National Republican.

VOL. XIV. WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 23, 1873. NO. 23.

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—TWO HOUSES, ONE SEVEN rooms and one eight rooms. Each has cellar, water, gas, sewerage, and slate and frost varnish. Houses painted in complete order. Apply at 48 Louisiana avenue.

FOR RENT—NEW STORE AND DWELLING, 1340, brick handsomely finished, on Third street, between G street and Indiana avenue. Also, store and house, containing six rooms, well located, on Pennsylvania avenue, between First and Second streets southeast; rent low. Inquire at No. 229 second street southeast.

FOR RENT—THE LARGE, WELL LIGHTed front room over Tent's store, lately occupied by the agency of the Sebenkaer Piano Company. A lease, which will expire April 1, 1874, will be transferred to a responsible tenant. Apply to MILES DEAN, attorney-at-law, southeast corner Seventh street and Louisiana avenue.

FOR RENT—SOME VERY DESIRABLE FURNISHED HOUSES, in good locations, No. 520 First street east, fifteen rooms, $70; 452 B street, between Sixth and Seventh, ten rooms, $50; unfurnished, 458 E street, between Sixth and Seventh, gas and water, eleven rooms, $35; No. 213 Tenth street northwest, eleven rooms, $60; No. 411 F street, between Fourth and Fifth, three-story brick, gas and water, nine rooms, $35; No. 22 D street, between South Capitol and New Jersey avenue, nine rooms, $25; No. 27 H street, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth, island, nine rooms, $25. THOS. E. WADDAMAN, 249 Seventh street.

AT 1333 I STREET, NEAR THE ARLINGton, north side, the second floor, well-furnished Parlor and Bedroom, both directly adjoining; windows both north and south. All conveniences. Terms moderate; ready 1st of January, or before if wanted.

THREE ROOMS FOR RENT, IN A NEW brick house, No. 50 Rhode Island avenue and Seventh street. Rent $10.50, in advance. Water in the house and all the conveniences for housekeeping. Inquire at 6 o'clock p. m.

MADAME DEARIEU OFFERS FOR RENT, at No. 620 street, near Tenth, elegantly furnished APARTMENTS, en suite or single; bath, hot and cold water, &c.

FOR RENT—PLEASANT ROOMS ON CAPitol Hill. Apply at No. 23 north B street, near Delaware avenue.

FOR RENT—TWO LARGE, NICELY FURnished ROOMS, at No. 1216 G street northwest.

STORES NO. 323 AND 325 NINTH STREET for rent. Apply to M. HAYWARD & CO., or D. MOORE.

FOR RENT—PARLOR, WITH CHAMBER attached, at No. 336 E street, with a small private family. Terms reasonable. References required. Also, front room on second floor.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—A FINE DRIVING HORSE; owner having no further use for him, a rare great bargain offered; a bona fide offer will be seen any day at 1003 Seventh street, corner of I northwest.

FOR SALE CHEAP IF SOLD AT ONCE.—Special inquiries invited. Will exchange one to suit. Inquire at Hope No. 11, Plant's Building, northeast corner of Fifteenth street and New York avenue.

COLONEL FAIRFAX, OF VIRGINIA, HAS for sale, at Stalling's, on Saturday, 27th, a beautiful HORSE of his own, raising—one pair of Bays, thoroughbred; one bobby Pony, suitable for a Christmas gift; one pair of coach Horses.

FOR SALE—FIVE-STORY AND MANsard roof BRICK HOUSES, containing eight rooms, modern bath-rooms and other modern conveniences; heated by grates and Latrobe stoves. These houses are located on C street south, next to corner of Fourth street east; wooden pavement in front. District of Columbia securities taken in pay at market rates. Possession given on Monday, 22d, 9 a. m., to WILLIAM B. TODD, Attorney-at-Law, 319 Four-and-a-half street northwest, or WILLIAM H. BARBIER, 102 A street southeast.

FOR SALE AT A SACRIFICE—THE FRAME DWELLING No. 224 Tenth street northwest. A. DAVIS & SON, No. 315 Seventh street, opposite Patent Office.

FOR SALE—TWO VERY COMFORTABLE SMALL BRICK HOUSES, situated on Hope Island avenue, between Tenth and Eleventh streets west; 2,000 each. Beautiful building lots, on Fifth street, between E street north and New Jersey avenue; $2,000. A desirable Frame, seven rooms, gas and water, lot 25 feet front, on Second street, between Congress and Washington streets, Georgetown; $3,000. A three-story Brick, all modern conveniences, situated on Fourth street, between First and Second streets east; $7,000. A three-story Brick, seventeen rooms, hot and cold water, located on Second street, between Third street north E and F streets; $10,000. THOS. E. WADDAMAN, 249 Seventh street.

FOR SALE—A NEW AND HANDSOME DWELLING, on Tenth street, between N and O northwest. Has all the modern conveniences, and will be sold at a bargain. A. DAVIS & SON, No. 315 Seventh street, Opposite Patent Office.

FOR SALE—A LARGE LIST OF DESIRABLE Building LOTS, at panic prices, and on easy terms. THOS. E. WADDAMAN, 249 Seventh street.

FOR SALE—TWO HOUSES, AT $10,000 each, four at $9,000, several at $8,000, many at $6,000, and a large number at $4,000 and $5,000, well located and at a bargain. Good titles given.

WANTS.

WANTED—A FARMER TO TAKE charge of a farm, three miles from the Boundary, on the Marlboro' road; contains a good barn, good house, young orchard, fine spring and good soil. Reasonable terms will be given. Address, Q. L. PAGE, 487 street southwest.

WANTED—ABLE-BODIED MEN, BETWEEN the ages of 18 and 35 years, for the United States Marine Corps. Apply at the Marine Barracks, Norfolk Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.

First Lieutenant U. S. Marine Corps, Commanding Post.

FURNISH EMPLOYMENT OFFICE, NO. 519 street, between Eleventh and Twelfth. MRS. LOUISA C. BUTLER.

ALL KINDS OF CAST-OFF WEARING APPAREL can be sold to the very best advantage by addressing or calling on JUSTH, 619 D street, between Sixth and Seventh northwest. Notes by mail promptly attended to. Cash paid.

NOTICE—THAT E. S. JUSTH, 619 D street, between Sixth and Seventh streets northwest, sells custom-made second-hand Clothing at less than half the cost of ready-made new ones. N. B.—Second-hand clothing of all kinds bought at fair cash prices.

WANTED—EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT the popular Sewing Machine "VICTOR" has its needle self-setting, the most perfect shuttle in use, resting on a carrier; needle-bar and works of steel; easy running, simple, and durable; the most desirable machine for all work in use. Agency No. 405 Pennsylvania avenue, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets. Also agent for Demorest's Patterns. T. W. SPICER, Agent.

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST—A NEWFOUNDLAND DOG, ALL black, excepting a white spot on the breast. Had on a leather collar with name, "Nap." If returned to 457 street southwest, between Maryland avenue and L street, he will be suitably rewarded.

PERSONAL.

GODEN'S HOUSEFURNISHING STORE, 345 Seventh street, near Pennsylvania avenue. Useful Housekeeping Articles at low prices. Plated Ware, of excellent quality, at cost.

TAX BILLS FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEments and for sewers, collected at a discount of twenty-five to thirty-five per cent, by the ROGERS BUSINESS COMPANY, 455 Seventh street.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

GOOD INVESTMENT FOR TAX-PAYERS.

The general improvement and sewer taxes will be paid at the very lowest rates. Tax bills under give paid at a large discount. Information cheerfully furnished. Call on or address

D. B. WARNER, Real Estate Broker, 425 Seventh street.

TO CAPITALISTS OR OTHERS DESIRING to embark one or more thousand dollars in a new but profitable business, which is genuine in this city, can hear an interview by addressing or call in full to J. H. K., 242 Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, D. C.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

That Ladies or Gentlemen will get the BEST CASH PRICE for their Cast-off Clothing, Boots, Shoes, &c., by calling or addressing M. WALSKY, 519 D street, near Eighth and Ninth northwest. All orders by mail will be promptly attended to.

"OLD DR. DARBY HAS BETTER FACILIties than ever for practicing his great specialty. Only one charge made for advice and medicine. Cures guaranteed. Five-and-a-half street and Pennsylvania avenue, (Colonization Building.)

HAS REMOVED TO NO. 625 LOUISIANA avenue, August 1, and opened with a fine stock of tinware, Pitcher, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods.

JOHN J. PEABODY.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1873—1 a. m.

PROBABILITIES.

For New England and thence westward over the northern portion of the Middle States and the Lower Lake region, clear or partly cloudy weather with low temperature will prevail during the early portion of the day, followed by increasing cloudiness and threatening weather in the Lower Lake region by Wednesday morning. For the southern portion of the Middle States and thence southward along the coast, fair and cloudy weather with areas of rain or snow, and fresh to brisk northeasterly to variable winds on the immediate coast. For the Eastern Gulf States and Tennessee, fair weather for the day, followed by cloudiness and threatening weather in the Ohio valley, northerly to westerly winds and generally cloudy weather and rain, followed by clearing weather in the Lower Mississippi valley. For the northwest and the upper Lake region, fair weather with slight changes in the temperature and partly cloudy weather, except from Lake Michigan southwestward to the Missouri valley. In this region threatening weather and rain or snow will prevail by Wednesday morning. In New York and Pennsylvania the temperature will remain below freezing.

ROSS TWEED AND HIS BOOK.

The New York World recently contained the following in regard to the publication of an autobiography by Wm. M. Tweed:

A few days since a conversation took place between Tweed and a World reporter in regard to a subject of very grave importance doubtless to a number of gentlemen who would probably sleep much sounder to-night had the "More" replied in the affirmative. Said Tweed:

"What is your intention, Mr. Tweed," asked the informant alluded to, "about the book it has been said you were about to write or dictate? Do you really propose to publish a book giving a full account of all the remarkable transactions in which certain prominent gentlemen were engaged?"

"No!" said Tweed, shaking his grizzled head emphatically from side to side. "Oh, no! I think not! but then——" (here he set his teeth together, giving his features a look of bitterness and determination, and his big, deep voice settled to a grave whisper) "I don't know! I don't know."

Just at this point the conversation was interrupted, and what more he intended to add is left to conjecture. There is a widespread desire to know the secrets locked up in this man's retentive memory. Many tremble at the possibility that the cool reserve which alone stands between them and their just doom may at length be broken. The fear that Tweed may blurt out a fearly give way before obloquy is a prevailing sentiment in certain quarters at present.

In this connection it may be mentioned that Tweed is recent of propositions from publishers, not only in this country but in England, where with each other in their efforts to secure the publication of his forthcoming work. A well-known London editor has written a letter, in which he ventures the opinion that the inquiries-tite editions of Uncle Tom's Cabin would sink into insignificance compared with the probable sale of Tweed's confessions in London. How long he will be able to withstand this pressure remains to be seen.

VIRGINIA ITEMS.

The dinner-bell of George Washington's mother was recently sold at auction. It has a sweet silvery sound, weighs six pounds, and bears date of 1607.

Mrs. Matilda Lewis, wife of a colored preacher at Liberty, has eloped with Deacon Sam Richardson, of the Second Baptist church of Lynchburg, both parties leaving families. Divorce applied for.

A Richmond (Va.) firm of colored people manufacture sassafras oil on a large scale. Forty thousand pounds of the root are used every week, producing eight thousand pounds of rectifying oil. It is used for scenting toilet soaps, flavoring tobacco, and the like.

Mr. R. Hale, a well-known carpenter of City Point, is missing. About the last instant he went to Fortress Monroe to collect $600. He has only been heard from once since, when he said he was about to return home. He has a wife and children, who are in great alarm about him.

Judge McLoughlin has granted a charter to the Feather Gap Iron Company, the principal office of which is to be in Staunton. The officers are Wm. R. Johnson, of Richmond, president, superintendent, and treasurer; Samuel Cole, of Hartford, Ct., Howell Fisher, John Echols, H. M. Bell, and R. H. Catlett, of Staunton, directors, and H. M. Bell, secretary. The shipment capacity is 300 tons per day, the amount of land not to exceed two thousand acres.

The Petersburg News complains that the colored people of Sussex and other counties refuse to labor at any price. They have been offered 75 cents to $1 per day's picking cotton and pound peas, but will not do it. The News thinks that this should not be tolerated by "our people," (meaning white people.) Those who will not work should be made to. It is a question if this rule was applied to the whites in Virginia, how long would it take to depopulate the State of what is called its best blood?

Mr. Taylor Martin, living near Blacksburg, found on his farm, a few days since, his much-annoyed terrapin, indorsed as follows: "Wm. Snidow, 1766; John Martin, 1811; Christian Martin, 1848." These names were cut upon the shell with a knife. John Martin was a nephew of Wm. Snidow, and Christian was a son of John. This ancient tortoise has been a family pet since 1795, when he was first found and marked by Wm. Snidow. Although found each time in the same piece of ground, (about five acres,) he has been seen only at the above intervals, ranging from 12 to 28 years.

The venerable Thomas P. Atkinson thus settles the vexed question of the authorship of "Comin Sally Dillard:" "As it is known, therefore, by every North Carolinian and Virginian, and by "all the rest of mankind," that the late Richard Claiborne, formerly of Northampton county, Va., who lived near Mann's Hill, on the road leading from the court-house of said county, to Harper's bridge, on the Nottoway river, was the veritable author of this celebrated generative of a song which is said to have been first composed in the old District Court of Brunswick county, in this State, in which Judge Tucker presided.

The Pikeville Herald says: "Mr. Allen Ferguson, of Amsterdam, Virginia, who is seventy-two years of age, lately purchased a farm in Appomattox county, who will be one hundred years of age on the 8th of January next. The good old lady was delighted to see her boy, and to promote his comfort, set diligently into industrious, social feature of Virginia character yet glowing in her own heart, determined to give him a party, which she did by inviting seven of Allen's schoolmates to dine. Of the eight schoolboys that brought together Allen was the youngest, the other seven ranging in age from seventy-five to eighty-five years. Among other topics discussed at the dinner-table that of geography was introduced, and it was the united testimony of the party that most of our modern health-destroying diseases are due to the Jamestown bills of fare now commonly found throughout the country, and that "dog and hominy are the best promoters of health and long life."

CAPITOL AND DEPARTMENT.

CAPITOL NEWS GLEANED BY REPUBLICAN REPORTERS.

THE EUROPEAN MAIL CONTROVERSY—PARING DOWN DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES—PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FORCES—THE PACIFIC RAILROADS—INTER-STATE COMMERCE—THE BANKRUPT LAW.

The Postmaster General has given audience to the representatives of the principal lines of ocean steamers who desire to carry the mails during the next year.

Samuel G. Nicholson, agent, and Col. Girard, counsel for the Inman company, urged as reason why they should be given the Saturday mails, that they had, until superseded by the White Star line, carried the United States mails for twenty-two years with fidelity and security; that they would soon have three new vessels which would surpass all others in speed, and that the southern course taken by their ships was more safe than the course traversed by the White Star vessels.

J. H. Sparks, agent, and Edwards Pierrepont, counsel for the White Star line, denied the latter proposition, and asserted that they had not missed a trip since last June; that they had beaten the Inman passages 38 out of 50 trips, and that they, therefore, excelled in speed, which was the main point to be considered. Hence they claimed the right to be continued as carriers of the Saturday mails.

G. Schwab, agent of the Bremen line, said it desired to continue carrying the closed mails to the Continent, and the English mail, which was now given to it on Saturday, whenever the White Star steamers sailed early in the morning, and if the Department failed to make satisfactory arrangements with either of the other lines, it was ready also to carry the Saturday mails to Bremen if they could be delivered at Southampton. He said his line had never failed for two or three years to dispatch a steamer from New York at the hour of three p. m. on Wednesday afternoon. The White Star and all other lines running to Liverpool were obliged to sail with the tide, and frequently had to start very early in the morning, thus making the mails delivered in London only a Friday mail. He claimed that, excepting the White Star vessels, his steamers were as fast as any and more regular in their time of passage. A special judge Northampton, Massachusetts, relied on the arrival of his steamers. The difference in time of delivering the mails in London by that route, as compared with the Queenstown route, was very inconsiderable.

Charles G. Francisco, agent of the Cunard line, said that line would like to be awarded the carriage of the Wednesday mails, and in support of this request he would only refer to its established reputation.

Mr. Meyer, in behalf of the Hamburg-American line, wished that line to be designated for conveying the mails to England every Thursday by way of Plymouth. He also referred to the good record of his company, and stated that the mails would reach Plymouth regularly on Saturday, and be delivered in London on the following Monday morning.

Mr. Kuhne, representing the Eagle line to Hamburg, stated that although they had only one steamer at present, they would have three more by February next, and then would be able to perform semi-monthly service. They therefore wanted a chance to carry the Thursday mail to Plymouth, Cherbourg and Hamburg.

Mr. Williams, a Union line applied by letter for continuance as carriers of the Wednesday mails.

At the conclusion of the arguments the Postmaster General announced that he had determined, as a matter of fact, securing the desideratum of speed, certainty and security in the conveyance of mails to Europe. He proposed giving the country the advantage of the fastest steamer sailing on any day of the week, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday, taking into consideration, of course, the other questions of certainty and security.

Col. Girard suggested that this would turn the ocean into a race-course and make a sort of pri-gateering business.

Mr. Creswell replied that competition and racing were doubtless as prevalent now as they could ever be.

Mr. Sparks thought it would be inadvisable to have the honor of being known as carriers of the United States mails going about from steamer to steamer.

The Postmaster General, resuming his announcement, replied that this was a matter of no consequence compared with the delay caused by the pitching in of a vessel like the Gaelic, which had arrived at Queenstown only a day before the Inman steamers sailing the same day. He repeated that all three of the elements named by him would be taken into account. His intention was to direct Mr. Blackford, superintendent of the foreign mail service, and the New York postmaster, to designate, about the 15th of each month, after a careful examination of the names, logs and general records of the competing lines, the steamer by the various lines that sail during the ensuing six months, thus which should carry the mails on each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday during the said period. These selections would be published, and changes in the steamers were made by the companies, the designation might also be changed, so as to secure for the service all possible advantages. To this end all the lines would be invited to send in full information from time to time of the performances and general records of their respective vessels. The compensation, in all cases, is to be simply the ocean postage.

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FORCE IN THE DEPARTMENTS.

Another project which the Committee on Appropriations have in view is to make careful inquiry into the work done in the several Departments in the City of Washington, for the purpose of seeing whether there cannot be a considerable reduction effected in the clerical force employed. It is reported that in most of the bureaus of the Treasury there are as many clerks now employed as in 1865 and 1866, when the great bulk of the accounts of the war were in process of settlement. In one bureau the number of employees is now one hundred greater than at that period, although the work has fallen of at least one half. It is useless to expect that the heads of bureaus will call attention themselves to the surplus force in their offices. They naturally think it magnify their importance and have a numerous retinue of subordinates about them; besides, from long association with their employees they feel that it would be an unfriendly act to recommend the discharge of any of them. As a rule, the law authorizes a certain number of deputies, clerks and messengers to be employed they go on year after year making estimates for their pay without regard to whether there is any work for them to do or not. A thorough inquiry by a committee of Congress is the only thing that will discover what relation the work done in the several Departments bears to the number of persons employed to do it.

CUTTING DOWN ESTIMATES.

The several Executive Departments of the Government will at once begin the work of revising the estimates and reducing forth in detail the public expenditures for the current year, and what estimates for the next fiscal year, can be reduced without serious detriment to the public service, is to be carefully looked to. The officers upon reassembling after the recess, in accordance with the resolution of the House of Representatives. The estimates for the running expenses of each Department, such as salaries of clerks, books, stationery, &c., which for the most part cannot be reduced, but those for work on public buildings throughout the country, erection of light-houses, &c., will be cut down extensively. The estimates for work on public buildings and light-houses for the next fiscal year amount to $10,000,000, which sum can be reduced to $5,000,000 or $4,000,000. Most of the $10,000,000 is for beginning work on the new buildings in various parts of the country, and as there is a manifest disposition in Congress not to begin any new buildings, these estimates will be omitted.

THE BIG RAILROAD JOB.

A rumor is being circulated among members of Congress that Colonel Scott left in this city last week the draft of a bill to aid the Northern Pacific and Texas Pacific railroads, providing for a loan by the Government at the two roads of $50,000,000 in bonds or $25,000,000 to each. It is also rumored that Senator Windom, of Minnesota, is to engineer the measure in the Senate, and that a combination of Western and Southern interests is now being effected in Philadelphia and New York to be ready for action immediately after the holidays. Yesterday, Senator Windom, it is claimed to have been secured for the measure. Mr. Houghton, Representative from the Southern district of California, says he will have aid to the Texas Pacific in outlines sufficient to enable the company to complete its road to Fort Worth so as to make its Texas money and land-grant subsidies available. This will probably be a middle measure proposed as a compromise.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The Government directors of the Union Pacific railroad yesterday reported to the Secretary of the Interior for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1873. The report shows that the road has vastly improved since the last report. The last fiscal year's earnings were something over $10,000,000, and the directors believe that with no exertion beyond reasonable good management the road can be made to pay $4,000,000 annually, estimating the running expense at fifty-five per cent. they say this will pay the expenses of operating the road, and pay the interest on the income, first mortgage and subsidy bonds, leaving a fifty per cent. sinking fund for redemption of the subsidy bonds, and leave $700,000 as dividends on the stock. This presumes that the land grant bonds will take care of themselves. They believe the road is completed within the meaning of the act, which requires that five per cent. of the net earnings be set aside each year after its completion. The report covers thirty-one pages of legal cap paper.

REGULATION OF COMMERCE.

The chairmen and several of the members of the House Committee on Railroads and Canals will be occupied during the recess in the consideration of the very large number of bills which have already been referred to the committee. It is hoped that by the time the House reassembles, a general railroad law may be reported to the House on the first call of the committee after the holidays. The question of the right of the General Government to charter railroad through States, under the constitutional provision for the regulation of inter-State commerce, has been considered by the committee, which will report that such right exists, and will recommend the granting of such charters. The committee will not, however, it is believed, report favorably upon the bill for a law granting a special charter for a road from Chicago to the seaboard.

ABSENT CONGRESSMEN.

The city is nearly depleted of Congressmen, who have gone to their homes for the holidays. Many of them will bring their families with them on their return and then all will settle down to the labors of the session. A very large proportion of the Thirty House has also left the city, the exercises they came to look upon. The prospects for sleighing are not at all encouraging this winter, and it is somewhat doubtful if the impecunious lobbyist will return to the attack. Much will depend upon the credulity of his backers. If they will furnish the funds in advance he will come, of course. If the services are to be rendered payable contingent only upon success, Washington will be subjected to the visitation during the absence, for a season, of many of the delectable class.

THE SALARY QUESTION.

The New York Tribune correspondent, writing from Washington, avers that Mr. Garfield intends to bring up the salary question again in the deficiency appropriation bill referring to the old House soon after the recess by moving to suspend the rules so as to enable the Appropriations Committee to insert a section in the executive, legislative and standard all the salaries that were raised by the bill of March 3. Such a motion would not be debatable, and would bring members to the test of a square vote on the measure without giving the wrong committed last winter. If the motion should carry, and it is scarcely supposable that the House would dare vote it down, however great the disposition might be to do so, the committee could save at one stroke about $1,000,000 in the appropriations contained in the bill.

CENTENNIAL STOCK.

Messrs. Clement M. Biddle and N. Parker Shortridge called upon Secretary Richardson on Saturday, with Hon. Leonard Myers, of Pennsylvania, to present for the Secretary's approval the design for the Centennial celebration certificates of stock. This design was adopted by the Centennial committee of finance and approved by the board of commissioners. Secretary Richardson's approval was required by law to make the adoption final, and, upon receiving this, the design was placed in the hands of Mr. George B. McArtee, bureau of engraving and printing, who was directed that work upon it should begin at once.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections will devote considerable time to its subject during the holiday recess, and endeavor to prepare a plan for the election of President and Vice President, upon which all can harmonize, early in the session. There have been some changes made in the component parts of the committee, caused by some delay, till all the members of the present committee have been able to consider the material that was collated last summer. There is a prospect of harmonious action.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

The Attorney General on Saturday recommended the following Ku-Klux prisoners now confined at Albany for pardon: Jackson Williams, remarking that they had been punished sufficiently, and he would try and give them a welcome Christmas present: Wm. Ramsey, confined only two years; Jesse Cohn, Willis Cover, one year, and Marion Fowler, who had been confined just one year on Saturday. They are all from South Carolina.

JUDGE DURELL'S CASE.

Representatives Wilson, of Indiana, and Eldridge, of Wisconsin, two of the street men in the House, are the subcommittee who have been appointed by the House Committee on the Judiciary to go to New Orleans and take testimony in the matter of Judge Durell, of the United States District Court. They will leave in two or three days, and expect to be absent about three weeks.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

Senators Edmunds, Thurman and Frelinghuysen, three of the ablest men and soundest lawyers in the Senate, form a subcommittee of the judiciary who will devote the recess to the formation of a bankrupt law to present as a substitute for the House bill which was passed in much great haste last week, which will be free from the objections urged against the existing law.

THE WHISKY TAX.

Hon. James H. Slater, of Virginia, has received and referred to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House, a letter from J. Bangerter & Sons, of Staunton, Virginia, the long established distillers of Bourbon and rye whiskies, recounting the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury for an increase of the tax on whisky.

NATIONALITY OF THE VIRGINIUS

OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

We present below the opinion of the Attorney General of the United States in relation to the nationality of the captured steamer Virginius, to which reference was made in THE REPUBLICAN of yesterday. From this decision it will be seen that the Virginius was not legally entitled to fly the American flag. But this fact did not, in the opinion of the Attorney General, give Spain the right to capture the steamer on the high seas. The following is the full text of the Attorney General's decision:

WASHINGTON, December 17, 1873.

Hon. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, submitting to me a large number of documents and depositions, and asking for my opinion as to whether or not the Virginius, at the time of her capture by the Spanish war vessel on the 31st of October, was entitled to carry the flag of the United States, and whether or not she was carrying it improperly and without right at that time.

This question arises on the protocol of the 20th ultimo, between the Spanish Minister and the Secretary of State, in which, among other things it is agreed that on the high seas no Spanish shall outrage the flag of the United States. But it is further agreed that if Spain should prove to the satisfaction of the United States that the Virginius was not entitled to carry the flag of the United States, and was carrying it at the time of her capture improperly, and improperly, the salute will be spontaneously tendered, and in such case not being necessarily requitable, but the United States will expect in such case a disavowal of the insult of indignity to its flag in the act which was committed.

Section one of the act of December 31, 1792, provides that ships or vessels registered pursuant to such act, "and no other, except such as shall be duly qualified to pass, shall be deemed ships or vessels of the United States, entitled to the benefits and privileges appertaining to such ships or vessels." Section two requires, among other things, that the owner, captain, and one or more sureties, but there were no sureties upon the bond given by Patterson and Shepherd. Claims have been taken to ascertain if there was any interest in the vessel, but nothing of the kind has been found. And Quesada, Varona and the other Cubans who claimed to own the Virginius, instead of going on board at the wharf in usual way, went aboard off a tug after the vessel had left the harbor of New York.

I cannot otherwise than to hold, upon this evidence, that Patterson's oath was false in that the registry obtained in his name was a fraud upon the navigation laws of the United States.

Assuming the question to be what appears to concern to the intent of the protocol, whether or not the Virginius at the time of her capture had a right, as against the United States, to carry the American flag, I am of the opinion that she had no such right, because she had not been registered according to law, but was also of the opinion that she was as much exempt from interference on the high seas by another Power on that ground, as though she had been lawfully registered. Spain, no doubt, has a right to capture a vessel with an American register and carrying the American flag, found in her own waters, assisting, or endeavoring to assist, the insurrection in Cuba; but she has no right to capture such vessel on the high seas upon an apprehension that, in violation of the neutrality or navigation laws of the United States, she was on her way to assist said rebellion. Spain may defend her territory and property from the hostile attack of what is, or appears to be, an American vessel; but she has no jurisdiction whatever over the question as to whether or not such vessel is on the high seas in violation of any law of the United States. Spain cannot rightfully raise that question as to the Virginius, but the United States may, and, as I understand the protocol, they have agreed to do it, and you erred by that agreement, and without admitting that Spain would otherwise have any interest in the question, I decide that the Virginius at the time of her capture was without right and improperly carrying the American flag.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. WILLIAMS, Attorney General.

CALIFORNIA SENATORIAL.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—At Sacramento to-day the joint convention voted for United States Senator for the short term as follows: Hager, 44; Shafter, 22; Cole, 8; Haight, 18; Pacheco, 1. There were seven absentees.

WORKINGMEN AGITATED.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

DEMANDS FOR WORK OR BREAD IN THE WEST—COMMUNISTIC IDEAS IN CHICAGO—CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES OF CINCINNATI—RIOTOUS DEMONSTRATIONS IN PHILADELPHIA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—A Chicago special says the meeting of workingmen there yesterday was very exciting. The speeches were all of an incendiary character. The speakers announced that the workingmen had met, not for political purposes, but to devise some means to bring the laboring classes out of their present terrible calamity. An organization similar to that of the grangers was urged on the meeting. Hopes were expressed, and the sentiment was loudly applauded, that the day was near at hand when an equitable division of wealth would be made.

DEMANDS AT CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—In accordance with the programme adopted at the workingmen's meeting last night, a committee appointed for the purpose went to night to the council chamber, escorted by an irregular procession, which numbered by the time it reached its destination perhaps 3,000 persons. The resolutions adopted last night were presented, asking the city to give them work, or in event of being unable to do this to furnish them and their families support until work could be obtained.

The chairman of the committee made a short speech, to the effect that the resolutions embodied all the workingmen desired of the city government and asking for their demands and a speedy answer. The resolutions were then read, and some discussion referred to a special committee, consisting of the mayor, finance committee and nine aldermen, who will to-morrow have a conference with the committee of workingmen.

Mayor Colvin made a speech, in reply to the committee, assuring them of his sympathy with the class they represented, and of his earnest desire to aid them in any practicable way.

The committee then retired, and on reaching the crowd outside the chairman reported the result of their visit, and advised them to return to their homes.

The crowd, a large proportion of which appeared to have gathered more out of curiosity than anything else, then dispersed.

DEMONSTRATION LAST NIGHT.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.—A procession of eight hundred to one thousand laboring men, mostly Germans, passed through the city last night marching through the streets. They assembled in Washington square, and sent for General Samuel F. Carr, who addressed them, counseling moderation, and reminding them that sympathy was with them as well as they were suffering from hard times. The procession went to the mayor's office, and were met by the chief of police, as the representative of the mayor. The speeches made were only exchanges of compliments, the chief assuring the procession thanked the mayor and commended sober members of the board of improvements for lowering their daily wages.

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—There is considerable excitement among the employers of longshoremen on strike among the laborers. All the steamship lines have given notice that on to-day they would only pay twenty cents per hour. All the men employed on the docks left work at one hour. The American steamship line paid thirty cents in order to unload the steamer Pennsylvania, which arrived on Saturday, and the hands continued to work. Clyde's steamer line had obtained men at twenty cents. The officers of the union, on submission of the American line as a harbinger of success, and resolved determined to force those working at lower rates to join the strikers.

BELLEFONTE DEMONSTRATIONS.

The striking iron-laborers marched along Delaware avenue, stopping at every place where men were at work, and where persuasion failed threats were made to compel the men to join them. Failing at Clyde's wharves, the rabble continued up to Kensington and there they found Revedores unloading a schooner from the West Indies laden with sugar at the new rate. Here they signally failed to induce the men to stop work, and vented their rage in beating one of the men and cutting a rope which held a sugar-head of sugar suspended in the air. It went with a terrific crash down into the hold of the vessel, fortunately without injuring any one. The police were present, but did not interfere unless requested. Later, they found an English ship unloading, and were successful in compelling the stevedores engaged upon it to stop work. At the Point wharves they found a schooner at work, and failing to intimidate them they commenced an assault. In the midst of the evening turmoil a squad of policemen appeared, dispersed the rioters, and arrested about a dozen, who were locked up.

AN ORGANIZATION FORMED.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—The striking longshoremen met this evening and took measures to organize a protective association. A resolution was adopted providing that white and colored members shall be perfectly equal in the association.

POST-OFFICE ROBBED.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 22.—The money order department of the Cincinnati post-office was robbed to-day in broad daylight, by three cunning thieves, of $650 lying on a desk in envelopes. The desk is surrounded by an iron lattice, which was covered with paper. Two of the thieves distracted the attention of the clerks and the third thief extracted the bills from the packages and drew them through the lattice-work by means of an instrument resembling a pair of tweezers. The thieves escaped.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—In the Court of Quarter Sessions the case of Jos. R. Reed, a reporter for a morning newspaper, charged with libel upon the chief of police, was put on trial this morning, the jury upon the first trial having failed to agree on a verdict. The evidence offered by the prosecution was the same as that submitted before. The defence offered no testimony, but went to the jury upon arguments of counsel. The jury rendered a verdict of not guilty.

DEATH OF AN OLD BALTIMOREAN.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 22.—Wm. Harris, for many years one of the most prominent for dealers of this city, died at his residence to-day, aged 66 years. The deceased was native of Russia, but came to the United States sixty years ago, and was associated with the Hudson Bay Fur Company, and an intimate friend of the late John Jacob Astor, of New York, and Pierre Chouteau, of St. Louis. Deceased was highly respected.

RECORD OF CRIME.

David Nesbit was hanged yesterday, at Lindsay, Canada, for the murder of Miss Heywood.

Five or six boys, ranging from 15 to 18 years of age, have been arrested in Schenectady, N. Y., on a charge of incendiarism. Some five or six fires, recently occurring, are attributed to them.

In New York yesterday Recorder Hackett sentenced a man to twenty years' imprisonment for committing a rape on a little girl eight years old. The Recorder regretted that he could not impose the death sentence.

Thomas M. Noble, a justice of the peace for Mercer county, N. J., has been arrested, charged with obtaining money from several under false pretences. He made out fictitious convictions and collected the costs of a trial and commitment.

Yesterday, at West Chester, Pa., the bogus Lord Massey had a hearing on the charge of false pretence of being the possessor of a large amount of money, property, &c. Mr. Cope, who testified that Massey had bought his farm for $25,000, and that he (Cope) had incurred both expense and inconvenience before discovering that Massey was an impostor. Another charge against him was for obtaining a watch by false pretence. The case was adjourned to procure additional evidence. At the afternoon hearing the charges were withdrawn, the accused was discharged and went home with Mr. Cope.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

The United States steamer Franklin sailed from Boston for Key West last evening.

Henry A. Dreer, the well-known florist of Philadelphia, died yesterday morning, aged fifty-six.

The Polish exiles in this country propose to erect a statue to Kosciusko in Central Park, New York.

The United States steamer was successfully launched from the Portsmouth navy yard yesterday afternoon.

Samuel R. Bell & Co.'s tobacco warehouse, at Richmond, Va., was burned yesterday morning, together with 140 cases of tobacco. Loss, $38,000; insurance, $22,000.

Last evening, Margaret Hiddomer, aged sixty-six, residing at 1224 South Tenth street, Philadelphia, was burned to death while seated in a chair, her clothes taking fire from a coal-oil lamp.

The Cairo and Fulton Railroad bridge across the Arkansas river at Little Rock was completed Sunday evening, and yesterday several trains crossed. This gives unbroken railway connection between St. Louis and Fulton. The bridge across Red river at the latter place is rapidly approaching completion.

PERSONAL.

President Grant is expected to return home this afternoon.

General J. H. Simpson, colonel of engineers, is in the city.

The Emperor of Austria is to visit the Czar early next month.

Senator Sumner will remain in New York till Thursday, when he will leave for Washington.

Prestich Powers took a plaster cast of Prof. Agassiz's face, and will use it in making a bust.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue yesterday appointed J. Lipton Talbott storekeeper for the First district, Kentucky.

Secretary Richardson will spend his Christmas in Boston, leaving here to-morrow evening, and returning on Monday, the 29th instant.

M. de Lesseps, of Suez canal fame, has addressed a letter to Earl Granville on the feasibility of connecting the Russian railway system with the Anglo-Indian lines.

The Grand Duchess of Russia, the bride-elect of the Duke of Edinburgh, is to receive an elegant present from certain British naval and military officers, who have subscribed $5,000 for the purchase.

The story that Alexander Dumas, known for so many years in French literature as Dumas the Younger, is coming to America to give lectures, has been pronounced by himself entirely unfounded.

THE OLD TAMMANY CHIEFS.

FLIGHT OF PRINCE HARRY GENET.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Harry Genet, who was found guilty of fraud on Friday last, has taken flight. Since his conviction he has been in the custody of Deputy