow or other tears used to stand in his eyes—all these made a music, not of the classic schools; but the day in its round hardly heard anything more strangely sweet. It was as though, in the words of the hymn, upon that little group of singers, as upon the Judean shepherds, "the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around."—*Baltimore Gazette.*

Miscellaneous Foreign News.

The London Saturday Review thinks it probable the House of Commons may be asked to make an extraordinary grant for military and naval purposes. The anticipation of the usual period for the meeting of Parliament is in some respects unfortunate, though it will probably admit of justification.

The London Spectator believes the real meaning of the summons of Parliament is that Lord Beaconsfield desires to encourage the Turks to continue the struggle in the hope of ultimate British assistance, and that the Turks will so interpret it. The Spectator thinks that England, when it comes to the point, will decline to fight for the Turks, who will at last be compelled to purchase peace by withdrawing to their natural home in Asia.

Mr. Pierrepont presented his letters of recall to the Queen at Windsor Castle on Saturday, and Mr. Welsh presented his credentials as Minister of the United States. They were both introduced by the Earl of Derby.

Mr. Stanley, the African explorer, telegraphs that he arrived at Aden on Sunday. His followers were paid off and discharged at Zanzibar.

A Paris dispatch says proceedings in the Councils General confirm the belief that the recent election turned the scale in favor of the republicans. The Left have the majority in forty five councils instead of thirty six, as formerly.

Advices from St. Domingo state that the revolution had not been suppressed, and murders and other outrages were frequent. About one hundred political prisoners had been exiled without previous warning. A schooner carried fifty of them to Rio Hashe, New Grenada.

A fire occurred at Port au Prince, Hayti, on the 11th inst., which destroyed property valued at fifty thousand dollars.

Gen. Grant arrived at Palermo yesterday on the U. S. steamer Vandalia.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 24.—The Guardian's London correspondent says: "The condition of the health of Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's son, is again causing anxiety."

REV. WM. E. MUNSEY.—I call to mind the description given me by Bishop Kavanaugh, himself one of the most eloquent of American preachers, either living or dead. "I first heard him in Baltimore, and before I went to the church," said he, "I fully made up my mind that this man Munsey should not carry me away bodily—heart, hand, and all—as he did others, and leave me neither sense nor words with which to express my opinion of his preaching. A comfortable chair was given me, which I had placed immediately in front of the pulpit; and when I settled myself in it I was firmly determined to listen to and judge him in a style worthy of the most cold blooded critic. I hadn't seen much of him, but that little did not prepare me for a highly favorable opinion as to his talents. The fact is, I didn't think he was much, anyhow. When he took his text I looked at his shaved head and sharp features, and said to myself, 'drive away, my man, but I am going to stay with you to the last!' For a while it was easy enough to keep along with him. I began to congratulate myself upon my success as a critic, and was settling down to an easier position in the chair, when I was startled almost to my feet by sharp, jagged, brain piercing sentence that shot from his mouth like a bolt from a catapult. Just then, too, he gave an awkward, singular gesture by a bringing his extended left arm sweeping around to the front, the hand shut closely together, except the straightened little finger. In some way or other, I could not tell how, he caught me upon that straightened little finger, and very unexpectedly gave me a shoot up yonder; and for the rest of the sermon I just went sailing!" But said I, Bishop, how did all this impress you? His keen little eyes gave a mischievous sort of a twinkle as he replied—"As far as I remember, I do not think that I had any impressions; or, if I did they are not describable. All I know about my feelings is that they were grand and glorious—something akin, maybe, to what I shall have when I hear, like John, 'a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder and voice of harpers harping on their harps.'"—*Correspondent of N. Y. Methodist.*

LOCAL PAPERS.—The New York Times says:—

"You might as well forget your churches and school-houses as to forget your local paper. It speaks to ten times the audience your ministers do. It is read eagerly each week from the beginning to the end. It reaches you all, and if it has a lower spirit and less wisdom than a sermon, it has a thousand times better chance at you, going as it does to almost every house, you owe it to yourself to rally liberally to its support, exact from it as able and high toned a character as you do from an educator in your midst. It is not beneath your notice and care, for it is your representative. Indeed, in its character, it is the consummation of importance, interest and welfare of you all, in the aggregate of your acquaintance, and you can not ignore it without most miserably deprecating yourself."

Now, that is good logic and sound sense; and yet there are many people who do not, either by subscription or advertising, contribute one cent a year to the support of their local papers. They let them drag along for lack of proper support, and yet complain if they do not show as much enterprise as papers at the North that, being well sustained, can afford to employ the best talent, and spend money in their make up.—*Lynchburg News.*

Letter from Richmond.

The Moffett Register—The Inventor Gone to Tennessee—The Punch Adopted by on Branch of the Legislature of that State—Governor Kemper—Personal, &c.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, December 22, 1877.

The Moffett punch has been adopted by the Senate of Tennessee, and Mr. Moffett has gone to that State to be the guest of Gov. Porter, and to explain the workings of the punch. The doctor got a number of members of the legislature to sign a paper recommending the punch or testifying to its usefulness for the purpose for which it was intended. Dr. Moffett has maintained from the first that if the register worked successfully in Virginia there could be no doubt about its being adopted in other States. Indeed in his fondest dreams he has spoken beautifully and eloquently of it, and pictured crowded bar rooms from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf to the ice girt borders of the British Dominions; indeed wherever the stars and stripes floated. In all of them the thirsty customers sipping their liquor to the tune of "the bells—the bells, bells, bells." The action of Judge Guigon in revoking the licenses of several barroom keepers whose registers indicated a ridiculously small number of drinks registered has made them very careful here about ringing, and the punch can be said to be a paying institution. Drinks are sold two for a quarter, or 15c a single one. In many of the barrooms where the customer pays his 15 cents for a single drink the bar keeper hands him back a little red ticket, and when he presents this ticket next time he has only to pay ten cents for his drink, the ticket counting five cents. The barkeepers here at first made a most determined stand against the register, but when they failed to accomplish anything by it they submitted, and now their grumblings are not quite so frequent or so loud.

Gov. Kemper will, I learn, move to the country soon after the Governor elect comes in and will devote himself to farming and the practice of the law. Mr. Meade C. Kemper, his son, is studying medicine at the Richmond Medical College, and will graduate in March. He proposes to remain in Richmond some months to avail himself of the opportunities to study and have hospital practice.

Dr. A. S. McKae, formerly member of the Senate from Richmond, is a candidate for the position of surgeon of the penitentiary, the place now held by Dr. W. W. Walker, who is, by the way, a brother of the well known political speaker who stumped the State in behalf of Gov. Kemper.

From the number of balls, &c., that are to be given here, I have no doubt that Christmas week will be one of the merriest known since the war.

The Dr. Howard, who was killed in the recent fight among the Texans and Mexicans, was a cousin of Mr. Robert Howard, the well known lawyer of this city. Quite a number of Virginians are living in Texas, some of them being in the section of that State were the border troubles are going on.

The Danville Grays have signified their intention of visiting Richmond on the occasion of Gov. Holliday's inauguration.

The Eastern War.

A telegram from Erzeroum reports that twenty battalions of Russians have been seen northeast of Erzeroum. Considerable Russian forces are also concentrated behind the Deve Boyun.

The total Russian loss by the war up to December 20, is 80,412 men.

A Constantinople dispatch says it is declared that the Porte is determined to carry on the war to the last extremity, should his request for mediation fail. Mr. Layard, the British Ambassador, has not yet received Lord Derby's reply to the Porte's note. Great distress prevails among the poor of Constantinople. The prices of provisions are rising in consequence of the depreciation of the currency. Difficulties are feared if the price of bread rises higher.

The Porte has issued a proclamation deposing Prince Milan, of Servia.

A dispatch from Constantinople, via Syra, says:—"It is rumored that on Thursday the Sultan ordered Edhem Pasha, the Grand Vizier, to take steps to procure peace."

A Constantinople dispatch says it is reported that the Russians are within six hours' march of Sofia. The heights above Kamarli are now the only position held by the Turks to defend Sofia.

A correspondent at Vienna says it is reported from Paris that very active diplomatic intercourse has been going on between Paris and London, with a view of establishing an understanding on the Eastern question, and that the chances of the accomplishment of this object are rather favorable.

A correspondent at Bucharest telegraphs that the snow storm which commenced on the 18th in Bulgaria and Roumania has been unusually severe. It is feared that hundreds of Turkish prisoners and Russian troops caught on the march have perished. Of a convoy overwhelmed at Catroceni, a suburb of Bucharest, forty horses and twenty nine men were frozen to death.

A dispatch from Athens announces that M. Coumoundouros has submitted bills to the Chamber for nominating officers of the mobile National Guard and immediately calling out the reserve of the regular army.

The "London Times" correspondent at Pera telegraphs that the arrival of Suleiman Pasha in Constantinople has strengthened the war party. He counsels resistance, al outrance, and the Grand Vizier supports him.

Reconnoitering detachments of Russian cavalry frequently appear in villages in the Plain of Erzeroum.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A London special says:—General Gourkos' campaign has resulted in the loss of only 5,000 men. The Turks are deserting in considerable number because of the increasing cold, which causes them, poorly clothed as they are and wanting in provisions, terrible suffering. Typhus fever is raging among the Turks at Zenia.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Times' correspondent at Bucharest telegraphs as follows:—There is no news from the front. It is impossible to find out anything concerning the condition of the Turkish prisoners now enroute from Plevna or the Russian troops caught on the march by the snow storm. The cold weather and driving snow produced a terrible effect upon a transport train which halted near Catrocenia, suburb of Bucharest, to await the cessation of the storm. I visited the spot where they stopped on Sunday and found the wagons and horses entirely buried in snow. Working parties were engaged in extricating the train. Forty horses and twenty-nine men had been found dead. The men had sought shelter in the wagons and were frozen within half a mile of Catroceni, from this incident some idea may be formed of the effects of the storm in Bulgaria. This transport train had camped on a level plain and was buried by the driving snow which piled up around the horses and wagons.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Times' correspondent says:—The Roumanians will not accompany the Russians across the Balkans. They will garrison Plevna, Nikapolis and Rabova and cooperate with the Servians against Widin.

The Manchester Guardians' London correspondent telegraphs to that paper that no special preparation is going on at the Woolworth arsenal except the manufacture of field guns, only four thousand hands are employed, whereas the war force is from ten thousand to twelve thousand. It should, however, be added that equipment is already in store for two army corps.

ERZEROUM, Dec. 24.—Snow has ceased falling here, the weather is now fine and will facilitate operations of the Russians.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24.

The bill to be introduced in the House to subsidize an American mail steamship line for Brazil is to contain a provision that only American seamen shall be employed on the vessels. The Pacific Mail line, it is understood, employes Chinese, to the exclusion of our own seamen.

Mr. B. G. Underwood, receiving teller of the National Bank Redemption Agency, furnishes the following in relation to the new counterfeit $5 notes on the First National Bank of Hanover, Pennsylvania. All notes having the words "Act approved June 30, 1874," in the lower border of the note are counterfeit. On the genuine the date is February 25, 1863.

There are thirteen vacancies in the medical corps of the arm which will be filled by the appointment of such persons as may pass a satisfactory examination before the board now in session in New York city, consisting of Surgeons Jos. B. Brown, Jas. H. Bill and C. H. Alden, United States army. This board, which met on the 7th of November, will probably remain in session until the latter part of February, to select suitable persons for appointment in the corps.

Senator Patterson was not so well yesterday as the day previous, though last night he was resting comfortably. He is very weak, and if he should recover will not be able to leave his room for several weeks. He seems to be somewhat better this morning. The pain in his head with which he was suffering yesterday has left him, but he is at noon to day much weaker.

It begins to be plain that all the recent outcry about Mexican outrages and robberies in Texas was a sham. The testimony of a number of military officers shows that there has not been the least excuse for threatening war with Mexico. Gen. Sheridan's testimony shows that he knows of no raid from the Mexican side into Texas during the last year or since the Diaz government came into power.

Virginia News.

The Warrenton Index says:—The town sergeant of Upperville, Fauquier county, was fired upon in his residence at night a short time since and escaped harm from four pistol shots by reason of the would-be murderer mistaking the window at which the sergeant appeared. Suspicion, arrest, and discharge for want of evidence followed.

The Berryville, Clarke county, Va., Bank failed on Thursday last. It hurts the people of the county very materially, though it is thought the depositors will realize about one-half and the stockholders get nothing. Another account states that the losses to depositors and stockholders will aggregate $30,000 or $40,000.

The Leesburg Washingtonian says:—Mr. L. M. Hummer, residing four miles south of Leesburg, on Monday morning last, shot six wild turkeys at one shot. If any one can beat this, we will believe it when they send us one of the turkeys.

Gov. Kemper has pardoned a prisoner who has served eleven of his twenty years' sentence to the penitentiary, on the ground that the sentence was excessive, and his behavior so exceptionally good that the discharge would promote prison discipline.

The Lexington Gazette says:—Dr. R. L. Madison Mercer, Professor of Animal and Vegetable Physiology, and Surgeon of the V. M. Institute, has resigned on account of bad health, and gone to Southern Georgia.

The town of Chatham, in Pittsylvania county, paid $233 last month under the Moffett liquor law.

Col. M. G. Harman's life was insured to the amount of $50,000.

Letter from Falls Church.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

FALLS CHURCH, VA., Dec. 24, 1877.—Rev. R. Smithson, of Dulin Chapel, M. E., South, was very agreeably entertained by a surprise pound party on the eve of the 20th inst., at which his admirers exhibited their estimation of that gentleman in avoirdupois of different kinds of tangibles. The reverend gentleman has commenced a revival at Langley, and if his efforts there are blessed with such a return as they were at this place he will have abundant cause to be thankful.

The pupils of Jefferson Institute gave their Christmas exhibition on Friday evening, the 21st inst, under the direction of Mr. E. D. Harrington, and his assistant teachers, Misses. Georgia Arnold and Jeannette Birch. The programme consisted of recitations, charades, tableaux, and music, and was rendered in a manner highly complimentary both to pupils and teachers. Where all did so well it would be difficult to discriminate, and the length of the programme precludes a detailed account of the performance. Just before the close, Dr. J. J. Moran, President of the School Board, was introduced and after a very entertaining speech, highly complimentary to both pupils and teachers, presented to Mr. E.D. Harrington a handsome photograph album, and also an autograph album, the gift of the young ladies and gentlemen of the academic department, as a souvenir. Mr. H. was very agreeably surprised and almost thrown from his mental equilibrium, and barely recovered himself sufficiently to stammer forth a few sentences of thanks; they, however, were more acceptable from their genuineness than a studied oration would have been.

The churches have all been trimmed more or less to accord with the season, and announce Christmas services for the elders and Christmas trees for the babies, to which all are invited.

Oscar Washington, one of the three negroes tried and convicted last week in Fairfax for housebreaking, taking advantage of an opportunity while the jury were out, picked up his foot and travelled, and has not been seen since. As his bail had previously delivered him over to the authorities, and thus exonerated himself, it is probable that the said Oscar will, for a time, voluntarily exile himself from that county, made famous by the individual whose patronymic he bears.

Mr. John E. Febrey celebrated the arrival of his first grandson by commencing the erection of a large double house on his farm, at Upton's Hill. Judging by the room he has laid out, he must anticipate that said young gentleman is only the precursor of a troop.

MR. JOHN W. SIMONS was recently appealed to upon the correctness of the use of Knights Templar, and as to what is the singular and plural form of the term? We produce his answer:—The proper term is Knights Templar, because the word Templar merely denotes the kind of Knight, and does not therefore require to be in the plural. There has been an immense amout of bosh written on this subject, and lots of authorities cited, but the are in the main persons who speak of the order only incidentally, and have probably never given a thought as to whether the form used by them was correct or not. The Grand Conclave of England, the home of our mother tongue, uses the form above stated, and that, together with the reason stated, is authority enough for us.

HOW THE PRESIDENT SPENT SUNDAY.—President Hayes and Mrs. Hayes, yesterday morning, attended divine service at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church on Twenty-second street, N. Y., and his sons went to Trinity Church, in company with Gen. Dix. The President and party remained in Fifth Avenue Hotel most of the afternoon, and in the evening attended prayers at the Rev. Dr. John Hall's (Presbyterian) Church, Fifth avenue and Fifty-fourth street. The President and party will return to Washington this evening.

Robert P. Parrott, inventor of the Parrot gun, and former proprietor of the Cold Spring Gun Foundery, died suddenly at Cold Spring, New York, this morning.

News of the Day.

At Malone, N. Y., Saturday morning, the jury in the Woods murder case returned a verdict of "guilty of murder in the first decree." The prisoner then made a long speech claiming that he was condemned before trial; that the trial was a farce, and said that he had always thought that he would end his days in an American prison. The Judge then sentenced him to be hanged on the first of February next. When the Judge pronounced the words "May God have mercy upon your soul," Woods replied, "I hope he may." The crowd in the court room was so large that the building came near falling. A large quantity of plaster fell, and the building settled nearly six inches at one end.

Five horse thieves who, with others, had made raids on the towns of Caliente and Bakersfield, in the southern part of California, were recently captured in the Teujon mountains. On Friday night the citizens of Bakersfield forced the jail, took the prisoners into the District Court room, empanelled a jury, and tried, convicted and sentenced them to be hung. The sentence was immediately carried into execution in the jail yard.

The inhabitants of Spear Fish Valley, Dakota, were startled Friday by the sudden appearance of a large herd of Indian ponies dashing through the valley. A careful reconnoissance showed that there were no attendants with them, and ranch men and others immediately started out to capture them. It is the prevailing opinion that they belong to a camp of Sioux Indians located on the Belle Fourche.

Joel N. Hayes, Ferdinand Hartog and Wm. Muir, New York brokers, were arrested in that city on Saturday, charged with having negotiated forged bonds of Quincy county, Ill., and St. Louis county, Mo. It is understood that the arrests were made on the confession of J. H. Husted and Wm. Carrere, who were arrested some time ago on the same charge.

Mrs. Mary A. Lawless, the principal witness for the State in the recent trial of Dr. T. Clay Maddox, in Baltimore, for alleged malpractice, and who was remanded to jail by request of the State's attorney after the doctor's acquittal, was on Friday released from custody by order of Judge Brown.

Excise Commissioner Murphy, of New York, is reported as having absconded with forty or fifty thousand dollars belonging to the funds received from the Liquor sellers for licenses.—The departed was a prominent member of the Tammany Hall committee.

Cornelius Tobin, while intoxicated last evening, in South Boston, threw a lighted coal oil lamp at Mrs. Mary L. Mehegen. The lamp exploded, set fire to her clothing, and she was burned to death.

The Tennessee Senate on Saturday passed the bill compromising the State debt at 50 cents on the dollar, and graded the interest at 4, 5 and 6 per cent., by a vote of 12 to 13, and ordered its transmission to the House.

Early yesterday morning three men entered the house of George Mindle, near Attica, N. Y., knocked him down, dragged out his wife, aged 56 years, ravished and murdered her.—Two men have been arrested on suspicion.

Two young men were arrested at a hotel in Batavia, N. Y., yesterday, while engaged in making counterfeit silver coin. Half and quarter dollar dies were found in their possession

The Texas Troubles.

MATAMORAS, Dec. 23, VIA BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Dec. 23.—A notorious partisan of Cortina, named Partgual, who some years since made an attack on police headquarters and killed the chief of police and wounded two others and escaped, has recently been robbing on the highway near this city. He rode into Market Place last night and shouted for ex President Lerdo. When the police attempted to interfere they were fired on and wounded. After considerable shooting, which created quite an excitement, as it was feared that a portion of the troops would revolt, Partgual was captured and lodged in jail. It is supposed it was to create a disturbance to try the loyalty of the garrison for President Diaz, and if the troops were not faithful to take advantage of their disaffection and organize a revolution. As nothing to the advantage of the Lerdo party was developed order was soon restored.

New England Society Dinner.

At the seventy second annual dinner of the New England society in New York, on Saturday night, Secretary Evarts, in response to the toast, "The day we celebrate," said the New Englanders always looked to the duties of the present, and would continue to do so. Let them live to celebrate that day as the greatest in history. The nation finds every other nation ready to confess its power and respect its justice, so that in preserving the peace of the world it has the readiest easiest and safest part that ever nation had. All our energies, duties and dangers are within our own borders. Let them at once accept it that they would be faithless and recreant to their inheritance if they did not accept that New England's idea of the results of the difficulties the country has passed through must make their way in this country by moral and intellectual methods. Whenever it becomes necessary New England will resort to arms again, but will not resort to animosities to reach that method of argument. In conclusion Mr. Evarts referred to the subject of the public service, and said on that there should be no step backward [Applause] Such is human nature that, in the the language of Burke, by whatever path great places of state are to be reached by public men, that path will be trod. For this nation there is, however, good fortune in the future. To start with they have a President who never enter on devious paths, and does not mean to. [Great applause]

The toast of "The President" was received with immense enthusiasm, the entire assembly rising and waving handkerchiefs and cheering.

President Hayes said: "Mr. President and gentlemen: I trust you will excuse me if, adhering to a rule that I long since adopted as to speaking on occasions like this, I refrain altogether from touching upon interesting topics which the occasion suggests and which your kindness to me now suggests. I beg merely to make my acknowledgments to you for your great kindness and to say to you that I am in the fullest and heartiest sympathy with what I believe to be the best sentiments of New England men and of the descendants of New England men [applause,] and to say that among the recollections I have which are most cherished are those most associated with the names, lives and hopes of my New England ancestors."

HOW THEY HEARD THE NEWS—The Staunton Vindicator relates, as follows, how Silas Morris and his sister Mrs. Lawson heard the news of the commutation of their death sentence into imprisonment for life. They were to have been hanged at Harrisonburg last Friday: The news of the commutation was communicated to the prisoners, who were to be hung this morning at 9 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. Barr of the Episcopal church. Morris, and his wife, who was sitting in his cell, were first told. Mr. B. quietly calling M. to the door of his cell and saying: "Silas the Governor has had mercy on you, but you go to the penitentiary for life." Morris' eyes filled with tears and he turned to his wife who was lying face down, on the bed and cried: "Bless God the Governor has had mercy on me and the same to Mrs. Lawson up stair." His wife leaped up from the bed and she and her husband rapturously embraced and kissed each other and then convulsively clasped Mr. Barr's hands with cries of gratitude.

The Presidential Party.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—President Hayes, Mrs. Hayes, Webb C. Hayes, Miss Minnie Platt and Mr. W. T. Crump, of the presidential party, left Jersey City on the limited express train at thirty-five minutes past 9 o'clock this morning for Washington. Burchard Hayes will spend Christmas and the holidays with friends in the city, and will reach Washington on Friday evening.

[COMMUNICATED.

RETRENCHMENT.—To lessen criminal expenses, the General Assembly should pass an act authorizing courts and justices to fine, imprison, or whip parties guilty of petit larceny.

A JUSTICE.

The Last Ditch.

The greatest privation suffered by the Confederates, writes a Southern lady, was from lack of medicines. The Government at Washington made them contraband of war. Quinine and morphine were worth double, nay, treble, their weight in gold, and when Stonewall Jackson's arm was amputated, the fact that he had the aid of chloroform to sustain him under the operation was telegraphed as news throughout the Confederacy—news to be received with thankfulness by the waiting heart of the people. Federal prisoners cursed the Confederate surgeons who refused them morphine and chloroform in their agonies; but Confederates and Federals suffered alike; nothing was scarcer or more precious than such drugs, and not a few Southern hospitals had little of the one and none of the other in their stores.

An attempt was made to cultivate opium, and to that end the seed of the red and white poppy was distributed through the country by the Government at Richmond. The plan was to prick the gum capsules of the plant, and collect the gum which exuded from the wounds thus made; but the project met with no success farther north than Southern Alabama and Mississippi, and even there was only partially successful. I believe that some sort of decoction, made from the green seed, steeped in brandy, was used as a lotion in cases of acute neuralgia, but I am not sure.

Corn, wheat and other grains were so precious as breadstuffs that their distillation into intoxicating liquors was forbidden both by the Confederate Congress and by the various State Legislatures. So that fruit brandies, rum made from the juice of the Chinese sugar cane and grape wines were the only lawful strong drinks of the country. These paid heavy taxes, but they also brought high prices, and large quantities of them were manufactured.

Victims of neuralgia were forced to drink and forget their misery when hot poultices failed to bring relief, since opium was to be had only at fancy prices. Bromine was unattainable, and all anodynes so wholly out of reach that few people even sighed for them.

The medical department sent botanizing parties prospecting through the country in search of roots and herbs which might be of medical value, and appealed to the people of the Confederacy to collect and prepare such simples as slippery elm, sarsaparilla, blackberry root, ginseng, etc. Herb teas were used in the hospitals by surgeons who for years had ridiculed them as old wives' remedies, but who now turned to them in necessity, for lack of more efficient medicines. Southern women trod on bare floors, cutting the carpets which had covered them into blankets for sick soldiers. Linen sheets and underclothing were torn into bandages, and private stores were freely used for the sick and dying. Once, during the seven days' fighting around Richmond, public worship was suspended on Sunday and the members of the churches worked all day long in their lecture rooms, making sand bags for the fortifications and rolling bandages and scraping lint for the wounded.

PROGRESS OF THE COLORED RACE.—At the P. E. Church of the Epiphany in Washington, yesterday, the rather novel spectacle was witnessed of a colored clergyman participating in the services and afterwards addressing the congregation from the desk. The Church of the Epiphany is one of the most fashionable churches of Washington, and has an overflowing congregation. The colored minister who spoke to-day, the Rev. Dr. Crummell, enlisted the undivided attention of the whole congregation from the beginning to the end. He is apparently between fifty and sixty years of age, of good presence and with gray hair and beard.—He spoke fluently and forcibly, and the cultured and refined audience which he addressed would not have found much food for criticism had there been any disposition to indulge in it. He sketched the religious progress of the African race in America from the time that its representatives were first brought to our shores, naked and pagans, down to the era of emancipation, and the progress since that time. He stated that there are but two cities in the Union where the colored population is larger than in Washington; that they are attracted to this city as the capital of the nation; that here will be found the most enlightened and the most progressive of the race. He then dwelt upon the necessity for the well being of society that this mass of people should be weaned from the emotional, or "plantation" religion, as he styles it, of their fathers, and from the tendency to infidelity, which he said was also becoming apparent. He believed that noble religion of the Anglican Church was the best safeguard that could be thrown around his people—that under its humanizing and Christianizing influences they would and must improve, and become a class acceptable alike to God and man. The Rev. Dr. Crummell is the rector of St. Mary's P. E. Colored Church of Washington, which is now in process of erection, and his appeal was to his white brethren for aid. The appeal to-day was generally responded to.—*Wash. Cor. Balt. Sun.*

GEN. BUTLER ON THE SITUATION.—General Butler made a speech, in Boston, last Saturday night, in which he predicted the passage of the Bland Silver bill, and its repassage over a possible veto of the President, and claims that the result will be universal prosperity. He argued that up to the act of 1869 the United States statutes allowed the payment of bonds in greenbacks and since in coin, which word he contends means gold and silver. In regard to the tariff the General says there is a disposition among the Congressmen from other sections to legislate against the East. He will vote against taxing tea and coffee, and against increasing duties on tobacco, spirits, etc. Gen. Butler devotes a large portion of his speech to criticism of President Hayes' Southern and civil service policies. "Mr. Hayes," he says, "must either join the democrats or republicans before February. The republicans in Congress are solidly against him." The General said he did not know what civil service reform meant. In Washington the phrase was only used in jest. He ridiculed the President's course in this regard, as on the matter of Southern pacification.

Wife and Child Shot.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 24.—Detective William C. Pride, while half asleep, early this morning, imagined he heard a burglar at the window, and in attempting to cock his pistol it was discharged, the ball passing through the body of his five months' old child, and also through the body of his wife, causing the death of both in a few hours. An inquest is now being held. Pride is almost crazed.

MR. BLAINE ON THE SOUTH.—Mr. Blaine was interviewed while in St. Louis on his way to the Arkansas Hot Springs, and said the Southern people are not, in fact, reconciled. They are playing policy, and their purpose is to get possession of the government and rule it as they did before the war, and then all the established results of the war and reconstruction would be set aside.

At a recent concert, it was the subject of remark, that in what fine "voice" the singers were: in commending his good judgment, the leader will pardon us for whispering that he always recommends Bull's Cough Syrup for clearing and strengthening the voice.

Received on consignment, to be sold out at a sacrifice, a fine and fashionable lot of hats and caps at S. Dealham's, 62 King street, corner Fairfax. See new advertisement in another column. dec 19 5t.

HOLIDAY GOODS.—New goods received this day, comprising vases of new designs, dinner and tea sets, and fancy china, besides a variety of novelties too numerous to mention. The finest display in this line ever before brought to this city, all at the lowest possible prices. Call and examine our goods and prices.

dec 17—1w E. J. MILLER & Co.