The National Republican.

VOL. XIX---NO. 22. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1878. FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

The Claims of Colored Soldiers Before Congress.

A Practical Refusal of Bounties and Other Moneys Due Them—The Law Allowed to Expire—The Hot Springs Inquiry—Story of the House Enrolling Clerk—Pardons by the President.

Claims of Colored Soldiers Repudiated.

On Monday, December 16, instant, Hon. Casey Young, of Tennessee, introduced in the House of Representatives a bill providing for an extension of the time for payment of bounties and other moneys due to colored soldiers and sailors of the late war until June 30, 1879. The bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and it was supposed that immediate action would be had thereon, inasmuch as by an act of Congress of December 15, 1877, it was provided that the bureau of the War Department having charge of the payment of such bounties, &c., should be closed January 1, 1879, if the payments were not then completed.

As no action has been taken by the committee, and as Congress adjourns to-day until January 7, thus preventing timely legislation on the subject, the claims of the colored soldiers and sailors remaining unpaid January 1, proximo, are virtually repudiated. This action, or, more properly speaking, non-action, in this matter clearly indicates a purpose on the part of the House of Representatives to deprive the colored people of their rights; being aimed directly at the colored soldiers who fought for the maintenance of the Union, will no doubt be followed ere long by such legislation, or attempted legislation, as will in effect repudiate the claims of *all* soldiers who participated in the suppression of the rebellion. "Straws show which way the wind blows."

The Hot Springs Omission.

The Senate committee investigating the omission of the Hot Springs clause from the sundry civil appropriation bill yesterday examined Theodore F. King, Chief Enrolling Clerk of the House of Representatives. His testimony showed that the sundry civil bill was enrolled placement, the different parts of the bill and the amendments thereto being copied as they were acted on by the conference committee from data furnished by the committee, without having the official copy of the bill until after its passage. Subsequently he compared the enrolled with the bill as passed and found several omissions and errors, which were corrected. All the writing in relation to the Hot Springs that was done was in the handwriting of witness. The portion of the bill omitted was in the original copy, but not enrolled.

It has never been out of the enrolling-room of the House. On comparing the bill with notes found that the conference committee had not acted on the eighteenth Senate amendment fixing the rate of interest on the bonds of the District of Columbia. Mr. Atkins suggested it be inserted, but witness declined to insert. Subsequently Senator Windom and other members of the Appropriation Committee said witness was right. A concurrent resolution was prepared to correct the error by inserting the word "five," but it was lost sight of in the confusion preceding adjournment. After adjournment compared the enrolled bill with the copy, and was the first to discover the omission of the portion of the Hot Springs clause.

The original bill and the conference report were produced, and the way the error occurred was explained to have been as follows: "The conference report proposed to strike out all after the twentieth line in the Hot Springs bill and insert three clauses, the first one cut from a printed bill and pasted in and the others in manuscript. In enrolling the bill the first twenty lines were omitted, the printed clause in the conference report was copied, and two other clauses omitted. In comparing the bill reference had to be made to the sundry civil bill, the Hot Springs bill, and the conference report. In the hurry the bill was not compared as customary by the clerks before calling in the Committee on Enrolled Bills, but handed direct to Mr. Rainey, with whom the comparison was made without noticing the error.

Representative Rainey was next examined. Had no recollection of reading any part of the Hot Springs clause in the sundry civil bill. It was quite possible that the whole clause was omitted in reading. Was present when the omission was discovered. Regarded it then as an accidental omission, and had never had any other idea. Mr. Rainey desired to say, as insinuation had been made against the clerks in the enrolling room, that, during his daily intercourse with them, he had never seen either of them under the influence of liquor or anything to lead him to suspect their integrity.

Mr. Jones, assistant enrolling clerk, testified substantially to the same effect as Mr. King and Representative Rainey.

Ex-Governor Stearns, of Florida, was present, but was not examined.

The committee will hold another meeting to-day.

Pardons by the President.

Pardons were issued from the Department of Justice yesterday for William Cunningham, of Albany, imprisoned at the Albany penitentiary on the conviction of passing counterfeit money; Warren J. Boden, of Ohio, imprisoned at Columbus on conviction of violating the postal laws by sending lottery circulars through the mails, and Jasper Johnson, a former postmaster in Texas, who was convicted of an embezzlement of Government funds and imprisoned at Austin, Texas. Johnson pleaded guilty and restored the stolen funds before his imprisonment. The Attorney-General has recommended the pardon of Charles A. Michener, of Philadelphia, convicted two years ago of passing counterfeit nickels and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

General Williams' Condition.

Yesterday afternoon, at three o'clock, the following bulletin was posted on the door of No. 122 Third street northwest, where General A. S. Williams resides:

"General Williams' condition is slightly improved, and it is barely possible that he may recover. He is conscious, but the physicians wish him to see no one, as quiet and absence of excitement is essential."

At nine o'clock last night his condition was about the same. During the day he partook of nourishing food several times and spoke to his attendants. He has full use of his limbs and faculties, and the physicians think that the next twenty-four hours will decide whether he will live or not. Dr. Baxter says his chances are one in a thousand for a favorable result, which rather encourages his friends.

At twelve midnight General Williams suffered a relapse, and continued to grow worse from that time until half-past two a. m., when he was thought to be sinking rapidly.

The Banking and Currency Committee.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency will not hold any further meetings until after the holiday recess, Judge Buckner, the chairman, having left for his home in Missouri, where he will remain until Congress reassembles. All recent measures that have been referred to the committee have been assigned to subcommittees, and a meeting of the committee will be called soon after the reassembling of Congress. It is anticipated that the pending financial measures will at that time be definitely disposed of by the committee.

The Secret Service Division.

Under the reorganization of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department, there will be no provision for the services of an Assistant Chief of the Division. This will retire Mr. Benson. The abolition of the office of Assistant Chief of this branch of the service was recommended some time ago by the commission consisting of Assistant Secretary Merrimon, Solicitor Bogy, and Internal Revenue Commissioner Raum, who by direction of Secretary Sherman investigated the Division.

The Mexican Veteran Pension Bill.

Mr. Hewitt, of Alabama, endeavored on Wednesday to fix a day after the holidays for the consideration of the Mexican veteran pension bill, but Mr. Willis, of Pennsylvania, objected. Notice was then given by Mr. Hewitt that on the 9th of January he would move to go into Committee of the Whole for that purpose, and would continue his effort in the same direction from day to day thereafter until the bill was disposed of by the House.

The Tobacco Tax.

There will be no action taken by the Senate Finance Committee on the subject of the proposed reduction of the tobacco tax until after the expiration of the holiday recess, for all any further amendments to be found on the subject until Congress reassembles.

Southern Congressmen's Yellow Fever Meeting.

A meeting of Senators and Representatives from the Southern States was held in the Capitol last evening, in the room of the Committee on Ways and Means, for the purpose of giving expression to public sentiment in the region recently afflicted by yellow fever toward the people of the North for their charity and assistance during the epidemic. Senator Eustis, of Louisiana, presided, and Hon. H. D. Money, of Mississippi, acted as secretary. A committee, composed of Hon. E. John Ellis, of Louisiana; Senators Lamar, Harris, and Garland and Representatives Casey Young, of Tennessee; Jordan E. Cravens of Arkansas; Van H. Manning, of Mississippi, and John Goode, reported a series of resolutions expressing the most grateful feeling toward the people of the North for their generous charity and kindness during the prevalence of the fever. Eloquent speeches were made by Senator Eustis and Representatives Young, Ellis, Manning, and others.

Nominations.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate yesterday:

Postmasters: Massachusetts—Lewis E. Gleason, Reading; Samuel S. Mason, Watertown; Henry Pope, Milton; Cyrus Knox, jr., Palmer; Frederick E. Fowle, Arlington; Charles M. Dinsmore, Clinton.

Rhode Island—George F. Crowningshield, Centre Falls.

New York—Benjamin Badeau, New Rochelle; Mrs. Josephine E. Owen, Randolph; Wright St. Barnes, Chatham Village.

New Jersey—Henry C. Jackson, Englewood; Lewis P. Taylor, Orange; Thomas Newell, Passaic; Mrs. Sophia Merkiein, Weehawken; Horace Dodd, Bloomfield.

Pennsylvania—Abraham Cassell, Marietta; Lewis Marchand, Irwin's station; Jonathan Jessup, York; Charles H. Wilson, Plymouth.

Mrs. Hester A. Birdsong, Bellaire, Ohio; Samuel W. Abbott, Menominee, Mich; James A. Hudson, Saginaw, Mich.; S. V. R. Sherwood, Brainard, Minn.; John M. Price, Atchison, Kans.

Indiana—Frederick W. Miller, Elkhart; Mrs. E. M. Speed, Lagrange; Richard W. Nebeker, Covington.

Illinois—William H. Humphreys, Lewistown; Robert R. Little, Decatur; A. G. James, Chester; Francis M. Ryon; Streator; William H. Livers, Manchester; William B. Sheriff, Paris; Julius Ropes, Ishpeming, Mich.

Missouri—John J. Heisel, Brunswick; Howard F. Coundy, Carrollton; James H. Lloyd, Liberty; Zion A. Wellman, Cherokee.

Joseph Edgington, Eldora, Iowa; P. H. Raymond, Albany, Oregon; M. M. Murdock, Wichita, Kans.

Confirmations.

The Senate in executive session yesterday confirmed the following nominations:

Collectors of internal revenue—James S. Wolfe, district of Colorado; John L. Pennington, district of Dakota.

Indian agents—Henry J. King, Leech Lake Agency, Minn.; Samuel A. Russell, Muscalero Apache Agency, N. M.; Philemon B. Hunt, Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita Agency, Indian Territory; Leverett H. Kelloggs, Los Pinos Agency, Arizona.

Navy—Captain Samuel P. Carter, of Tennessee, to be a commodore; Commander Francis H. Baker, of Pennsylvania, to be a captain; Lieutenant-Commander George W. Coffin, of Massachusetts, to be a commander; Lieutenant Royal B. Bradford, of Maine, to be a lieutenant-commander; Master Robert G. Peck, of Massachusetts, to be a lieutenant; Ensign William H. Schultze, of Maine, to be master.

Postmasters—Pennsylvania—William McGlanglin, Barnhart's Mills; H. M. Bardwell, Tunkhannock, and William C. Wiley, Washington.

Maryland—Margaret Logan, Hagerstown, and John W. Collins, Choptico.

Ohio—John H. Greene, Medina; Thomas C. Thomson, Cardington; Thomas H. Blake, Lebanon; and Levi Switzler, Tiffin.

Wisconsin—B. M. Beebe, Brodhead.

Missouri—I. A. Woodmansey, Pleasant Hill.

Iowa—Peter St. Clair, Hamburg; Orland U. J. Chis, Upton; George Phillips, Brooklyn; Anthony Lorenz, Clarinda; James Kuth, Lansing; H. H. Crenshaw, Marengo; Patrick A. Devine, Corning; Mrs. Sophia Bergman, Toledo; Zion A. Wellman, Cherokee, and Joseph Edgington, Eldora.

Illinois—Mrs. Mary E. Harlan, Winchester; John McCoverty, Edwardsville; James H. McClure, Gibson City; Robert N. Hinman, Mount Vernon.

Michigan—William Vertbeck, Holland.

Missouri—John J. Heisel, Brunswick.

Virginia—Edward J. Sullivan, Harrisburg.

Alabama—French Strange, Opelika.

Capitol and Departmental Notes.

Gold was at par in New York yesterday.

Subscriptions to the 4 per cent. loan yesterday amounted to $668,000.

Revenue receipts yesterday were: From internal revenue, $329,098.91; from customs, $[illegible].

There will be a meeting of the yellow fever experts in Memphis on the 24th instant. The subcommittee will leave here for that point on Tuesday next.

The report claims a great saving in the expenses for printing this Congress and *Record* over the expenditures on account of the *Globe*, taking as a basis the prices paid in 1871-'73.

Improved machinery for printing and binding have been taken advantage of by the Public Printer the result of which shows a considerable saving in the expenses of the office over the old methods.

The annual report of the Public Printer, which has just been presented to Congress, shows that the actual cost to the Government of the printing, binding, engraving, and lithographing, &c., in that office for the last fiscal year was $1,698,700.

The House Committee on Private Land Claims has agreed to report to the House with a favorable recommendation a bill granting to Mrs. Myra Gaines a title to 5,420 arpents of land in the State of Louisiana. The remainder of her claim, some 82,000 arpents, was disallowed.

A circular has been issued from the Treasury Department to collectors of customs authorizing an inspection of cattle proposed to be shipped to Great Britain, and to issue a certificate of freedom from disease, in order to meet late British regulations in relation to the importation of cattle.

The Governor of Washington Territory has telegraphed to Secretary Schurz, with reference to the indications of troubles between the Indians of that Territory and the whites, that there is better news from east of the mountains. The Governor did not think there would be a collision.

The Senate committee of investigation appointed yesterday under the Blaine resolution will meet for organization to-day, when a plan of operations will probably be agreed upon. It is expected that the committee will be divided into several sub-committees, to visit different localities and take testimony concurrently.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs has called on the State Department for papers in the case of John C. Sandras. He claims large damages against the Peruvian government, involving millions of dollars, for an alleged breach of contract in connection with the discovery of guano islands.

Mr. Hewitt's labor committee yesterday heard the views of Joseph Bishop and Miles S. Humphreys, of Pittsburg, in relation to the iron interests, and A. S. Perrin, of Titusville, Pa., concerning the operations of the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Perrin was decided in his views that the Standard Oil Company's operations were prejudicial to the interests of producers.

Outstanding circulation of legal tender notes and fraction currency: United States notes, new issue, $18,070,372; United states notes, series 1869, $133,539,191; United states notes, series 1874, $24,291,442; United states notes, series 1875, $136,915,712; United states notes, series 1878, $23,782,286; total United States notes, $346,681,016; fractional currency, $16,194,958.95; grand total, $362,797,974.95. No change since last report.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads yesterday heard Messrs. Ames and Pomeroy in relation to the claims of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. These gentlemen represented that there was danger that the road would be sold under the first mortgage and the $1,600,000 second mortgage bonds held by the Government rendered valueless unless a favorable action on their claims for subsidy bonds and land is alleged to have been earned be taken by Congress.

LAKE NAVIGATION CONVENTION.

Improvements Asked to be Made by Congress.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Dec. 19.—The only important business transacted by the Lake Navigation Improvement Convention to-day was the presentation of reports by the committees on statistics and resolutions. The former furnished detailed reports and estimates connected with the subject of water navigation by the Northern lakes and all kindred matters connected with the necessities of cheap transportation from the granaries of the Northwest to the markets of the world. The resolutions urge upon Congress the immediate consideration by the United States of the St. Mary's Canal, in accordance with the offer of the State of Michigan on April 1, 1876, its establishment as a free canal, and the speedy completion of the new lock and its appurtenances. An appropriation is asked from Congress for the survey of the shortest route between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, and an launch for the improvement of the ports and channel and the St. Clair flats. The Detroit River, in the opinion of the War Department, can be judiciously expended the ensuing season. Congress is petitioned to appropriate sufficiently to complete the survey of the harbor at the head of Lake Superior, and the survey thus commenced, or if not to meet the present fiscal year, the deficiency be hereafter supplied.

Calm s on the High Seas.

BOSTON, Dec. 19.—In the United States District Court to-day for the, called to assize in the case of Andrew M. Rose, captain of the bark Nellie M. Y., who was tried on a charge of shooting and killing one of his sailors, Thomas Kelleher, on the high seas, Mate Charles Nelson, and other witnesses, both Nellie Bay, was arraigned on an indictment setting forth that during the last passage from Marseilles, France, to this port he assaulted, with a dangerous weapon, Karl Wohlt, one of the crew.

SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.

Extension of Commercial and Postal Intercourse.

Importance of the Subject Officially Recognized—Diplomatic and Other Correspondence on the Subject—Steam Postal Service the Pioneer of Commerce—Conclusions of Secretary Evarts.

A Communication from the President.

The President has sent to the Senate, in response to a resolution introduced by Mr. Ferry on the 6th instant, a communication transmitting information concerning postal and commercial intercourse between the United States and South American countries, in which he says:

"The external commerce of the United States has for many years been the subject of solicitude because of the outward drain of the precious metals it has caused. For fully twenty years previous to 1877 the shipment of gold was constant and heavy, so heavy during the entire period of the suspension of specie payments as to preclude the hope of resumption safely during its continuance. In 1876, however, vigorous efforts were made by enterprising citizens of the country, and have since been continued, to extend our general commerce with foreign lands, especially in manufactured articles, and these efforts have been attended with very marked success.

"The importation of manufactured goods was at the same time reduced in an equal degree and the result has been an extraordinary reversal of the conditions so long prevailing, and a complete cessation of the outward drain of gold. The official statement of the values represented in foreign commerce will show the unprecedented magnitude to which the movement has attained, and the protection thus secured to the public interests at the time when commercial security has become indispensable.

"The agencies through which this change has been effected must be maintained and strengthened if the future is to be made secure. A return to excessive imports, or to a material decline in export trade, would render possible a return to the former condition of adverse balances, with the inevitable outward drain of gold as a necessary consequence. Every element of aid to the introduction of the products of our soil and manufactures into new markets should be made available. At present such is the favor in which many of the products of the United States are held that they obtain a remunerative distribution, notwithstanding positive differences of cost resulting from our defective shipping and postal facilities and other arrangements in a very respect in comparison with those of our competitors for conducting trade with foreign markets.

"If we have equal commercial facilities we need not fear competition anywhere.

"The laws have now directed a resumption of financial equality with other nations, and have ordered a return to the basis of coin values. It is of the greatest importance that the commercial condition now fortunately attained shall be made permanent, and that our rapidly increasing export trade shall not be allowed to suffer for want of the ordinary means of communication with other countries."

The accompanying reports contain a valuable and instructive summary of information with respect to our commercial interests in South America, where an inviting field for the enterprise of our people is presented. They are transmitted with the assurance that any measures that may be enacted for furthering the true important interests will meet with my cordial approval."

Secretary Evarts, to whom the resolution was referred, lays before the President, who transmits the same to the Senate, copies of dispatches from the diplomatic agents of the United States accredited to the governments of South America touching the subject of the inquiry referred to, and also, accompanying within the purview thereof, copies of a report and its annexes, presented to this Department by Mr. J. W. Fralick, upon his return from an extended journey through the leading States of South America, all of which papers are specified in the subjoined list.

The Senate having also called for "any recommendations desirable to be submitted of measures to be adopted for facilitating and improving postal and commercial intercourse," Secretary Evarts respectfully calls attention to certain manifest conclusions which all these reports tend to support.

These are, that regular steam postal communication has been the forerunner of British commercial predominance in Central and South America, and the commercial success of other European countries has been prospered in proportion to their adoption of steam postal communication.

Second—That the enterprise and sagacity shown by France, as a commerce has received advantages which its geographical position gave the United States, and it finds itself a contributor to the values and profits of European South American trade.

Third—That the governments and people of these South American countries desire an extension of commercial intercourse with the United States by direct trade, and are willing to share in the expenses of regular steam postal communication.

The governments of the foreign States with which this commerce is to be opened are ready to take their part in the public expense of this postal communication with us, and this participation or non-participation by the United States in this public expense seems to be the turning point in the acceptance or rejection of the reciprocal trade now proffered us.

ALABAMA AFFAIRS.

Some Facts About the Eighth District.

In the Senate, on the 18th instant, in the debate on the Blaine resolutions, Senator Morgan, of Alabama, took occasion to say:

"The political agencies of the Government of the United States have been actively intermeddling in my own State, and there the result has been that the Democrats have been repressed to the number of 6,000 in one congressional district alone, and doubtless many have been kept from going to the ballot-box by the threats of the Attorney-General of the United States, issued in the form of a proclamation. The President of the United States and his Cabinet, controlling, with a large portion of the Republican party in the Northern States in their advocacy of what is called sound money, in which advocacy very many of the Southern Democrats honestly sympathized, made an extensive canvass in the North; and while they were doing that, the Attorney-General was endeavoring by proclamations sent out in advance of the election to hinder the people from going to the polls. He was endeavoring to threaten them to such a degree as that they would be afraid to go to the ballot-box, and the result was that a gentleman was elected who was a Greenback Democrat, by the united support of the Republicans of that district, and I believe he is now here to claim his reward in some little appointments to office, which are paid as cash on the spot."

The fact is, the eighth district of Alabama, to which Senator Morgan refers, returned Colonel Lowe, an Independent Democrat, by a splendid majority of about 2,000, and was, perhaps, the only district in the state where there was anything like an honest and fair election. The opposition to Bourbonism was able and boldly led by men who refused to be intimidated or bull-dozed by Senator Morgan and his motley array of broken-down Bourbons and semi-post secessionists, and all the horde of camp-followers, sutlers, bummers, cooks, and nurse-tenders of the old secession army. We are credibly informed that Senator Morgan's intrusion into our canvass, especially with the "new dog" speech, was greatly beneficial to Colonel Lowe, and only injurious to Mr. Smith, the Bourbon candidate, and to Senator Morgan himself.

Colonel Lowe characterized the senator's efforts on the hustings as "just pouring Hooker, weak and passionate, smacking more of the saloon and the fish market than of the senate of the United States." It seems that the senator now seeks to repay the honest Lowe with interest, by every his thoroughness and to relieve himself from the humiliating position in which he has been placed before his own people.

The appointment to office which Senator Morgan refers to, Mr. Murphy as Collector of Customs at Mobile, was made quite recently, before the late election, by the senator himself, and his reference to it now is amazingly inconsistent under the circumstances. The result is a change of half a dozen votes for the first time against the Opposition in that district, is a decisive affair right a silly pretext to bring a sentence upon a man and impeached colleagues.

THE PONY'S LIBEL.

Sensational Journalism Condemned.

The House Committee on Civil Service, Mr. Farnsworth, submitted a report on the resolution of Mr. Bergen, of Illinois, seeking to inquire into certain charges preferred in the evening of the Washington Post, in substance, that the office that a member from Vermont (Hunter) received $[illegible] a member from Illinois (Bergen) and a member from Maryland (Hewitt) $[illegible] for securing the passage of the bill relating to certain accounts in the Bureau of Colonels Revolutionary Soldiers in Congress.

The committee set out all the testimony taken and said they were satisfied that the charges were not in the main true, but said it was a matter of regret that such an article should be brought before the House, and that the publication of the article referred to in the Washington Post of the article referred to in Mr. Brentano's resolution was a wanton and wholly unjustifiable attack upon the integrity of members of this House, calculated to degrade them in the estimation of the public, which is too ready to give credence to what it sees in print, and that it was used to do great injury and injustice to the gentlemen alluded to.

"Your committee believe that an enlightened and unfettered press is a very bulwark of liberty and a prop to morality in a free country, but that when it steps from its high calling wanonly to belittle and to calumniate public men, directly or by innuendo and insinuation, it becomes a powerful engine of wrong, and is a far reaching enemy to good morals. A newspaper which boldly exposes wrongdoing among officials and fearlessly tears away the mask which hides a corrupt officer is a true friend of the people; but one which, for the purpose of creating a sensation, or to make its columns spicy, attacks the good as well as the bad, or attacks any without warrant of truth or facts, puts itself on a par with the traducer and slanderer, feels the lowest taste of the vicious, destroys its influence for good, and, by constantly crying 'Wolf! wolf!' is unheeded when it calls attention to the real wolf which is preying upon the public.

"At the request of the gentleman who had reason to think themselves attacked, we recommend that the report and testimony be printed, and that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject."

THE FIRE RECORD.

A Whole Family Burned to Death.

COHOES, N. Y., Dec. 19.—At half-past ten o'clock last evening a fire was discovered in the tenement No. 42 Bowery, in the fifth ward. On the arrival of the firemen it was ascertained that Patrick Rourke, his sons, Timothy, Martin, Owen, and William, aged respectively sixteen, eleven, nine, and five years, and two daughters—Mary Ann, aged twenty-two, and Bridget, aged thirteen—were in the burning building. The two girls were rescued, the older so badly burned that she cannot survive, while the younger was comparatively uninjured. Mr. Rourke died soon after being taken from the building. The boys were all dead when found. The house was burned to the ground. A defective alarm caused a delay in rescuing the fire.

FIRE IN DETROIT.

DETROIT, Dec. 19.—A dispatch from Bay City says the interior of Beckwith block was destroyed by fire this morning. The loss on the building was $6,000; insured for $3,000. The *Daily Tribune*, whose office is in the same block, loses $1,600; insured for $2,000. William Parker, furniture manufacturer, loses $1,200; insured for $1,000. John Oliver, Turkish baths, loses $1,200; insured for $1,000. S. A. Fuller, laundry, loses $600; insured for $1,200.

MOTHER AND CHILD BURNED.

ALLENTOWN, PA., Dec. 19.—At Treichlers, Pa., today the clothing of a child of Mrs. Minich was accidentally set on fire, and in an attempt to extinguish the flames the mother and child were burned to death.

THREE-YEAR OLD CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

WILKESBARRE, PA., Dec. 19.—A three-year old daughter of Mrs. Ellen Cronin was burned to death here to-day. The child's clothing took fire from a stove during the temporary absence of the woman who had charge of it.

New York City Matters.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The executive committee of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders are in secret session to-day at the Everett House. Programme of stakes and the selection of courses for next year's meeting are under discussion.

The defense in the Whalen-Sheridan suit to-day concluded their evidence, with the exception of some documents which they formerly offered. These included an order of the War Department assigning Sheridan to the command of Louisiana and two bills of sale of Killeen plantation to Hoyt as proof of the latter's title. General Butler argued against the introduction, but Judge Wallace decided that they were already in evidence.

Phillip Whitney was committed this afternoon for the murder of his benefactor, John Molloy, last Monday, the coroner's jury having found that he inflicted the fatal wound.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to-day discussed majority and minority reports of their committee on New York Anthracite sales of adjustment of the general average, and finally adopted the majority report, in which they say that they see nothing desirable in the rules as a substitute for the existing American law.

MERCANTILE AGENCIES.

To-day's *Public*, a reputable financial weekly, publishes a strong article, which, in view of the recent developments, suggests that there should be created a responsible agency to report upon mercantile agencies, especially as these institutions will demand from our merchants and business men during the next ninety days at least $1,000,000 in the shape of advance subscriptions. The article analyzes the articles of association and annual statements by officers of one of the companies at New Haven, Conn., from which it appears that the company's liabilities are $327,040, and that, with the most liberal valuation of its assets, there is a deficiency of $120,000. Also that the capital of $[illegible] consists of $200,000 paid in stock for good will and $175,000 of capitalized indebtedness.

The James Gordon Bennett medal for meritorious services was this morning presented to Fireman Thomas J. Brady, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, for heroic conduct in rescuing two persons at a fire.

One hundred policemen are on duty along the Third Avenue Railroad, although everything is quiet. The strikers this morning commenced receiving aid subscriptions from drivers on other lines.

General Babcock, president of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, has appointed the celebrated navigator, Captain Saunders, formerly commander of James Gordon Bennett's yacht Henrietta, and subsequently of the Dauntless, general superintendent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company at San Francisco.

A meeting of British societies was held to-night to take action on the death of the Princess Alice. The meeting adjourned to January 9. All British societies are requested to send delegates to the meeting on that day.

Trotting Horse Breeders.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The executive committee of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders met to-night and decided to hold the trotting meeting at Hartford, Conn., early in September. In addition to the two stakes already closed there will be a stake for stallions that have never beaten 2:30, 2:26, and 2:40.

The entrance fee for the 2:29 class will be $500, one-half forfeit; to the 2:28 and 2:40 classes entrance will be $350, each half forfeit. There will also be a stake for five-year-olds or under, to which the entrance fee will be $[illegible]. There will also be a stake for foals of 1874, 1875, and 1876, to be trotted for on similar conditions as the similar stake last year. It will be called the Bell stake, as President Bell added $500 to it. It was decided to open several other stakes—one for trotting sires, similar to the American stallion stakes, at Louisville, to be trotted in 1879. Another stake for foals of 1877 and 1878, to be trotted three years hence, to be named and called the American Nursery stakes, entries to close next May.

South Carolina Bonds Not Valid.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 19.—The Court of Claims, popularly known as the Bond Court, consisting of three Circuit Judges, announced its decision to-day upon the questions submitted to them in relation to a portion of the consolidated bond coupons and certificates of stock issued under an act of 1873, known as the consolidation act. The opinion holds that the "seal bonds" upon which said consolidated bonds and stocks were issued, as specified in the coupons issued by the court, amounting to about $1,000,000 of the said bonds and stocks, were not issued in accordance with law and authorized to be consolidated under the act of 1873 and that the consolidated bonds and stocks exchanged for said coupons, so far as they rest for their validity, are not binding obligations upon the state of South Carolina. The opinion is concurred in by Judges Thomson and Aldrich, and a dissenting opinion is filed by Judge Hudson. The matter will be carried to the supreme court in behalf of the bondholders.

The Case of Red Leary.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Under a writ issued at Boston for the arrest of William Red Leary, the supposed Northampton bank robber, was brought into the Supreme Court this morning on habeas corpus proceedings. The counsel for the prisoner's counsel demurred to the writ—which charges a number of robberies in different States and Canada—on the ground that the prisoner is not a fugitive from justice, in the sense of the United States statutes, and that the robberies charged were committed while the prisoner was in Canada and New York.

Deputy District Attorney Stephens, of the City of New York, and other counsel for the United States, contended that the prisoner should be remanded to Boston, as the proper place for his trial, and that the question of his being a fugitive from justice was a matter for the decision of the Boston authorities.

Judge Benedict said he would give his decision on Friday next.

Suspected Suicide.

MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—The body of the Rev. Mr. Fortier, a Roman Catholic priest, who has been missing for some weeks, was found this morning in the St. Lawrence, and attributed to his parishioners. It is supposed he took poison.

THE STORY OF THE CABLE.

Another European Steamship Collision.

A Hundred and Fifty Lives Lost by the Disaster—The Latest Army Movement in Afghanistan—Affairs in Eastern Europe—Romer to be Expelled from Turkey—Bismarck and Tobacco.

Death of Bayard Taylor.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—Bayard Taylor, Minister of the United States, died at four o'clock this afternoon. The fatal symptoms came on suddenly. He had been out of bed and was transacting business with the officials of the American Legation yesterday. His death was peaceful and painless.

Another Terrible Steamboat Collision.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A telegram to Lloyds, dated Galatz, half-past three p. m. to-day, reports that the steamer Byzantine, from Marseilles for Constantinople, has been sunk in a collision. The report is somewhat obscure, but indicates that 150 lives were lost in the disaster.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The report that 150 lives were lost by the disaster to the steamer Byzantine is confirmed. Fourteen persons only were saved from the steamer.

THE ZUKKUR KHEL EXPEDITION.

A *Daily News* dispatch from Peshawar states that the expedition against the Zukkur Khels started on Thursday. The tribe musters 700 warriors. It is expected that, if cornered, they will fight until they are exterminated.

RUSSIA'S AFGHAN MISSION NOT RECALLED.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Paris denies, on the most trustworthy authority, that Russia has yet recalled the Afghan mission. Russia has only promised to do so.

THE PEACE OF BULGARIA.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The *Times'* correspondent at Berlin states that, notwithstanding the denial by the *Journal de St. Petersburg*, it is known in authoritative circles here that negotiations are still pending relative to the method of starting a proposal for a joint occupation of the Bulgarian districts in the event of disturbances after the Russian evacuation. It is believed that Russia would refuse assent, but this would not prevent the other Powers from acting.

GREEK FRONTIER COMMISSION.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 19.—The Porte, subject to the Sultan's approval, has nominated Mouktar Pasha, Abeddeen Pasha, and Vahan Effendi commissioners for the settlement of the Greek frontier question, and intends to invest them with relatively extensive powers.

THE ROUMELIAN COMMISSION.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The correspondent of the *Telegraph* at Vienna denies that the Roumelian Commission has returned to Constantinople.

ROMER TO BE EXPELLED.

The *Daily Telegraph's* Constantinople dispatch says that Romer will be expelled from Turkey with the consent of the American Legation.

SEVERE GALE.

A dispatch to the *Daily Telegraph* from Constantinople reports that an unprecedented gale has prostrated many houses there, and it was feared that many persons were killed.

BISMARCK'S TOBACCO SCHEME REJECTED.

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—The government committee of inquiry has rejected Prince Bismarck's tobacco monopoly scheme, and favors a duty according to weight, as advocated by the national Liberals. It is believed that Bismarck will not accept the decision.

NEW HUNGARIAN LOAN.

PESTH, Dec. 19.—The Hungarian Diet, by a vote of 179 to 125, has authorized the government to issue $[illegible] florins in gold notes to redeem treasury bonds.

ITALIAN CABINET UNPOPULAR.

ROME, Dec. 19.—Nearly all the journals are unfavorable to the new Cabinet, which is considered merely transitional.

Count Corti will resume the post of Ambassador at Constantinople.

Sparring Match.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 19.—The sparring match between William Miller and Joe Goss came off today at Maryland Institute Hall in the presence of about 1,200 persons. The match was for $500 a side with blackened gloves, only face hits to count, and counters to count for both. There were twenty-nine rounds of three minutes each, with one minute rests, ten counters, and one round without count. The referee gave the match to Miller by a score of twenty-two to nineteen for Goss. At the close Goss challenged Miller to a match, to come off in Boston at the end of one month, for $1,000 a side. Miller replied that he would spar with any man in the country for $500 to $1,000 a side, without accepting the challenge of Goss.

Indiana Resurrectionists.

EVANSVILLE, IND., Dec. 19.—Considerable excitement prevails in town to-night over the discovery of the body of Frank M. Murphy, a respectable painter, in the dissecting room of the Evansville Medical College. Murphy was buried last Sunday, and his wife received an anonymous note late this afternoon instructing her to go to the college and she would discover the body. She followed the instructions in the note, and the police have taken possession of the building. She identified the body, which was partially dissected, by marks and initials on his arm. An inquest is being held, with the intention of getting at the person who robbed his grave. Anonymous letters leading to shocking disclosures are anticipated.

Fatal Railroad Collision.

DETROIT, MICH., Dec. 19.—A special dispatch to the *Free Press* from Kalamazoo says a passenger train on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad this evening came in collision with a rutter containing John McIndre, his wife, and three children, at Hunt's Crossing, near Plainville, Mich. McIndre was instantly killed and his wife and one child fatally injured.

New England Nationals.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Dec. 19.—A call has been issued by the members of the executive committee of the National party of New England for a mass conference of the representatives of the party at Boston on January 2, for the purpose of perfecting plans for a permanent organization of the party, &c. General Butler has signified his intention of being present.

A New Electric Light.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—Professors Houston and Thomson exhibited last night to see the Franklin Institute an invention of an electric light which they claim solves the problem of electric heating by electricity. The light is produced by the incandescence of carbon points, and not by burning, as in the electric lights hitherto exhibited.

Ballot-Box Stuffer Sentenced.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 19.—To-day Judge Baxter overruled the motion for a new trial in the case of B. H. Lillins, convicted of ballot-box stuffing, and sentenced the defendant to five years in the penitentiary.

The Women's Christian Association.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Christian Association, the following ladies were elected to serve for the year 1879:

President, Mrs. Judge William Strong; vice-presidents, Mrs. E. F. Pomeroy, Mrs. R. M. Gallaudet, Mrs. J. W. Thompson, Mrs. A. Talbot Rodgers, Mrs. William Stickney, Mrs. Tilghman Clarke; secretary, Mrs. Thomas Wilson; treasurer, Miss Julia B. Bennett; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. H. Howard.

Finance committee—Mrs. E. F. Pomeroy, Mrs. J. W. Thompson, Mrs. J. W. Ackerding, Mrs. E. C. Wade.

Reception committee—Mrs. E. F. Pomeroy, Mrs. J. W. Thompson.

Employment committee—Mrs. E. Whittlesey, Mrs. John Cocoran, Mrs. C. A. Ward, Mrs. W. B. Hayes.

House committee—Mrs. S. P. Forrest, Mrs. C. P. Jewett, Mrs. Oliver Temple, Mrs. J. E. Whitney, Mrs. P. E. Wilson, Mrs. G. A. Little, Mrs. C. A. Ward, Mrs. Admiral Rogers.

Home committee—Mrs. J. M. Blanchard, Mrs. Gen. Beckwith, Mrs. Horace Waite, Mrs. McLane, Mrs. William Stickney, Mrs. N. A. Holiday, Mrs. William H. Campbell.

Visiting committee—Mrs. M. A. Copenhaver, Mrs. M. H. Kellogg.

Professional committee—Mrs. M. A. Copenhaver, Mrs. Zeigler, Mrs. Stickney, Mrs. Dodge.

Medical Board—Dr. Joseph Taylor, Dr. Stephen Ralston, Dr. Daniel Ray, Dr. Lee.

Hon. Monkeys Behave Under Fire.

A [illegible] Hall last night. A collection of [illegible] in the city and there [illegible] in cages. During the [illegible] the monkeys scrambling