National Republican.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
WEDNESDAY, ... DEC. 24, 1862.

☞ The Office of the National Republican is at 511 Ninth street, between Pennsylvania avenue and D street, (Up Stairs.)

MILITARY HOSPITAL FESTIVAL NOTICE.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1862.

The hospitals, which have not been duly notified, can obtain their ample quota of Christmas provisions, intended for them by Mrs. Lincoln, by the presentation of a certificate of the superintendent of each hospital, at the Executive Mansion, on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, December 23d and 24th.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The address of the President to the army of the Potomac will be perused by everybody. It is characteristic of the man, showing how ready he is always to assume all the responsibilities of his high office.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

We could not help replying to the criticisms of such papers as the Washington *Star* and the New York *Journal of Commerce* upon our "On to Richmond" article, in the following words:

"Since when have these papers become advocates for energy in the prosecution of the war, and what is the meaning of the change? What is also the meaning of the change which has come over the spirit of the dreams of many others in our midst, who have heretofore stoutly opposed an advance, but now clamor for it? These, together with certain mysterious and inexplicable failures in the military administration, which have already placed General Burnside in a most critical if not perilous position, are indeed alarming signs of the times. They should of themselves arrest the movement of the Army of the Potomac till they were investigated, and we hope they will do so."

Yes, the disaster at Fredericksburg was presaged by signs and portents which might well have caused brave men to hesitate and wise men to pause. But they were not such as the ancients consulted before entering upon battle, or embarking upon a hostile expedition. They were addressed to the understandings, not to the superstitions of men; and the same signs appeal with all-powerful eloquence to the common sense of the nation in warning of danger upon another theatre of the war. We have for months past advised the consolidation of the military departments of the Southwest under the command of General Grant, the only Union general who, as yet, presents satisfactory credentials, and is the superior of any general which the rebels can boast; but our advice has not been heeded. It appears, however, that the rebel government have taken a different view of the importance of the measure which we have suggested.

With their usual military sagacity they have detected the weak point in this arrangement, and, abandoning the department of Gen. Grant, whom they are afraid to encounter, they are concentrating their forces with a view to overwhelm Gen. Rosecrans in the military jurisdiction which interposes between that of Gen. Grant and the loyal States. Should they be successful, even the gallant Grant may be placed in a critical, if not desperate, position; while the conquests which his genius has wrested from the rebels and held against their whole available power, will fall in a single day.

Jeff. Davis himself, and his crack general, Joe Johnston, have hastened in person to this now promising field of operations, eager to snatch the prey thus temptingly exposed.

For weeks the black cloud of war has been rolling portentously up the southwestern horison, and for weeks we have appealed in vain to the military authorities to adopt the only means of safety as well as success.

Anon, the country is startled by the ominous intelligence of a failure in the supplies of Gen. Rosecrans' army.

Now, surely, it does not require the spirit of prophecy, or the knowledge of the art of the soothsayer, to discern in these signs approaching disaster to the Union army in this quarter.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.—The report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War presents a somewhat different version of the Fredericksburg disaster, from that contained in General Burnside's report. It appears from the synopsis of this report, which we publish in another column, that the movement which has ended so disastrously was well planned in the first instance, and not destitute of military pretension in the modification, and that the failure is due to a variety of unforeseen accidents, over which the non-arrival of the pontoon bridges dominates.

This report must have the effect of placing Gen. Burnside's conduct in a new and interesting light before the country. He has stoned, by his magnanimity, for much of the rashness and folly which characterized the execution or attempted execution of the modified plan.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—An effort is being made to have Speaker Grow appointed Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. Schuyler Colfax, who has been recently re-elected to Congress, chosen Speaker of the House.

THE McDOWELL COURT OF INQUIRY.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Gen. Sigel was cross-examined yesterday This examination had reference more particularly to the causes of prejudice, which the witness might be thought to have against Gen. McDowell, in connection with the remark that officer is alleged to have made to one of his (Sigel's) staff.

Witness acknowledged this remark to be his chief reason of complaint, but there were others (it being a personal dispute) which he did not wish to mention. One was, that having sent an aid-de-camp to Gen. McDowell during the march from Gainesville to Manassas, to make a report and inquire into the cause of a firing heard on the left, the officer was grossly insulted by him in the presence of his (McD.'s) staff. But he, Sigel, did not regard this as an affront so much to himself as to a member of his staff.

Gen. Sigel next recounted in the order of date the movements wherein he thought General McDowell had been tardy in co-operating; for instance, when Jackson was allowed to overcome Shields, escape Fremont, and to rejoin the main army of the rebels, contending against McClellan near Richmond.

He also accused McDowell of leaving Banks at the battle of Cedar Mountain, with only 9,000 men, to withstand alone 25,000 of the enemy; even after both he (McDowell) and Pope had been warned of their approach.

The court adjourned till to-day at 11 o'clock.

COURT-MARTIAL OF GENERAL PORTER.—This court did not meet yesterday. General Porter will to-day commence to bring forward his witnesses. General McClellan is expected to testify in a few days.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, December 22, 1862.

To the Army of the Potomac: I have just read your Commanding General's preliminary report of the battle of Fredericksburg. Although you were not successful, the attempt was not an error, nor the failure other than an accident. The courage with which you, in an open field, maintained the contest against an entrenched foe, and the consummate skill and success with which you crossed and re-crossed the river in the face of the enemy, show that you possess all the qualities of a great army, which will yet give victory to the cause of the country and of popular government. Condoling with the mourners for the dead, and sympathizing with the severely wounded, I congratulate you that the number of both is comparatively so small.

I tender to you, officers and soldiers, the thanks of the nation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

GENERAL FOSTER'S REPORT.

We would call attention to General Foster's official report, published below. It will be seen that his was a perfect success:

DECEMBER 20, 1862.

Major Gen. H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:

My expedition was a perfect success. I burned the railroad bridge at Goldsboro' and Mount Olive, and tore up several miles of the track of the Wilmington and Weldon railroad. We fought four engagements, viz: At Southwest Creek, Kinston, White Hall, and Goldsboro', and whipped the enemy handsomely every time.

J. G. FOSTER, Brig. General.

FURTHER FROM GEN. BURNSIDE.

It will be seen by the following dispatch from General Burnside that he considerably reduces the number of the wounded from that of his first estimate:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 23, 1862.—*Major General H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief:* In my report to you of the 19th instant, the number of our wounded was stated at almost nine thousand, and the number receiving hospital treatment as sixteen hundred and thirty.

Both of these statements are wrong. On the authority of Dr. Letterman, our Medical Director, I learn that the whole number of our wounded is between six and seven thousand. About one half are receiving treatment in hospitals.

A. E. BURNSIDE,
Maj. Gen. Comd'g Army Potomac.

THE ATTENTION OF THE READER is called to some correspondence on our first page. It is both amusing and instructive.

Hon. Jesse D. Bright was expelled from the Senate of the United States for a less offence than that committed by Mr. Kennedy. He (Kennedy) is guilty of sending important information to a leading rebel, his former master, and to a man to whom he still played the toady, of efforts made by the Government to relieve Fort Sumter, and the sailing of a squadron for the Gulf. We pause to hear what Mr. Kennedy has to say.

☞ We received the report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War at such intervals, in such detached portions, and at such a late hour, from the agents of the Associated Press, that we found it extremely difficult to make such an abstract as we could have wished. We give such material facts as we can find time for, and such as our space will admit. It would have pleased us to have given the report in full, but our space and time would not allow it in this issue.

MISS MARY MITCHELL, (sister of the wonderfully bewitching Maggie,) has made a great hit in Norfolk as Rose Fielding, in the "Willow Copse."

A SYNOPSIS OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The late hour at which we received this report, precludes our giving more than an abstract in our paper to-day. The entire report will make some eight columns, as we stated yesterday; more than we can possibly find room for in this issue. It is a document which will be widely circulated, and read by the whole people.

General Burnside's testimony commences the report, but, as much he states refers to antecedent facts not material to the matter in issue, we give simply those statements of his before the committee which relates to his move upon Fredericksburg.

While at Warrenton, General Burnside says:

General Halleck came down to see me on the 11th November. On the 9th I made out a plan of operations in accordance with the order of General Halleck, which directed me not only to take command of the army, but also to state what I proposed to do with it. That plan I wrote on the morning of the 9th of November, and sent it by special messenger to Washington. I can furnish the committee a copy of that plan if they desire it. I have not got it here now.

Question. State the substance of it, if you please. That may do as well.

Answer. I stated, in substance, that I thought it advisable to concentrate the army in the neighborhood of Warrenton; to make a small movement across the Rappahannock as a feint, with a view to divert the attention of the enemy, and lead them to believe we were going to move in the direction of Gordonsville, and then to make a rapid movement of the whole army to Fredericksburg, on this side of the Rappahannock.

The following are his reasons for moving upon Fredericksburg:

In moving upon Fredericksburg we would all the time be as near Washingtonn as would the enemy. And after arriving at Fredericksburg, we would be at a point nearer to Richmond than we would be even if we should take Gordonsville. On the Gordonsville line the enemy, in my opinion, would not give us a decisive battle at any place this side of Richmond. They would defend Gordonsville until such time as they felt they had given us a check, and then, with so many lines of railroad open to them, they would move upon Richmond or upon Lynchburg, and in either case the difficulty of following them would be very great.

TESTIMONY OF GEN. SUMNER.

In reply to the following question, he said:

Question. Would it have been better, in your judgment, to have crossed the river and engaged the enemy earlier than you did, and if so, why was it not done?

Answer. When Gen. Burnside was ordered to take command of this army he told me what he proposed to do, that is, to march on Fredericksburg instead of on Culpeper. I thought that was the wisest plan, for these reasons: If we had marched on Culpeper, according to the former plan, even if we had been successful, we would have had to fall back for supplies; whereas, by coming on this line, on reaching Fredericksburg I confidently expected to take the heights in the rear of it before the army of the enemy would come from Culpeper, and I thought the chance of making Richmond was much better than by going the other way, because if the pontoons had been here on my arrival, and in time for me to have crossed and occupied the heights in the rear of Fredericksburg before the enemy could mask them, we should have kept pursuing the enemy off from this line of railroad, keeping it in our own possession; and if we could not have preceded them in Richmond, we could have kept so close to them that they would have had no time to build fortifications. These were the reasons why I thought it was a very judicious measure on the part of General Burnside to change the base of operations instead of advancing on Culpeper, which I believe Gen. McClellan intended to have done.

On the night of the 17th of November I sent a note to Gen. Burnside, who was some eight or ten miles distant, asking him, if I should take Fredericksburg in the morning should I be able to find a practicable ford, which, by the way, I knew, when I wrote the note, that I could find. The General replied, through his chief of staff, that he did not think it advisable to occupy Fredericksburg until his communications were established, and, on reflection, I myself thought it was right—that it was prudent and proper to have the bridges ready before we occupied Fredericksburg. I think I could have taken that city and the heights on the other side of it any time within three days after my arrival here, if the pontoons had been here, for I do not think there was much force of the enemy here up to that time. With regard to the delay in making the attack, I do not think that the movement could have been made sooner than it was made.

The first proposition to cross the river was to cross at Skinker's neck. It seemed to me that you could scarcely cross a river in the face of an enemy of equal or superior force except by surprise. Therefore after the preparations were made to cross at Skinker's neck, after a large number of wagons had been sent by the general down there, in order to deceive the enemy, I was decidedly in favor of throwing the bridges over here and carry the town as we did carry it, which was by surprise, as the enemy were massing their troops down below, expecting we were going to cross down there. I was in favor of crossing the Rappahannock, because neither our people would be satisfied to have our army to retire from this position or go into winter quarters until we knew the force that was on the other side of the river; and the only way in which we could have that was by going over there and feeling of them. I think it was necessary to have made the attack on that day—on Saturday. And it was necessary, therefore, to attack them in their strong works, and the repulse was what frequently happens in campaigns. The works were stronger than we believed them to be. I knew it was a very hazardous movement; but I did believe that we could carry the enemy's works. The attack failed, owing to the enemy's fortifications being much more formidable than we had supposed them to be.

He was, perhaps, the only officer who was in favor of holding Fredericksburg. He did not know why the pontoon bridges did not arrive in season, but if they had been there when he came, he should have taken the crest in rear of the town on that night, or the following day—not considering Fredericksburg as being of any consequence, except as being on the road to Richmond.

Question. What reasons do you assign for not crossing, either above or below, where the enemy have fortified?

Answer. The reason was this: We did not attempt to turn their left flank, because there is there a slack-water navigation, taken out of the river some two miles above here, and brought within the basin at the upper end of the town, that runs along at a considerable distance from the Rappahannock. In making the movement to turn the enemy's left flank, if a force had been sent up between the river and canal, the canal would have to be crossed, and to do so, it would be necessary to bridge it. The only way to have made that movement, would have been to have gone entirely on the left of that canal, and that would have exposed the troops all the way up to a fire upon their flank from the batteries which had been erected all along up there, without our being able to return their fire at all.

Our loss he estimates about 10,000. He thought there was too much crossing in the army and not sufficient confidence, though, with great exertion, he thought the army would be in excellent order again.

Major General W. B. Franklin was next examined.

He thought the arrangements for crossing the river were all well made, but he always doubted our power to cross at the points indicated, and did not believe that the army could have crossed had the enemy chosen to prevent it.

In regard to the pontoon bridges, he said:

"*Whoever is responsible for that delay is responsible for all the disasters which have followed.* We were rather astonished, when we came down here, to find that Sumner had been here for some days, and had not received the pontoon bridges. I think that is the main cause for this disaster."

It was expected that the pontoon bridges would be ready on the arrival of the First army corps, when that corps was to have crossed at once and taken possession of the heights. If the pontoons had been there, there would have been very little difficulty in doing that.

MAJOR GENERAL HOOKER'S TESTIMONY.

Either General Halleck or General Meigs said, in the consultation which was had with General Burnside, November 11th, that he thought he could have all the pontoons and everything ready on this side in three days.

There were only five hundred rebels in Fredericksburg when Franklin's advance arrived.

MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK'S TESTIMONY.

All the troops in Washington and its vicinity were under the command of Gen. McClellan when he was relieved, and he issued his orders directly to the commanding officer of Washington, with one single restriction, that no troops should be moved from the command of Washington until I was notified by General McClellan or the commanding officer here. In all other respects they were all under his direction. General Burnside, when he relieved him, was told that they remained precisely the same as before. On my visit to General Burnside at Washington, on the 12th of November, in speaking about the boats and things that he required from here, I repeated to him that they were all subject to his orders, with that single exception. To prevent the necessity of the commanding officer reporting the order for the boats here, the order was drawn up upon his table, and signed by me directly to General Woodbury, on the evening of the 12th, I think, the evening that I was here.

In conversation with Gen. Woodbury and Gen. Meigs, it was proposed that the train of pontoons should go down by land, as they could be gotten down sooner in that way without interfering with the supplies, which had to be sent to Aquia Creek. I gave no order or direction in relation to the matter, than that; all other matters were under Gen. Burnside's direction. He also informed me, while at Warrenton, that Captain Duane, chief of the engineers, had already sent an order to Harper's Ferry for the pontoon train there to go down. The order had been issued; they being under General Burnside's immediate and direct command, I did not interfere at all in relation to them.

Question. Do you know whether there was any delay in starting them, or in their progress there?

Answer. I heard that there was a delay from the steamers getting around with the pontoons, and there was a delay, as I understand, in the train going down by land, on account of the difficulty of the roads, and the inexperience, perhaps, of the officers in command, and it had to be taken by water part of the way. It could not get through by land. I considered, from the reports I received, that these delays resulted mainly from accident, and the elements that no man had any control over.

Question. Was there any request for you to delay the advance of the men until the boats arrived, or anything of that kind?

Answer. No, sir; I remember this, that Gen. Woodbury, in conversation with me, said that Gen. Burnside could not get down for several days after I told him, and that he could not land all boats until General Burnside arrived. I think I remarked to him that I did not know exactly the day when General Burnside would move, that I could not tell him, as the general did not know himself. I understood that there was considerable delay in getting the boats from Aquia down to the Rappahannock river on account of the bad roads, difficulty of transportation, etc., but no other delay than that which would naturally occur over a rough country like that. We could not commence the repairs of the railroad until General Burnside took possession of it, as it was all in the possession of the enemy.

Question. When you were at Warrenton Gen. Burnside had just assumed the command of the army of the Potomac?

Answer. Five days before, I think.

Question. Was there, or not, any agreement or understanding between you and Gen. Burnside, when you were at Warrenton, that the pontoons or army stores, or either of them, should be furnished to him by the authorities here, without his looking after them himself?

Answer. No, sir.

Question. I will say army stores necessary for him to cross the river and move forward for Fredericksburg?

Answer. Yes, sir. I requested Gen. Meigs, as chief quartermaster, and Gen. Haupt, in charge of the railroad, to go with me to consult with Gen. Burnside, and told him that everything was at his disposition, he had only to make his requisitions and give the men notice. I would not interfere except to assist in carrying his own views into effect.

Question. When you were there, was the time considered that it would take to move the army from where it was to Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg?

Answer. No, sir, for it was not determined at that time that the movement should be made.

Question. Was it not determined that it should be made, provided the President assented to it?

Answer. Yes, sir; and he was immediately to commence his preparations as though it had been assented to, until telegraphed to the contrary, but not to make any movements.

Question. Do you recollect whether or not there was any discussion when you were there, as to the point that it was necessary that the pontoons and the army should arrive at Falmouth at the same period of time, so that the enemy should not know the point designated for the crossing?

Answer. I do not think that was mentioned. This matter, I know, was mentioned, that the pontoons should be there as soon as they could after he had got possession of the road, so that they could be taken down.

Question. Since General Burnside has been in command of the army of the Potomac, have all his movements been made according to his judgment and discretion, so far as you know?

Answer. Yes, sir, entirely.

By Mr. Wright:

Question. I understand you to say, General, that the delay in the bridges, you think, was caused by the elements and the inefficiency of men, and that there is nobody to blame that you know of.

Answer. I will not say inefficiency of men, but I will say this: that Gen. Burnside reported to me that the officer in command of the land train had not been as efficient as he ought to have been; but he afterwards modified that report. I told him to arrest any person who had neglected his duty and send him to Washington immediately, and he said that he did not think it necessary.

By the Chairman:

Question. One more question is suggested to me which I will put. It is whether you were requested to repair that road before the army left Harper's Ferry, by Gen. McClellan?

Answer. If, at any time, any suggestion of that kind was made to me, it was made with reference to some future time, and not as to any immediate action.

TESTIMONY OF BRIG. GEN. D. P. WOODBURY.

The advance of the army arrived at Falmouth on the 17th.

Gen. Halleck's order to me, of the 13th, made it apparent the army was preparing to march to Fredericksburg.

With the very short notice given to me there was only one possible way of supplying the army with a pontoon train in time. Had the emergency been made known to me in any manner, I could have disregarded the forms of service—seized teams, teamsters and wagon masters, for instant service, wherever I could find them. Then, with good roads and good weather, they might possibly have been in time. But I had no warrant for such a course, which, after all, could only have been carried out by the authority of the General-in-Chief.

The department of which General Meigs is chief cannot be justly blamed in this matter. My requisitions for horses were answered immediately.

GEN. MEIGS'S TESTIMONY.

When Gen. Burnside showed me his plan of campaign, I found, as I remember now, that there was provision that the pontoons themselves should march by land to meet him, exactly at what time I am not able to say, but any expectation that a pontoon train should be at Falmouth when the army arrived there, would necessarily be disappointed, in my opinion. No pontoon train could go to Falmouth without a sufficient guard to drive out the enemy's pickets; and if it got there before the army, the enemy would have captured it.

A LETTER WRITER who dates from Khartoum on the White Nile, says that the legitimate trade of that place has given way to a traffic in slaves and ivory. The manner of obtaining the former is this: The merchant in Khartoum sends a large party of armed men in sailing vessels, who attack a prosperous village, kill or drive away the men, and capture the women and children. The ivory is obtained by an equally respectable, but more elaborate method. At the same time the slaves are taken, as above stated, large numbers of cattle are caught; they furnish the merchant's capital. He sends them, under conduct of his armed force, into the interior, among tribes rich in ivory. If a tribe happens to be too weak to defend itself, its ivory is stolen at once. If it is strong enough to successfully resist the theft, the property is procured by bartering the cattle for it. When all the trader's cattle are gone, in exchange for ivory, he leagues himself with a neighboring tribe, and robs his last customers of the cattle he has sold them. With his stock thus replenished, he pays his allies and buys more ivory. Having a second time exhausted his stock, he makes a new alliance and steals back the cattle. When a sufficient cargo has been procured, the expedition returns.

THE rotten transport Niagara, of Banks' expedition, is regarded as a genuine curiosity in Philadelphia. Visitors inspect her in crowds and take away pieces of her rotten timbers as relics. The five companies of the Fifteenth Massachusetts which were on board of her, have been assigned quarters on shore, where they will await the arrival of another transport to convey them to their destination.

WHAT COMES OF ATTEMPTING TO RUN THE BLOCKADE.—Our blockading squadron has seized 542 vessels while attempting to run the blockade. They are worth $40,000,000.

OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 19th, 1862.

Releases from the draft, on the ground of alienage, have been allowed in the following cases:

Name.	*Where Drafted.*
Frederick Ludwig	Baltimore county, Md.
Frederick Andrews	do do
Carl Winkler	do do
Heinrich Wellbrenner	do do
Albert Mehler	do do
Henry Magsamen	do do
Joseph Mace	Prince George's co., do
Frank Greaner	Baltimore county, do
Christ'n W. Gebensleben	do do
Frederick Gabrio	do do
Nathan Berwin	do do
Johannes Baeta	do do
Conrad Bobb	do do
Richard Upmann	do do
Henry Reuther	do do
Cornelius Rist	do do
Daniel Freyer	Clearfield county, Penn
Nicholas Kiolz	Kenosha county, Wis.
William Stewart	Erie county, Penn.
Zacharias Rohrmann	Baltimore county, Md.
Michael Selmaier	do do
Valentine Schoppert	do do
Michael Kopp	do do
Jacob Klingler	do do
Heinrich Hohlbein	do do
	December 20, 1862.
Vincenzo Lobrisco	Queen Anne's co., Md.
Charles Schleim	Anne Arundel co., do
Johann Heinrich Falk	Dodge county, Wis.
Hermann Beilhe	do do
J. August Kleinfeldt	do do
Nicholas Grasser	Kenosha county, do
George Niedar	do do
Application Denied.	
James McDermod	Washington co., Wis.
	December 22, 1862.
Wilhelm Prenese	Dodge county, Wis.
John Ohlinger	do do
Peter Hauf	do do
Nicholas Hengel	Waukesha co., do
Applications Denied.	
John Henblein	Dodge county, Wis.
Martin Peter	do do
François Deslazes	do do

OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 25, 1862.

The Secretary of State will hereafter receive members of Congress on business on Saturdays, commencing with Saturday, the first of next month.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

[illegible]

[illegible] 23, 1862.

The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate, a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting his annual financial report.

Also, a communication in regard to amounts due to the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottowatomie Indians.

Also, a message from the President, transmitting the report of Hon. Reverdy Johnson, United States Commissioner at New Orleans.

The concurrent resolution from the House, that the House adjourn from Tuesday the 23d, to the first Monday in January, was then taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN moved to amend, so as to make it a joint resolution adjourning both houses, until the first Monday in January.

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution, as amended, agreed to:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Arnold, Bayard, Browning, Chandler, Cowan, Davis, Field, Foot, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Kennedy, King, Lane of Ind., Lane of Kansas, McDougall, Nesmith, Pomeroy, Powell, Salisbury, Sherman, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Wilkinson, and Wilmot of Md.—32.

NAYS—Messrs. Clark, Collamer, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Howe, Latham, Trumbull, Willey, Wilson of Mass., and Wright—14.

Mr. HOWARD introduced a bill to amend the act to amend the judicial system of the United States. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. McDOUGALL introduced a bill to amend the act to aid in constructing railroads and telegraph lines to the Pacific Ocean. Referred to a select committee.

Mr. HALE offered a resolution, that the committee appointed to inquire into the chartering of the transports for the Banks expedition, be also instructed to inquire into the employment of transports generally by the quartermasters or agents of the War Department, the rates at which they were engaged, by whom, for what purpose, and for how long. Adopted.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, gave notice of a bill to authorize the President to raise 200 regiments of infantry, composed of persons of African descent.

Mr. SUMNER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill for the relief of the owners of the Norwegian barque Admiral P. Tordenskiold.

Also, the correspondence with the Department of State on the subject.

Mr. SAULSBURY'S resolution, inquiring whether any troops had been sent into the State of Delaware at the late elections, was then taken up and discussed till the expiration of the morning hour, when the bankrupt bill, being the special order, was taken up.

Mr. DOOLITTLE offered an amendment exempting the real and personal property that is exempt by the State laws where the bankrupt resides, and spoke briefly in favor of the amendment, contending it was necessary to exempt homesteads, and that the amendment was in no way liable to the charge of unconstitutionality.

The amendment was rejected—yeas 11, nays 26.

Mr. TRUMBULL offered an amendment to strike out the words "exempting banking and railroad corporations" from the provisions of the bill for compulsory bankruptcy. He said the laboring people of Illinois had lost five million dollars, in less than five years, by those banking corporations. In no way have the people lost more or been cheated worse. The amendment was rejected—yeas 17, nays 18.

Mr. COLLAMER offered an amendment exempting municipal corporations from that provision of the bill. Adopted.

Also, an amendment to exempt literary, religious, and eleemosynary institutions.

Mr. HALE objected to exempting charitable institutions, for he thought no such institution ought to get in debt, in order to give charity. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. WADE, from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, made a report relative to the late battle at Fredericksburg, which was ordered to be printed.

The Senate then went into executive session; after which it adjourned till the 5th January.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. PENDLETON rose to a question of privilege. From the reading of the journal he found that the protest, being a portion of the resolution offered by him yesterday, was not entered on the journal. He claimed that the whole of the resolution and the protest should have been entered and that the journal be corrected. First, for the reason that an essential and important part of his resolution did not appear, and secondly, that by the action of the House the House had determined to entertain the question hereafter, and therefore the whole question ought to have been put on the journal.

The SPEAKER overruled the point, and through the Clerk, quoted precedents to sustain his ruling. The sustainment of a motion to lay on the table was by the rule of the House decisive of the fate of the question at issue, that it shall not be again entertained by the House. The journal of the first session of the Twenty-ninth Congress was read as a precedent to this ruling.

Mr. PENDLETON appealed from the decision of the Speaker, which was sustained by a vote of yeas and nays—yeas 74, nays 20.

The SPEAKER reported communications from the Secretary of the Interior. One, setting forth the amount due to the Chippewa, Cherokee and other Indians residing in the Northwest. Also, an annual account of balances due to the credit of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. STEVENS reported back, with Senate amendments, the bill providing for the internal revenue for the support of the Government and the payment of the interest on the public debt. The amendments were concurred in and the bill passed.

Mr. BINGHAM moved for the reconsideration of the vote by which the Senate bill for the holding of circuit courts in Wisconsin was passed. Adopted.

He then offered a substitute to the bill, which was passed, fixing Milwaukee and Madison as the places for holding said circuit courts.

The Senate reported concurrence in House resolution of the day previous, that when both Houses adjourn they adjourn to meet on the first Monday in January next.

Mr. COLFAX, from the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, reported adversely to a resolution extending the franking privilege to assessors on internal revenue.

Mr. BLAKE, from the same committee, reported, and moved to have put upon its passage, the bill establishing postal money orders. Passed.

Mr. WILSON sent to the Clerk's desk a letter purporting to have been written by J. C. G. Kennedy, Superintendent of the Census Bureau, addressed to J. Thompson, late Secretary of the Interior Department, which was read, with the accompanying preamble and resolution:

And, whereas, the said Kennedy has written other letters and held communications exhibiting a want of sympathy with the Government in its present struggle to suppress rebellion:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire whether the said Kennedy is the author of the said letter, and whether the other statements are true as reported to the House, and into all the facts connected with the several letters and statements, and whether he still holds office under the Government, and to send for persons and papers.

Adopted.

On motion of Mr. MOORHEAD, the following was agreed to:

Resolved, That the use of this Hall be granted to J. E. Murdoch, for one evening during the recess, to give Shakspearean readings, the entire proceeds of which shall be devoted to the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of the Republic.

The House, on motion of Mr. ALDRICH, went into Committee of the Whole on the bill to annul existing treaties with certain bands of Sioux Indians, and to provide relief for sufferers by Indian raids in Minnesota. The bill appropriates $1,500,000 for such relief, and provides that it shall be paid out of the funds held in trust by the United States for the offending tribes.

Mr. ALDRICH stated that ten thousand persons, in consequence of the devastation of the savages, were at the present moment in Minnesota, subsisting on charity, and there was urgent need for the passage of the bill.

Mr. WINDOM addressed the committee in support of the bill, with some slight modifications.

The committee rose, when the bill was reported to the House.

A vote was taken on the passage of the bill, which was lost, no quorum voting—yeas 84, nays 18.

On motion of Mr. ALDRICH, the House again went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, when

Mr. W. J. ALLEN proceeded to address the committee. He contended against the sending [illegible] of [illegible] troops into the State of Illinois, [illegible] of that State. He [illegible] believed that the war should have been [illegible] and denounced those who were engaged in it. He hated abolitionists and secessionists alike, as the enemies of the country. The Government should have honorably compensated those who were engaged in it. He had voted against the Morrill resolutions, offered on the fifth day of the session, and for taking so he had been pursued by all the mendacious in the employ of the Government, all over the country.

The committee then rose, and the House resumed.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM said that the resolution offered by him on the previous day, and which, by a vote of the House, had been laid on the table, was almost a transcript of an amendment to a resolution proposed in answer to the king's speech to Parliament, in 1797, by the Marquis of Granby. His resolution would probably share the same fate. The resolution of the Marquis of Granby was rejected in the third year of the Revolution, by a vote of 145 to 68. That war went on, and ended, as all know, in a few years, in the eternal separation of the British colonies. As far as he was concerned, he hoped no similar issue would be the result of the act of this Congress.

The House then adjourned to the first Monday in January next.

SEE a woman in another column picking Bambuel Grapes, for Spear's Wine. It is an admirable article, used in hospitals, and by the first families in Paris, London and New York, in preference to old Port Wine. It is worth a trial, as it gives great satisfaction. if

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ORPHANS' COURT.

District of Columbia, Washington county, to wit:

In the case of John Quinn, administrator of Philip McGrath, deceased, the administrator aforesaid has, with the approbation of the Orphans' Court of Washington county aforesaid, appointed Saturday, the 17th day of January next, for the final settlement and distribution of the personal estate of said deceased, and of the assets in hand, as far as the same have been collected and turned into money; when and where all the creditors and heirs of said deceased are notified to attend, (at the Orphans' Court of Washington county aforesaid,) with their claims properly vouched, or they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit in said deceased's estate: provided a copy of this order be published once a week for three weeks in the *National Republican* previous to the said 17th day of January, 1863.

Z. C. ROBBINS,
Register of Wills.
de 24—law3w*

MEET me at 2 o'clock to-morrow, and dine at Markham's.

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SICK AND WOUNDED OFFICERS.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, Dec. 16, 1862.

Sick and wounded Officers of the Regular Army in this city will call on Surgeon J. K. Barnes, U. S. Army, for professional attendance. Office No. 286 H street.

Sick and wounded Officers of Volunteers in this city will call on Surgeon M. Clymer, U. S. Volunteers, for professional attendance. Office 205 Pennsylvania avenue.

The above named Surgeons are specially assigned to this duty.

JOSEPH R. SMITH,
Acting Surgeon General.

dec 18—dtf

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

ERRORS INDICATED IN THE REPORT OF GEN. BURNSIDE, &c.

MEETING OF THE RAILROAD COMPANIES.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
December 23, 1862.

By comparing an official copy of Gen. Burnside's report to Gen. Halleck, with the publication of the same in the Washington papers of this morning, several important errors are noticed. In the first paragraph, last line but one, the word "to" should be substituted for "by," reading thus: "Indicated to you," instead of "by you." The tenth paragraph, as printed erroneously, terminates in the middle of a sentence. It should read as follows: "I will write you very soon and give more definite information, and finally, will send you my detailed report, in which a special acknowledg