The Free Press.

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It is announced that Kenward Philp, of bogus Morey letter fame, has retired from journalism and will travel for a Bowery firm which deals in undertakers' supplies. Mr. Philp has some experience in the undertakers' business, having driven several nails into the coffin of the Democratic party.

Mr. Disbecker, a New York politician, was a police commissioner of that metropolis. He was superceded by Col. J. B. Erhardt, who held the office with high credit, for several years. Mr. Disbecker did not like it, and so he sued Col. Erhardt, in one of the New York courts, for the amount of the salary which the latter drew as commissioner, with interest, and obtained a judgment for $24,000, Mr. Erhardt making no appearance, and letting the case go by default. He has not paid over the money, however, and it will probably be after this when he does. If Mr. Disbecker has not patented his process, we respectfully commend it to Mr. Tilden. He might sue Mr. Hayes for $200,000 and interest, in the same court, and recoup all his election outlays.

The gist of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in Whitney vs. First National Bank of Brattleboro, reversing a decision of the Supreme Court of Vermont, is that a bank is liable for a special deposit of bonds, taken by burglars. Our court went upon the ground that the obligation was one which the bank had no authority to make. It will behoove bank managers to be extremely careful after this. As a matter of practice and of fact, the special deposits in a bank are made solely for the convenience and safety of the depositor without remuneration to the bank. Such depositors are few, and generally are accommodated as a personal favor. The stockholders know nothing of the transaction, ordinarily the directors do not. Directors, as trustees for stockholders, will hereafter probably pay more attention to this branch of business, which if not usually hazardous, is liable to cause severe loss when loss there is.

The census of 1880 shows the important fact that the black man is multiplying in this country faster than the white. While the whites have increased from 289,667 in 1870 to 391,071 in South Carolina, the black advance is from 412,320 to 604,235; in the District of Columbia the whites grew from 88,278 to 118,236, the blacks from 43,404 to 59,402; in the city and county of Baltimore the white increase was 24 and the black 34 per cent; in 25 North Carolina counties the white per cent of growth was 25 and the black 35, and in 17 Alabama counties it was 18 per cent white and 27 colored. The figures, of course, include among the colored population large numbers of persons of mixed blood, and there is a whitening process in progress at a greater or less rate among the blacks; but while the proportion of pure Africans to the white races may not be increasing, the census makes it tolerably plain that the condition of freedom is not physically destructive to the colored race.

A British expedition to the South Pole is being organized, and another, having the same object in view, is nearly ready to set out from Italy, under Italian auspices entirely, and under command of Lieut. Bove, who has had considerable experience in exploring the Northern regions. Besides making research in the interest of science, Lieut. Bove hopes to find new whaling grounds and guano beds, and a reliable route by which navigators can reach them. Expeditions to the Antarctic region have been few in number. In 1841, Sir James Ross, in the Erebus and Terror, crossed the Antarctic circle, discovered what is now known as Victoria Land, and established the lines of the Southern continent from the seventieth to the seventy-ninth parallel. The farthest point he reached was an open sea, within 1,200 miles of the mystical South Pole. James Cooke and Charles Wilkes, among others, had previously tried and failed to find a path to the open sea. Sir James had only sailing vessels at his command, while the new expeditions will have powerful steamers.

The Boers, with whom England has a small war on her hands, in South Africa, in which she is thus far getting the worst of it, are Dutch colonists who had set up a little republic of their own, known as the Transvaal, west of the Zulu country. Sir Bartle Frere, the English governor of Cape Colony, during the Zulu war seized upon the Transvaal and annexed it to the British dominions, because it was a convenient base for military operations against Cetewayo. The inhabitants submitted of necessity, for their country was occupied by a powerful army; but they addressed an earnest protest to the British government. Their protest was disregarded and they bided their time, which has come with the Basuto war. They have now declared their independence, and five thousand of the eight thousand white men in the province are in arms in support of the declaration. The Cape Colonial government finds the Basutos alone more than it can well manage, and is telegraphing to London for more troops, which the Irish Land-Leaguers are very willing to have sent out.

The success of President Angell and the United States commissioners in making a new treaty with the Chinese government attracts considerable attention in Europe. The rapidity and ease with which the arrangements have been made surprises the English diplomatists. It is well known that we did nothing in the way of preparatory measures, which is the European fashion, and that, at the outset, we seemed to have a very hard case to uphold; for we had not treated the Chinese in America with any great degree of respect, and the object of the proposed treaty was to take from them their right to come to this country. That under the circumstances our commissioners were able to do what it is supposed they have done, is regarded as very skilful and successful diplomacy. Quite likely when the details of the negotiation are known, it will be found that the Chinese government was quite as willing to have its subjects stay at home as our commissioners were to have them remain. However, it seems to be taken for granted in Europe that the United States is on exceptionally friendly terms with the Chinese government, and that this may result in making great changes in the commercial and diplomatic standing of that country respecting the rest of the world.

The trial of the indicted Land-Leaguers commenced at Dublin on Tuesday. Chief Justice May read an address, stating that after the misconception which had arisen as to what he said on a former occasion, he should not take part in the present trials. After Chief Justice May had finished reading, Justice Fitzgerald took the chief seat and the trials were proceeded with before him and Justice Barry. Only eighteen out of twenty-four jurors called answered to their names and a jury was empanelled after much difficulty, the process occupying two hours. It consists of eight Catholics, three Protestants and one Quaker. The attorney general opened the case for the Crown, saying the object of conspiracy in which the respondents were engaged was to cause the social excommunication of a number of persons and to make their lives not worth the having. He severely condemned the policy of the Land League which he said, advocated freedom, yet brought all its power to bear in coercion of private individuals. The government, he said were bound to institute proceedings to put down the wicked agitation. The trials will be watched with great interest, although it is generally understood that conviction must follow. The line of defence is, as reported, on the authority of Mr. Davitt, a denial of the League's responsibility for the agrarian outrages, and a demonstration of the fact that, in spite of the terrible suffering through which Ireland has passed, the [illegible] of such outrages has been small.

The Legislature of 1880.

It will take a day or two to sift out the doings of the Legislature, so as to discover in what shape some of the measures passed, and to be able to say just how much of good it has to show for its sixty-nine days' session. It was, as has been stated, the longest session on record, exceeding the average by at least three weeks. It enacted the revised statutes; passed an important tax-bill, and various minor tax bills; stiffened the prohibitory law by some stringent nuisance and civil damage enactments; abolished the office of Superintendent of Agriculture, and re-established a Board of Agriculture. Six of the constitutional amendments, proposed by the Senate, passed the House, viz., the amendment giving the Governor power to order a new election if a vacancy occurs in the House or Senate; an amendment forever prohibiting the passing of laws allowing the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor, except wine and cider made from native fruit, or for mechanical or medicinal purposes; an amendment providing that the Legislature shall have no power to authorize any town to pledge its credit, or create any debt, in aid of railroads; an amendment providing that the Secretary of State and the Auditor of Accounts shall be elected by the people; an amendment in relation to reprieves and pardons, and an amendment requiring an additional oath of the members of the General Assembly.

Economy and retrenchment of almost everything but the time and pay of the Legislature, was the watchword of the session; and the State tax of the two years to come will average but *eighteen cents and a half* against an average of *thirty-five* cents for the two years past. That fact alone will commend the Legislature of 1880 to the favorable remembrance of a majority of the people.

The recent session of the Legislature lasted 69 days, and the State Treasurer paid out for the pay of members and other expenses, $63,425, or nearly $1,000 a day. With a House of 150 members, the same amount of work could and probably would have been done in half the time; and the State would have saved over $30,000 of the expense of the session.

Mr. Archibald Forbes the famous English war correspondent tells two stories that he has heard in Washington. One is that at the close of our war, before the French had withdrawn from Mexico, General Grant, thinking it might be necessary to drive them out, offered General Lee the command of a force to enter Mexico for that purpose, and General Lee accepted the proposal—a very pleasant story but one the accuracy of which may be open to some objection, Gen. Grant being then lieutenant-general commanding the army, and having no authority to offer a command to General Lee, who in his turn could become an officer only by having his disabilities removed by the action of Congress, and being then nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Forbes's other story is that during the controversy with Spain while General Grant was President, he sent for General Meade and told him that if war should be declared he had determined to attack Spain, not in Cuba, where an attack was expected and the Spanish fleet concentrated to repel it, but in Spain itself; that he should organize a force of sixty thousand men, put General Sheridan in command and dispatch the troops in steam transports for Corunna, where they would land and march directly for Madrid and dictate terms of peace there. A feint was to be made against Cuba to distract the attention of the Spaniards. Grant offered to Meade the position of chief of staff to General Sheridan, which, after some delay, was accepted. This story seems to be fully as credible as the first.

The editor of the Providence *Star*, who was for a long time a Washington correspondent, gives an amusing account of the appointment of the late Amos T. Akerman as Attorney-General. Mr. Akerman was an ordinary country lawyer and probably not a third of the members of the bar of his own State had ever heard of him. But he had happened to meet General Grant while in Washington on business, and the General formed a high opinion of his good sense and integrity. When Gen. Grant upon the retirement of Judge Hoar, resolved to have a Southern man in his cabinet, objections were made to every one whose name was suggested. At last he determined to select some one to whom no objection could be made because no one knew anything about him. So he appointed Mr. Akerman, but neither the President nor anybody else knew his address, and some time was lost in a search through the departments, when at last it was discovered on some documents which he had filed, and a despatch was sent to him. As he afterwards told the editor of the *Star*:

> He lived a long distance from the nearest telegraph office, and General Grant's despatch lay at the point where it was received for at least twenty-four hours before any attempt to send it to him was made. Then, when anxious inquiries for an answer began to come from Washington, the operator, having been assured that he would be reimbursed any expense he might incur, hired a negro man to take the important message to Mr. Akerman. Mr. Akerman said that this colored man rode up to his gate as he was sitting on his porch at about dusk one evening, and his surprise at reading the message can better be imagined than described. He had sought no office, and did not know that he could command political influence enough to get an appointment as an internal revenue agent. He of course accepted, but before he was heard from the country began to doubt the existence of any such man as Akerman.

The Vermont Legislature, in its choice of a new railroad commissioner, seems to have made almost as great an error as it did in its rejection of Judge Barrett. The extent of the railroads of that State, and the great influence which they are well known to exercise in all kinds of legislation, would seem to require that the commissioner should be a man well acquainted with the practical workings of our railroad system, and should also be a man of tried and unquestioned strength of character. Wayne Bailey, the new commissioner, certainly does not possess the first requisite, and nothing is known as to his claims for the second. A lawyer by profession, and at present register of probate for the Rutland district and assistant door-keeper of the House, his only recommendation seems to have been that he was so unfortunate as to have both hands blown off by the premature discharge of a cannon while celebrating the election of President Grant in 1872. This is a sufficient voucher for his republicanism, but is no good reason why he should be elected to a position of such potential importance as that of Railroad Commissioner. The fact that he received a purse of $471 from sympathizing legislators on the last night of the session does not tend to increase one's estimate of his independence of character. It would have been as well if the Legislature had abolished the office altogether, as was attempted.—*Springfield Republican.*

The *Republican* labors under the delusion that the office of railroad commissioner is one of some consequence in this State. That is not the case. Whatever may be the amount of Mr. Bailey's experience, capacity and character, it is certain that he has enough to be railroad commissioner. The office is absolutely without power, authority or consequence. The roads give the commissioner no information that they would not cheerfully give to the public without him. He has no control or influence over the roads, and nobody would ever know that there was such an office or officer if it were not for the appearance of a report from him (which nobody reads or cares anything about) in the volume of reports of State officers and the biennial little stir about abolishing the office. The office would not be retained a day if the small salary came from the public treasury. The railroads are willing to pay it because they prefer an actual nominal supervision to a possible real supervision on the part of the State, such as might be attempted, if the present farce of supervision was done away with. The office amounts simply to a requisition on the railroads to give some clever fellow or object of sympathy a salary of $600 and passes over their roads; and Mr. Bailey, who commended himself to the members by his attention and courtesy as doorkeeper, as well as by his misfortune, may as well have it as anybody.

A lad in Georgia was arrested as a suspected murderer, and, to escape the gallows, established an alibi by producing a watch which he had stolen at a certain time and place. That brought him in unpleasant proximity to the penitentiary, and he thought that he [illegible] from the lunatic asylum, and [illegible] quarters.

The Use of Money in Elections.

We agree with the Springfield *Republican* that "a campaign with money" is becoming a crying evil in New England politics. Of corrupt election methods in Boston, the *Republican* says: "Large sums are yearly spent and it is too true that bar'ls make elections. So far as appears on the surface there is little open buying of voters. The money chiefly goes to ward bosses who deliver the votes. They are frequently given so much for every vote beyond a certain majority that can be shown in this or that precinct. Fully half of the money expended is probably wasted,—that is to say, no equivalent is rendered for it. An enormous amount goes in the payment of poll taxes. According to the current talk of Boston politicians Congressman Morse was told that he must put up $15,000 for this use in the recent campaign. Axel Dearborn, Democratic candidate in the Third District, was assessed as much, and called upon to double it before he got through."

Says the Boston *Herald*: "It is not an uncommon thing for a candidate for Congress to spend $20,000 or $30,000 to secure his election. It is estimated that, in the two Boston districts this year, the amount expended was in the neighborhood of $80,000. A district in which there are such contests becomes terribly demoralized. A regular class of political bummers is developed, who look upon a campaign as their harvest time, and to whose fingers a large part of the money expended sticks. The same reckless expenditure has been introduced into the State elections by Gen. Butler, whose expenses in his two last campaigns were estimated all the way from $100,000 to $250,000.

A Concord, N. H., politician writes: "I suppose over $100,000 was spent for votes and liquor in this city and vicinity. The leading nominations, except Gov. Bell's, went to men with bar'ls, the Democratic electoral ticket especially being handed about to the highest bidder. When Nat White died there was a canvass of the State to get a man of equal wealth and liberality to succeed him. It was a campaign fought with money and drinks on both sides."

Facts similar in kind, if not equal as regards the extent of the corruption, are mentioned, from Connecticut, Maine, and even Vermont. Allowing something for exaggeration, there remains a melancholy amount of truth, in the picture thus drawn. Where are we coming out if this sort of thing continues? How shall this evil be remedied?—are questions asked by many a thoughtful student of the signs of the times. Something in the way of retarding the spread of such corruption, may be effected by constant denunciation of such methods, on the part of the honest men of both parties; but we do not believe that an effective remedy will be secured till every State, and the United States, has a law under which cases of bribery or corrupt use of money in elections can be taken, by a short and easy process, not to any legislature or political body, but to the courts, with the result that the proof of a single case of bribery or corruption throws the Congressman, member of general assembly, or officer, against whom it is proved, or in whose behalf the money was used, out of his seat or office. The elections of members of parliament in Canada, take place under such a law; and it has had a wonderful effect in purifying elections in the Dominion.

The decent people of Troy, N. Y., are congratulating themselves that the report that their Democratic mayor, Mr. Murphy, was present at a brutal dog fight which took place in that city on Monday, and the owner of one of the dogs, proves to be incorrect. The mayor has sued the editors of the Troy *Telegram* for libel for stating that he owned one of the dogs, and it seems to be conceded that he can clear his skirts of any direct connection with the fight. Some others of the Troy officials, however, do not come off so clear. The Troy *Times* says of the dog fight:

> It was an open-day and almost public demonstration of savagery that would disgrace Hottentots; and yet it is alleged that among those in attendance upon the fight was Lewis E. Griffith, *assistant police magistrate*, Lawrence Sheary, city superintendent, and *Police Commissioner Cavanaugh!* The brutes (dogs) fearfully lacerated and tore each other to the bone during the fight of nearly two hours, no doubt to the delight of the two legged managers and admiring observers. The four-legged fighters weighed 21 pounds each; the two-legged gamblers who bet on Troy "win" to the amount of probably $5,000. No arrests; of course not! And the question arises whether, the way things are going here, civilization is not pretty much played out in Troy in spite of free schools and gospel temperance, the churches and other agencies of beneficence? And the further question suggests itself whether Troy shall continue to be the elysium of law-defying blacklegs, official or unofficial, whose cocking-mains and dog-fights, brutal and barbarous as they are, may flourish with impunity, and even receive encouragement from those whose sworn duty it is to enforce the law?

The Democratic party, so completely defeated at the recent election, may disband and cease to exist as at present organized; but those of the persons who compose it, who have opinions and purposes in common, will, if their views as to measure are opposed to those of the Republicans, naturally recombine under another name and the self-same rose by any other name "will smell as sweet" as before.—*Senator Edmunds, in the North American Review.*

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

Hon. Albert Clarke, in a letter from Washington to the *Messenger*, says that Judge Aldis enjoys his new position as president of the French and American claims commission much better than he did that of chairman of the Southern claims commission. In that he was both judge and attorney for defendant; in this he is only judge, each government employing able counsel. The judge's many accomplishments as jurist, linguist and diplomatist render him entirely at ease in the position. He has become quite at home in Washington, having built a handsome residence on Rhode Island avenue. He and his family occupy a high position in the best society and adorn it.

An eminent Massachusetts statesman writes to a friend in this city from Washington, and says: "The impression prevails in the best informed circles here that either Senator Blaine or Senator Hoar will be offered New England's place in the cabinet."—*Boston Traveller.*

The fact is, and it cannot be stated too plainly, that there is more bigotry towards foreigners within the Democratic party than ever disgraced any other, save the defunct Know Nothing party. Republicans do not secretly scratch the names of their German allies on the party's ticket. They do not court the foreign vote on election day and spurn it the day after. Voters, in New England at least, have left the Democratic party because their disgust was not with honest foreign-born citizens who have been always loyal to the party, but with native fogies and cowards who want to use the rank and file, foreign or native born, for their own selfish ends. The policy of "keeping the party conveniently small," for fear there might not be offices enough to go round in the day of victory, has produced the result which might have been expected by any one but the Bourbons who cherished it.—*Boston Pilot.*

NOTES AND MOTES.

General Grant has turned author and written an article for the February *North American Review*, in which he will favor the scheme for a Nicaragua ship canal.

Charles Lamb said: "When you loaned a book to Coleridge, it returned with additional value." The trouble with most books that are loaned is, they don't return at all.

"Mr. Edmunds," says the Troy *Times*, "is wanted in the Senate; and, for that matter, on the bench too. But there are not Edmundses enough in the country to go around."

Boycott is more than $20,000 out, "but what is that," inquires the Springfield *Republican*, "to a man who has become a verb?" "But what gain," asks the Albany *Journal*, "is there in being a verb, if, like Boycott, you have only a passive voice?"

This was dropped into the Troy postoffice: "My deer Santa Claus: Won't you pleas bring me for crismas a nice torch lite prosession on horseback so i can ride myself, Johnny Goodwin, Troy."

The apologies of Weaver and Sparks, the Congressional blackguards, to the House, were amusing. Weaver said, in apologizing: "I called him a liar, it is true, and I am sorry for it;" but in the record of the proceedings in the *Congressional Globe*, he or somebody so changed the punctuation that it reads: "I called him a liar; it is true, and I am sorry for it."

Congress will reassemble on the 5th of January.

Gold continues to come from Europe to America. This is our golden age.

Gen. Grant received a Christmas present of a grand-daughter, of which Mrs. Sartoris in England, is the happy mother.

"The Senate," says the Springfield *Republican*, "will lose its 'watch dog of the treasury' when Mr. Edmunds goes on the Supreme bench."

Professor Swing of Chicago got a lift from $7,000 to $10,000 on his salary. Reason: Threatened to come to New York. It is believed the extra $3,000 was secretly contributed by New Yorkers.—*World.*

Professor: "Mr. M., what is the answer to my question?" Mr. M. (after waiting in vain to be prompted): "Nobody seems to know, professor."

The public man who contemns the newspapers despises the best means of learning what he most needs to know—the condition and movement of opinion. What degree of influence he shall concede to it is his own affair.—*Ex.*

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1880.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

There is one branch of business in which Washington excels, which may fitly be termed wholesale, and that is *Eating*. The innocent observer beholds with amazement that about every third house he passes is an eating-establishment of some kind, oyster saloon restaurant, small hotel, all vieing with each other in their glaring devices and the enticing enumeration of the delicacies within. The political economists and philosophers in Congress have right here the anomaly of a non-producing, all-consuming populace. The appellation "City of magnificent distances" ought to be changed to "City of magnificent appetites."

Of course when Congress is in session, the capitol is the centre, the Caaba of this Mecca. Let us step into one of the galleries of the House.

At twelve o'clock, the Speaker raps on the desk with his gavel. There is a violently improvised lull in the noise and the chaplain offers a brief prayer. With his *Amen*, the buzzing and bustle return seven-fold and increase still more when an asthmatic youth begins to read the Journal in a perfunctory, monotous, town-crier tone. The whole looks and sounds for all the world like a school of grown up pupils, at their copy books. The members postpone their correspondence till the session begins and then hurriedly proceed to despatch it. The clapping of hands, the summoning of the attendant boys, the running to and fro of these light footed Mercuries, the talking and walking constitute the interesting scene. When the young man has at length finished his melodious madrigals, immediately half a dozen are on their feet crying out: Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!! in a way that would distract an ordinary mortal, but does not seem to effect him of the gavel in the least. When one begins to speak the confusion is not a whit abated. The few that are disengaged placidly contemplate the individual as a sort of nine days wonder, surprised at the Quixotic extravagance of the man, to try and make himself understood in such a place.

When you pay a visit to Congress you expect to hear some good speeches. It will be by the merest stroke of good fortune, if you are not disappointed. It will most likely be like going to the menagerie to hear the lion roar and the contrary beast is not in a roaring mood. In fact the displays of oratory in Congress are exceedingly rare. It is not so much a gathering of orators matching and measuring their eloquence with each other as rather an assembly of business men. Most of the work is done in the committee rooms and on the general floor; they mostly confine their efforts to fighting through the measures already determined upon. Here the existence of party division occasions much skirmishing and causes much delay. Every step, every movement forward is jealously watched and challenged. There is thus necessarily much dispute and harrangue on technical, parliamentary points. The motto of many seems to be the words of Barry Cornwall: "Our Ambition lies but in little things." Thus far this session there has not been much flourishing of the tomahawk. On the whole every body seems amicably disposed, the victory at the last election was so very thorough and overwhelming. The successful party feel content and can afford not to stand upon trifles; the outgoing party, especially those with whose further patriotic services their country feels constrained gratefully to dispense, might perhaps be expected to make things unpleasant for their opponents during the few remaining days of grace they are in power, but in their disgust they evidently feel like saying with Othello: "Let it go all!" There are fine looking men in the House, men of imposing presence, men on whose brow is stamped the mark of intellect. A striking feature is the preponderance of old men, among these one remarkable personage. An invalid's carriage is wheeled into the House. In it sits a little old man with snow white head and attenuated frame, apparently too infirm to be there, but when he began to speak you would change your mind about that. This is Alex. H. Stephens of Georgia, an instance of the mastery of the mind over the body. It is interesting to mark the wonderful dexterity with which he wheels his carriage from side to side while he speaks.

In the Senate the number of hoary polls is still more preponderant. The eye eagerly looks for those men whose names have become household words throughout the land, Edmunds and Blaine, Hill and Lamar, Thurman and Bayard, Conkling and Cameron and Logan. Gen. Grant's visit to Congress formed an interesting intermezzo. Both Houses took a recess of ten minutes in honor of their guest and all who were so willed came up and shook hands, and it was noticed that those who hung back were Northern Democrats, whereas none were more cordial than the Southerners. Looking upon the lovely scene, one should have supposed that he was their long-lost brother instead of their enemy and conqueror.

Well, it is manly to let by-gones be by-gones and not to build the future on dead issues thrice rejected.

In the revulsion of the order of things consequent upon the last election, the complexion of Congress will be completely reversed from that existing a few years ago; we will now have a Republican House and perhaps a Democratic Senate. The aggressive and the defensive will change hands and the battle will rage again. But when you descend the steps of the Capitol and turn to take another view of the great building, you see that though the two opposite wings, in which the two Houses respectively meet are far apart, and apparently receding, yet they are inseparably united by the central building, capped with the stately dome, surmounted by a statue of the Goddess of Liberty, and it becomes a comforting symbol to you. It is as if both the Northern and the Southern wing through their common liberty crowned dome joined in the cry, which sounds above the wrangling and bravado of politicians and partisans, "The Union, now and forever, one and indivisible!"

Yours, X——

New York Letter.

YULETIDE JOTTINGS—THE PURITAN FESTIVALS—SMOKING OUT SMALL POX, ETC.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1880.

To the Editor of the Free Press and Times:

The streets of New York are a picture in holiday times. Money flows like water, and the air quivers with the babbling of belles, with the most coquettish costumes and brightest of holiday faces. The stores are filled with things of beauty, and the very windows have this year been decorated with wonderful elaborateness of artistic display. Some of the combinations would do credit to the most renowned scenic artists. One establishment, for instance, has an enormous model of Niagara Falls, with hacks, visitors, etc., moving about in the most natural style, and water flowing too. Another has three enormous windows each framing a scene in the yearly adventures of Santa Claus. In one the good old gentleman, with frosty pow is disclosed in his workshop, packing up the the results of his long year's labors to delight the good little ones. In another, he is discovered in full career, urging on the traditional reindeer to where a light curl of smoke betrays a cottage half buried in snow. In yet another, is a life-like scene of little automatons discovering the treasures left by the saint. Ever changing crowds are attracted by these devices. The main streets are lined with venders each with a basketful of some one toy each more attractive than the last seen, and all so cheap that nickels and quarters are irresistibly impelled to part company with their quondam owners in exchange for them.

Nor is charity forgotten. The great fairs of churches are thronged, and purses melt like ices before the fascinations of the fair sales-ladies with their winning ways. At one Hebrew bazaar not less than $70,000 was realized in a single night. And the hospitals are to have two "hospital days" this year, when the casual penny may find its way into boxes set up everywhere. One day brought $26,000 last year, when the idea was new and little understood. It wouldn't surprise me if $100,000 should be gathered in in the two days this time.

The staid Puritans of New England, and their kin from Ohio, have got the start of Xmas with Forefathers' Day, and this year they had two Forefathers' Days, the new Brooklyn New England Association claiming that, by some newly discovered evidence, Plymouth Rock was picked up a day earlier than has generally been held. So they led off with an immense affair in the Brooklyn Academy, with Grant, Hayes, Sherman, Sheridan, Beecher, and pretty nearly everybody else and all his relations, when speech and song and story kept the rafters ringing with mirth till almost daybreak. The next evening was the New York celebration, and Grant made speeches which very much surprised and delighted those who thought of the old-time reticence of that once very silent man. President Hayes, too, had previously put in a good day's work, flirting with the girls at Packer Institute, and then metaphorically patting several hundred boys on the head at the Polytechnic, winding up his educational jaunt with a confab with the mixed classes at the Central Grammar School, and then refreshing the inner man, in company with a select crowd of stupendous bigwigs, at a comfortable little spread given by A. A. Low, the China merchant, whose board groaned under a royal service of pure gold, while a band played, and illuminated conservatories threw their tropical fragrance on the brilliant scene, and the priceless wines which were brought forth in honor of the occasion. It was indeed a notable feast.

Diphtheria doesn't abate, and there's a new theory about it that it is brought from Russia, where it is endemic, and kills thousands to one it does where not so established for ages—just as cholera is bred among the pilgrims to Hindoo shrines in India and the plague among the unwashed hordes of Central Asia; and it is proposed to quarantine and disinfect all Russian immigrants with chlorine gas before suffering them to land. One immigrant steamer, the Italia, with over a thousand passengers, with small-pox on board, has been in the lower bay over a week, undergoing purifying rites and ceremonies.

We have a new park board, with a fresh commissioner, Salem H. Wales, one of our scientific sages. He was for many years editor of the *Scientific American*, and now edits and owns a formidable rival to it. He votes for himself as president of the board, claiming he was put into the office to cleanse the Augean stable; and as the others don't see the point they haven't been able to organize yet. The commissioners have cheerful hours casting innumerable ballots. They all draw large salaries.

Fulton market isn't pulled down yet, nor apparently will it be; but it gets a new roof and a new foundation, and a new something else every now and again, when the authorities see a little money in harassing the standholders. Just now, several companies of firemen, under protection of strong bodies of police, have been tearing down the awnings, to the dismay of the people whose holiday stock was rudely exposed to wintry blasts and snow and possible rain.

Yours, D.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

District Attorney Phelps of New York lies at the point of death.

The St. Louis railroad bridges earns $40,000 a month, and they think it is better than free ferries.

Ireland is now garrisoned by 40,000 soldiers and 12,000 police, and yet it is not exactly peaceful there.

Hon. John C. New of Indianapolis is in rapidly failing health, and his condition excites alarm among his friends.

Capitalists are negotiating at Washington for a site for a palatial hotel to eclipse anything of its kind on this continent.

The public debt statement, which will be issued Monday, January 3, will show a reduction of the debt for December of about the same as November; that is, about $2,600,000. The disbursements of the different departments during the month have been very heavy. About $4,000,000 have been paid out in pensions.

Virginia leads all the other States in the manufacture of tobacco with a gross product the last fiscal year of 52,200,000 pounds, on which the internal revenue tax was $5,000,000; New Jersey comes next with 16,500,000 pounds, and New York third with 13,500,000 pounds.

Saturday, near White Sulphur Springs, Ky., a man named Theodore Lee was attacked by his three brothers-in-law, and a desperate struggle ensued. Lee drawing his pistol, shot Chris. [illegible] son, one of his assailants, through the heart, killing him instantly. [illegible] himself was wounded, [illegible] may recover. The [illegible] for the assault is said to be a desire on the part of the brothers-in-law to obtain Lee's property through his wife.

The sale of three negroes for vagrancy at Liberty, Va., has been set aside by the County court, and the men given their liberty.

It appears that Edward Kissam, a negro waiter in Newark, murdered his wife with a club, crushing her skull, etc., Christmas day, and slept with the corpse. He has been arrested.

There were 700,000 letters, newspapers and packages delivered from the New York post-office, on Monday, making the heaviest day's work in the history of the office. Some of the carriers had to be furnished with cabs.

A despatch from Trenton, N. J., says Gov. McClellan has declined to accept the presidency of the New York Underground Railroad Company, to which he was recently elected. He will go abroad with his family in April next.

Very few women voted on school matters, at the recent city election in Boston. The number registered was 200 less than last year, and of those registered not a majority voted. But one woman was elected to the school committee, Miss Peabody, who was on all sorts of tickets.

In twenty years the yield of the Comstock lode has been $325,000,000 worth of bullion. The length of shafts and galleries is two hundred and fifty miles. Three hundred and sixty million tons of waste rock have been hoisted, and 1,350,000,000 tons of water pumped to the surface.

A Paducah, Ky., man who was bitten by a mad dog four years ago, after having had several convulsions in the interim, was recently attacked by hydrophobia, and attempted to kill his wife and bite all who came near him. He injured his father, but was secured and bound hand and foot to his bed.

At Bloomington, Ill., the wife of a farmer in the absence of her husband, was watering stock. A pet cow turning her head quickly knocked her into the well, where she remained three hours. She kept her head above water by clinging to the bricks, but died from the chill soon after being taken out.

Miss Gardiner, an Irish landlady, was recently assaulted by a mob in the streets of Ballina, Ireland, and took refuge in a shop, whose proprietor ordered her out. She then drew her revolver and warned back the yelling crowd, and such was the fame of her marksmanship and spirit that the mob was held in check until the arrival of the police.

When Rachel first played before Queen Victoria the Queen's mother took her India shawl from her shoulders and wrapped it about her. Victoria gave her a diamond bracelet inscribed as from one queen to another, and court bulletins were issued respecting her health. When she visited England a second time, the irregular manner of her life had become known, and no one about the court paid her the least social or personal attention.

Judge Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, has decided that a railroad company is fully responsible for injury done a passenger on a Pullman sleeper without reference to the fact that such a car is owned and managed by another company. The company which sells a ticket is responsible for the safety of the passenger, Judge Harlan holds, and the conductor and porter of a Pullman car are in the law the servants of the railroad company.

The London correspondent of the New York *Times* writes as follows: "As an example of English good feeling toward American work, *Scribner's Magazine* for November reached a sale of over 15,000 copies, a circulation larger than *Cornhill*, *Macmillan*, *Belgravia*, *Fraser*, *Blackwood*, or the *Contemporary*. * * The portrait of Gladstone in *Scribner* has given great satisfaction to the Premier's family and friends."

The private library of A. W. Griswold, Esq., the formerly rich New York lawyer, was sold at auction, a few days since. A new catalogue was made for the sale at a cost of $1,000. There are over 1,300 lots in the catalogue, largely of early English poetry and the drama, black letter books, Aldine and Elzevir editions of the classics, Americana and privately printed works. The sale realized $12,000.

A woman living in Brooklyn, N. Y., has recognized Frank Lammens, a condemned murderer at Newark, N. J., as her husband. She says she was married to Lammens twenty-seven years ago; that sixteen years ago, when they lived in Brooklyn, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Sing Sing for burglary, was transferred to Auburn Prison, and before his term expired became insane. He was then transferred to the Utica Insane Asylum, and having been reported dead, his wife so considered him. When she read in the papers of Frank Lammens, the murderer, she did not think he was her former husband who spelled his name Franz Lammens, but on Christmas eve she had a dream that the Newark prisoner was her missing husband, and on Christmas day a white dove flew to her room and alighted upon her bed exactly as a dove had done before her oldest daughter's death. This led her to go at once to Newark.

God doubtless could have made before now a worse Legislature than that of 1880, but God never did. There is one comfort, while bad Legislatures die there is no resurrection for them in this world.—*Rutland Herald.*

Northern Pacific Railroad.

PREPARATIONS TO PUSH THE WORK—INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT BILLINGS.

Hon. Frederick Billings, president of the Northern Pacific railroad, was interviewed by a *Times* reporter, at his New York office, on Monday. Mr. Billings said that, by the recent loan of $40,000,000 effected by the company, ample funds are secured to carry forward the enterprise at both ends and in the middle, just as fast as a judicious expenditure of the money will allow. Every preparation is being made to push the work during the coming year with the greatest possible vigor.

There is to be an immediate increase of engineering and other official force to meet the requirements of the work. Gen. Anderson, the engineer-in-chief, has just returned from the Yellowstone Valley. He has already contracted for ties and timber for 200 miles of that division, and his instructions are to accomplish in the coming year the largest possible amount of mileage construction up the Yellowstone Valley, with the view of closing up the central gap of 820 miles and having the road running through in 1883. This central gap is from Glendive, where the Missouri division ends on the Yellowstone, to the eastern end of the Pend d'Oreille Division, which extends 209 miles from Ainsworth, on the Columbia River west to Lake Pend d'Oreille. The Pend d'Oreille division will be completed in early Spring. It is nearly all graded, the materials are all provided and on the spot, and the track is now going down. As soon as it is completed the work will be continued without interruption eastward, and with vigorous progress up the Yellowstone going west, and from Lake Pend d'Oreille going east, the company confidently expect to close up the central gap in 1883. In addition to this activity in the heart of the continent, work is to be commenced this Winter on the 120 miles across Northern Wisconsin, to the Montreal River, being the extreme eastern division of the road, and steadily carried forward to completion. This division will form part of the Lake Superior South Shore Line, running to the Sault Ste. Marie, connecting with the Canadian roads, and to the Straits of Mackinaw, connecting with the New York Central and Pennsylvania systems. It also makes a new connection with Milwaukee and Chicago by the Wisconsin Central. Besides the work on the central gap and on the Wisconsin division, the company propose, during the coming year, to begin the connection on the western end of the Pend d'Oreille division with tide-water. The company is authorized by its charter to build a line down the Columbia River to Puget Sound, and also over the Cascade Range to the Sound. The Cascade Range surveys are nearly completed, and indicate a favorable route. It is probable that the line over the mountains will first be built.

In speaking of the material for all this contemplated work, Mr. Billings said that 51,000 tons of rails, 46,000 of which are steel, have already been purchased, to be delivered during the year, with all the fastenings; 1,750 additional freight cars of different kinds, and 32 locomotives, with new passenger cars, etc. Twenty thousand tons of the rails are intended for the Pacific coast, and shipments will be made at the rate of 2,000 tons per month, beginning in January. It is expected that the road will be running from Glendive, where it strikes the Yellowstone, (to which point the track is nearly laid,) up the Yellowstone to Miles City next July, a distance of 769 miles. Passengers will be carried to the Yellowstone Park in July of the succeeding year.

The president has undoubted faith in the future of the road. Up to this time it has been chiefly run through a region specially adapted for wheat. Now it is penetrating the finest grazing region on the continent. Northern Pacific beef is to be as well known as Northern Pacific wheat. It will soon be in the great mineral belts of Montana. All along the line there will be local developments, and the business of the road will be steadily and largely increasing. The president said the most sanguine Northern Pacific man does not fully realize the development that will take place in a brief period in the great belt of which this road is to be the trunk line. The usefulness of the road, its necessity, and its success are alike getting recognized by the Government and the people. It is as much a National work as a private enterprise, and it is the ambition and the purpose of the company to get it done as soon as possible, and have it so well done and so honestly done that it will be a credit to everybody connected with it.

PERSONAL.

According to Kate Field there is but one portrait of the late George Eliot in existence, and that one a crayon, which is in the possession of the Blackwoods in Edinburg. Miss Field believes George Eliot is the only woman in the civilized world who has never been photographed.

A special to the Boston *Transcript* says: The statement that Senator Edmunds does not desire a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court is made without his authority. Should Judge Hunt be retired, he would undoubtedly be named for that position.

General Grant has turned author and written an article for the February *North American Review*, in which he will favor the scheme for a Nicaragua ship canal. Apropos of this the New York *Tribune* says: He is showing so much versatility in practising the arts of peace that the country would not be overwhelmed with surprise if some day he should make a flank movement on Parnassus itself.

George Eliot wrote with a golden pen. For her "Middlemarch" she is said to have received $40,000 on the delivery of the manuscript, and for "Daniel Deronda" $60,000, besides a percentage which probably yielded her $20,000 more. She was a hard worker, spending seven or eight hours a day at her desk, though from 40 to 60 lines a day she considered an ample "output." She was slow and methodical in working, always preparing her plots and even her narratives in her mind so that putting them on paper was merely a transcription. When she had completed a book she invariably suffered from fits of nervous depression, which were only relieved by travel and change of scene.

Mr. Crocker, the San Francisco millionaire, had to pay $500,000 taxes this year under the new California constitution; so he has decided to bring his millions East and will build a palace on Fifth avenue, New York.

The death of Thomas Carlyle may be announced at any day. The prevailing trouble of his life has been dyspepsia, from which he has been a sufferer. In his last years it is said that he has dictated his biography.

James Keene, the speculator, is said to be in wretched health, and often troubled with sleeplessness. He has been burnt along the spine by the doctors.

Bancroft, the historian, is thin and straight, but he walks sturdily every afternoon. He wears a tall silk hat and carries a stout walking stick. He walks on the roadway near the curbstone, so that he may not be jostled by the crowd on the sidewalk.

When Senator Edmunds speaks, says a Washington letter, "he usually begins by putting the knuckles of his right hand down upon his desk in a manner which seems to say that he has not only clinched the argument but that he has done all his hammering beforehand.

The youngest soldier in the Union service during the war of the rebellion was doubtless the only son of Jacob W. Messick, now a member of the Legislature of Indiana. He enlisted as sergeant in Company A, Forty-second Indiana, and took with him his son, Johnnie, then but 9 years of age, as drummer boy. The lad was present at every action in which the regiment was engaged, and was at last duly mustered out at the mature age of twelve.

Last Friday Mr. and Mrs. Duthan Benjamin of Whitehall, N. Y., celebrated the *sixtieth* anniversary of their marriage, an event it is given very few persons the privilege of observing. Mr. Benjamin has never lived over three miles from his birth place. Mrs. Benjamin, nee Belinda Allen, was born at Pawlet, Vt., October 12, 1803, and is, as it is said, a kinswoman of Ethan Allen. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin, five of whom survive, and there are now living 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, all of whom were present at the celebration on Friday. Mr. Benjamin has been a hunter and trapper all his life, and three years ago shot his last deer on the Dresden, N. Y., mountain. He is still erect and vigorous, and says he can sight a gun as well as ever. Mrs. Benjamin also enjoys excellent health, and the aged couple bid fair to survive many years.

The DesMoines (Iowa) *Register* publishes an extract from a letter from Hon. John A. Kasson, United States Minister to Austria, written at Liverpool, on his way to Vienna, in which Mr. Kasson says:

We had a dreadfully rough passage, a bad storm, and several accidents to passengers. I was once thrown across the ship, receiving a wound at the top of my throat, badly hurting my ribs, with other bruises, and was in the hands of the ship's surgeon two or three days, but am now only feeling the soreness, with no broken bones. Twelve persons, sailors and passengers, have been injured, more or less, on the voyage. We did not go into Queenstown, but came direct to Liverpool, arriving in nine days, notwithstanding the stormy weather.

STATE NEWS.

A little child of Henry H. Wolf's of Bellows Falls, a year and a half old, fell from its bed Monday night, and died within three hours from the effects of the fall.

It is reported that a valuable kaolin bed has been discovered on the farm of [illegible] of New Haven, about a mile from the [illegible] Monkton.

Hiram Atkins of the Argus, fell on the icy pavement, recently, and broke his wrist.

Mr. Orrin Greene of Topsham attempted to kill himself by cutting his throat, but only made an ugly incision into the windpipe. A surgeon sewed up the wound and thinks he may recover.

Judgment has been rendered in the Supreme Court at Boston on the verdict of $45,000 against the Grand Trunk railroad in favor of Charles H. Worthen of Island Pond. It is the largest judgment ever rendered in this country for personal injury.

In Orange County Court, the case of Melendy vs. Bradford came to an untimely end, Saturday morning. Hon. John W. Rowell, Melendy's counsel, presented a dozen affidavits all declaring that Charles Chandler, a juror from Strafford, had been heard to express an opinion to the effect that Melendy never ought to have a cent. Chandler was accordingly excluded, and the town's counsel declining to proceed with eleven jurors or to summon a new jury, and [illegible], the case was continued.

Several years ago S. L. Griffith of Danby made a contract with W. H. Barnum of Connecticut to furnish him with a large amount of charcoal. The hard times soon came on and Barnum refused to take the coal and Griffith brought suit against him for damages. The suit was recently settled by Barnum agreeing to pay $8,000, the first installment of which has just been received by Griffith.—*Manchester Journal.*

The case of Knox against the town of Wheelock in the county court at St. Johnsbury, which required five days for its trial, has resulted in a verdict of $900 for the plaintiff. The claim was for $2,000 for injury received on a highway in the defendant town. Weeks against the town of Lyndon, a similar case, resulted in a verdict of $1,500 for the plaintiff. He claimed $12,000. Two other cases for personal injuries, in which the plaintiffs claimed $2,000 and $3,000, resulted in verdicts of [illegible] respectively.

At West Randolph, the other day, a young man about 25 years old, rather stoutly built, light complexion, and sandy hair, giving his name as Gordon, and claimed to represent the firm of C. T. Raymond & Co., of New York, called on W. W. Bean and sold him a bill of varnishes and oils. He wanted to get a draft of $75 on the firm cashed, and asked Mr. Bean to identify him at the bank. Mr. Bean accompanied him to the Randolph National Bank, indorsed his draft and it was paid. In the afternoon he left for Northfield, and was there arrested at the instigation of a business man in Woodstock by an officer from that town. It seems he had played a similar game there and the firm had been notified, when they telegraphed to arrest him as an impostor and hold him. The officer, however, settled with him and let him go. Since then the firm have written to the cashier of the Randolph National Bank that this is an old offender who has travelled through the West taking orders and then borrowing money of the parties. He is now on a tour through New England, and business men should look out for him.

Isle La Motte Bridge.—After delays of various sorts both branches of the Legislature agreed upon a bill for the appropriation of money to build this bridge. The State has voted $7,000 to be paid when the bridge is completed and authorized the town to bond itself to the amount of ten times its grand list, which is $960, so that some $16,000 will be available enough to complete the work. With the completion of the bridge it is estimated that $15,000 or $20,000 worth of trade will be yearly turned from New York to our own State and the Islanders fondly hope that they will grow in population and wealth speedily.

Never were such magnificent and costly structures in course of erection at New York. The taste of New York's rich men in the manner of house decoration, outside as well as inside, grows more luxurious every year. Some are not satisfied with American work or American material, but must have both from abroad. They actually insist upon having men brought over from Europe to carve the stone traceries and figures on their house fronts. A magnificent building at the corner of Fifth avenue and Sixty-ninth street is making very slow progress on this account. Every figure must be cut by imported workmen, and as it takes time to get men from the other side, and they don't always suit when they come, there is, of course, much delay with the work. It is the same case with the costly new Vanderbilt buildings. The ornamental work must wait till "artists" from Europe are ready to do it. In addition to the three Vanderbilt houses, there are now building on the avenue elegant mansions for Robert Goelet, Ogden Goelet, David Dows, H. B. Bishop and one of the Astor family besides. One of the new palaces will have a single imported chimney-piece that cost $4,800, and is only a wooden one at that. The Astor house is being built by Mrs. W. W. Astor for her daughter, Mrs. Roosevelt. The materials are brown stone and brick, the basement being of uncut stone, and the lines of the front are very severe. The house is 37 feet wide and about 80 feet deep. The sculptor, St. Gaudens, will design the artistic details of the entrance. The plan is that commonly known as an English basement house.

Death of Rev. E. H. Chapin.—Rev. Edwin Hubbell Chapin, D. D., one of the most eminent clergymen in this country, and many years a leader in the Universalist denomination, died in New York, Monday morning, after a prolonged illness. Dr. Chapin was born in Union Village, Washington county, N. Y., Dec. 29, 1814, and received an academic education in Bennington, Vt. After completing his studies he became associate editor of a Universalist paper published in Utica, N. Y., under the title of *The Magazine and Advocate*. From thus advocating the doctrines of the Universalist denomination in the columns of the press he took the more prominent position of a preacher, entering the pulpit in 1837, when only twenty-three years old. His first pastorate was over the Independent Christian Church of Richmond, Va., where he remained three years. From Virginia he went to Massachusetts in 1840, and was installed as pastor of the Universalist Church in Charlestown. Here he attracted much attention by his effectiveness as a preacher, and as a result he was called in 1846 to a broader field of work, the School Street Universalist Church of Boston engaging him to act as associate pastor with Rev. Hosea Ballou, then regarded as one of the fathers of the liberal creed in New England. Two years later he was called to the pastorate of the Fourth Universalist Church in New York, and accepting the invitation, entered upon a relation which has continued to the present time uninterrupted except by the illness which, compelling him to seek recuperation by rest and by travel in Europe, has kept him out of his pulpit a number of months past. At the time of his death he was one of the longest settled pastors in New York city.

In addition to his pulpit duties and the exercise of his functions as a pastor, Dr. Chapin was a frequent occupant of the lecture platform. He was also an author, and has published several works of more than ordinary value. These included several volumes of sermons and works entitled "Duties of Young Men," "Duties of Young Women," "Characters in the Gospel," "Communion Hours," "Crown of Thorns," "The Beatitudes," "Moral Aspects of City Life," "Humanity in the City," and "True Manliness."

As an orator Dr. Chapin had few peers. His geniality made him a welcome guest everywhere; as a preacher he gained the respect of his hearers, and as a friend he cemented the bond by ties of warmest friendship.

Electoral Messengers in a Stew.—There has been some fun and no little trouble in paying the messengers who have brought the electoral votes to the capital. They are paid at the Treasury. Since the establishment of the Electoral College until this year messengers were paid twenty-five cents mileage both ways. In last year's appropriations bill it was very quietly prescribed that they should be given a mileage of twenty-five cents a mile, but only for one way. Not a messenger knew of this change. They all expected the fat little mileage of twenty-five cents both ways, which would enable those from a distance to see the capital and carry home a nice little Christmas fund over and above expenses. There was great rivalry before the Electoral Colleges of each State for the office of messenger. When these gentlemen were brought up with a round turn at the Treasury, and mileage only one way tendered to them, there was deep disappointment. In many cases there was not only disappointment but a dispute. They claimed that the Treasury was defrauding them, and were loud in their protests. This was almost invariably the case when the free American citizen from the wild West or the lively Southwest came to get his money. Another point of disagreement was the length of the messenger's journey. He claimed to have travelled in nearly every case a greater distance than the carefully made up Treasury tables showed, but he invariably had to submit to the Treasury schedules.—*Washington Paper.*

Essex Junction.—As Dr. Ferrin and wife were returning home Thursday evening, they thought their house was on fire. On closer investigation, however, they found the unusual appearance to arise from an extensive illumination, in the interior, where they found nearly two hundred of their friends gaily celebrating the [illegible] anniversary of their marriage. A more complete surprise was never enjoyed. The presents were numerous and elegant. Noticeable among them was a hair cloth sofa, a table with Italian marble top, chamber set, camp chair, side lamp, toilet set, vases, and many other things too numerous to mention, plainly demonstrating the fact that the doctor and his estimable wife were beloved and appreciated by the people with whom they have associated for the past eight years. Rev. Dr. Ferrin, the officiating clergyman of [illegible] years ago, was present and in a very happy manner, congratulated the physician and people and presented the gifts with appropriate remarks to which Dr. Ferrin briefly replied.

News by Telegraph.

VERMONT NEWS.

SEIZURE BY CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES.

NORTH TROY, Vt., Dec. 29.—Customs Officer Pettingill seized yesterday a span of horses, harness and sleigh and a large quantity of liquor, belonging to Albert J. Kittridge of Newport, for infringement of the customs laws. Kittridge is a notorious smuggler, just released from jail for rum selling.

FROM WASHINGTON.

SENTENCE REVOKED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—It is stated that the sentence of dismissal of Major Dawson, of the marine corps, for disgraceful conduct at Philadelphia, has been revoked, and that the Major will be allowed to resign.

MINOR NOTES.

Senator David Davis's friends deny the report that he is willing to accept a position on the supreme bench.

It is now predicted that the total population of this country will be a few thousands in excess of fifty millions.

WOOL GROWERS' CONVENTION.

It is announced that next week, Commissioner Le Duc will call a convention of wool growers of the United States at Washington in January. This is in accordance with direction of the Wool-growers' Convention at Philadelphia, last summer. Arrangements will probably be made for an annual or biennial sheep and wool show.

SENATOR DAVID DAVIS.

An Illinois gentleman, an intimate friend of Senator David Davis, says that the latter, in private conversation, since this session of Congress began, has expressed great dissatisfaction with the democratic policy and management. This gentleman believes that on important questions Senator Davis will probably side with the republicans.

FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—People who should be well informed assert that the President will appoint Gen. Wickham of Virginia as the successor of Secretary Thompson, he having ascertained from Mr. Garfield that that gentleman will be his appointment for Secretary of the Navy.

THE RESULTS OF THE CENSUS.

The following statement shows the population of certain states and territories, according to the census of 1880. This statement is still subject to possible corrections by reason of the discovery of omissions or duplications of names of lists of inhabitants returned: Alabama, 1,261,241; Arkansas, 802,564; Connecticut, 622,683; Delaware, 146,654; Florida, 266,566; Georgia, 2,537,878; Iowa, 1,624,463; Kansas, 995,335; Kentucky, 1,648,599; Louisiana, 940,203; Maine, 648,945; Massachusetts, 1,783,086; Missouri, 2,169,091; Nebraska, 452,432; Nevada, 62,265; New Hampshire, 347,782; New Jersey, 1,130,892; New York, 5,082,844; North Carolina, 1,400,000; Oregon, 174,767; Rhode Island, 176,526; South Carolina, 995,706; Tennessee, 1,542,463; Vermont, 332,286; Virginia, 1,512,212; West Virginia, 618,193; Wisconsin, 1,315,386; District of Columbia, 177,638; Idaho, 32,611; Montana, 39,157; Utah, 143,907; Washington, 75,120; Wyoming, 20,788.

LESS SILVER AND MORE GOLD.

There has been a marked falling off lately in orders for standard silver dollars received by Treasurer Gilfillan. The Treasury Department has directed the transfer of $4,000,000 of gold bullion from the assay office at New York to the Philadelphia mint for coinage into eagles and half eagles. After this transfer there will still remain in the New York assay office about $63,000,000 of gold bullion, more than enough to keep the Philadelphia mint employed for six months in the coinage of gold exclusively.

NEW ENGLAND NEWS.

DISASTROUS COLLISION.

SALEM, Mass., Dec. 29.—The engine of the 6.45 afternoon train for Danvers jumped the track near Carltonville station, last night, and ran into some freight cars standing upon a siding. The collision stove in the boiler head and demolished the pilot of the engine, and the car struck by the engine was demolished. The train consisting of two passenger and baggage cars was uninjured.

A REPUBLICAN UNDOUBTEDLY ELECTED.

CONCORD, N. H., Dec. 28.—The special Congressional election in the third district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Evarts W. Farr was held to-day. The returns are incomplete, but 41 towns, including the principal ones, give Ossian Ray (rep.), 7,000; Hosely (dem.), 3,763.

Of thirty-seven towns in the third Congressional district heard from by the republican state committee all but one show a republican net gain aggregating 1,659. The vote was very light. The law provides that the returns should be made within 15 days. It is understood, however, that the executive body will immediately issue Mr. Ray's certificate, so he can go to Washington the first of next week.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

ABSCONDED.

FALL RIVER, Dec. 29.—J. W. Melne, aged 24, clerk for eight years for the Pocasset National Bank, has been missing since Monday. It has been discovered that after making up the books, Friday night, he took $1,200. A reward is offered for his arrest. He leaves here a young wife and a four weeks old child.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 26.—Sophia Frechew, wife of Frederick Frechew, a wholesale tobacco dealer of New Jersey, who resides in Hoboken, suicided by hanging herself to the gas pipe in the bath-room of her house today. The couple lately lived unhappily, and her husband had left his home. Mrs. Frechew, yesterday, received a notice that he had commenced proceedings for divorce. County physician Converse investigated the case and granted a permit for burial, saying the case is purely one of suicide. Frechew's counsel has been directed by Frechew to commence a libel suit against the New York Telegram for intimating it was a murder in its issue of this afternoon.

SUICIDED.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 29.—Ella Higgins, aged 18, of Sporthill, near this city, hung herself to-day. Cause, threatened arrest for obtaining goods under false pretences.

SUPPOSED SUICIDE.

ELIZABETHPORT, N. J., Dec. 29.—The body of a woman was found buried in the snow near Summit crossing, this morning. The body was neatly clad. The woman was apparently about 30 years of age. An empty medicine vial was found in one of her pockets and it is supposed that the unfortunate woman committed suicide.

MURDEROUS AFFRAY.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 28.—A disturbance occurred Friday evening at Smithville, fifteen miles from here, between a white man named Dunn, and a party of colored men, who had met to organize a military company. One of the men caught Dunn by the whiskers and slapped his face, whereupon he drew a single barreled pistol and killed the negro. Dunn then ran into a store and loaded his pistol, when a crowd headed by Dan Cook, with a drawn sword attacked him. He shot Cook dead in his tracks, then seized a butcher's knife and cut his way out. One man, Ed Drew, cut in the abdomen, will probably die. The others are more or less injured. Dunn gave himself up and is now in jail at Williamsburgh. Great excitement prevails.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

DUNKIRK, O., Dec. 24.—Jacob Tennison was found this morning frozen to death. He was in poor health, and it is supposed he fell and was unable to rise or make himself heard.

HERE AND THERE.

END OF A LIBEL SUIT.

JERSEY CITY, Dec. 29.—The libel suit of Assemblyman McDermott against the Evening Journal, which paper alleged that McDermott personated an officer in serving a writ of ejectment, was concluded to-day. The verdict awards McDermott $500 damages.

DIVIDEND DECLARED.

NIAGARA FALLS, Dec. 29.—The Niagara Falls International Bridge Company, yesterday, declared a semi-annual dividend of three per cent.

HEAVY SNOW FALL.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 29.—Fifteen inches of snow fell last night, and it is still snowing. Trains are delayed.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM.

BABYLON, L. I., Dec. 29.—The storm of Sunday night broke the telegraphic connection between Babylon and Fire Island. News was received to-day that the storm was severe there. The surf broke across the beach between the Surf Hotel and the light house. The pavilion on the ocean side was undermined, and 100 bathing houses washed away. The hotel narrowly escaped. A large ship's cabin and much wreckage was washed into the bay.

ARRESTED FOR LIBEL.

TROY, Dec. 28.—H. D. Cunningham, editor of the Telegram, was arrested this afternoon and lodged in a cell at the second precinct station, on a warrant charging him with criminally libelling Mayor Edward Murphy, Jr. The libel consists in the publication of a statement to-day that the mayor attended a dog fight yesterday and that he was said to own one of the contestants. The article in the Telegram severely censured the mayor. Later in the afternoon Cunningham was taken on a habeas corpus before Judge Street, and bailed in $3,000.

STATUE UNVEILED—IMPOSING CEREMONIES.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 28.—The bronze statue of Gen. Philip Kearney was unveiled in Military Park here to-day, with imposing ceremonies, participated in by Gen. Grant, Gen. Sherman, Gen. Wagner, Gen. Kilpatrick, Gen. Hawley, Gov. McClellan, and numerous state dignitaries. Gen. Grant was the guest of ex-Senator Frelinghuysen. Previous to the unveiling the long procession of grand army veterans, militia, guests and distinguished citizens paraded the streets. On returning to the park the statue was unveiled amid cheers and an artillery salute. An eloquent address on the life and attributes of Gen. Kearney was then delivered. Luncheon was then served to the visitors, after which Gen. Grant returned to New York. Gen. Sherman returns to Washington by the midnight train. The statue is slightly over life size and is mounted on Quincy granite and a bronze base.

EXCITING AFFAIR IN NEW MEXICO.

LOS VEGAS, N. M., Dec. 28.—A notorious gang of outlaws, composed of about 25 men, who, under the leadership of "Billy the Kid," the past six months overran eastern New Mexico, murdering and committing other deeds of outlawry, was broken up Saturday by the killing of two and the capturing of four others, including the leader. The prisoners were lodged in Los Vegas jail and calls of lynching were provoked, but the vigilance of the captors, Deputy Sheriff Garrett and others, prevented. Yesterday forenoon Garrett and the other captors boarded the train with the prisoners for the purpose of taking them to Santa Fe. Sheriff Romers remonstrated against taking Prudabaugh, one of the prisoners, who killed the Los Vegas deputy sheriff, to Santa Fe, but to no effect. He then went to the depot with a posse of 300 men and made a formal demand for the prisoners, but was told if he wanted the prisoners to take them. The sheriff then stationed men at the engine to cover the engineer and the balance of the posse crowded about the train, the platforms of which were crowded with additional guards pressed into service by Garrett, and nearly every window of the cars served as a porthole for rifles. Somebody suggested, "take the prisoners at once." Stewart, of Garrett's party, said the instant the first shot was fired he would unloose every man and arm him. For a while a fight seemed imminent, when Chief Engineer Robinson appeared and demanded that the train be allowed to proceed, and the master of transportation said if the train was not allowed to proceed he would arm all the railroad men and take it out. Detective J. J. Morely of the postoffice department jumped into the cab with a pair of six-shooters and told the engineer to leap out. A conference has just concluded a compromise by which it was agreed that the sheriff and two men should go to Sante Fe with the party, and if the government agreed to bring Prudabaugh back to Los Vegas. The train then proceeded.

A SERIOUS TIME ANTICIPATED.

SANTA FE, N. M., Dec. 28.—A very serious disturbance exists to-day at Socorro. The authorities refused to arrest the murderer of Conkling, the editor of the Socorro "Sun," and the citizens finding recourse to law useless have arrested and hold by force the sheriff and four others, including the murderer of Conkling. A rescue of prisoners is threatened and bloodshed is imminent. A request has been made to the military commandant of the district for troops, and although troops cannot be used as a posse comitatus a company has been ordered from Colorado to New Mexico, as a means of protection for the public property and the property of the railroad company. Bodies of men are being armed at Albuquerque and other points in this vicinity and will go to Socorro to-night. Grave results may be expected to-night. All the women and children have been moved out of town. Acting-Governor Rich is doing all in his power to secure proper action of the law.

DOMINION NEWS.

ARRESTED.

QUEBEC, Dec. 29.—A party calling himself J. A. Barton, offered for sale yesterday a thousand dollar United States bond to a broker and also to a bank. The United States consul telegraphed the number of the bond to Washington, and received a reply that it was a bond lately stolen in New York. Barton was arrested, but refuses to produce the bond, alleging he sent it away. He was remanded for three days, awaiting the action of the United States authorities.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—Volunteer officers here are asking the Canadian government to arm a force with Martini rifles. It is also urged that Montreal volunteer corps should be brigaded. This is owing to the prevailing belief that in case of bloodshed there will be a Fenian dash across the border, in which case the volunteers would be at a disadvantage against American rifles.

ICE BRIDGE.

MONTREAL, Dec. 29.—The Southeastern Railroad Company began to-day, laying rails across the ice at Hochelaga, to connect with the North Shore road.

LIBEL SUIT.

The Canada Guarantee Company has entered suit against the Citizens' Insurance Company and its manager, G. F. Hart, for libellous statements concerning the Guarantee Company. Damages are laid at $50,000.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE LOST ATALANTA.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The report of the committee on the loss of the British training ship Atalanta, which sailed from Bermuda in January last for England, with more that 300 young seamen, and has not since been heard from, is published. The committee say they consider that she was a very stable ship in most respects; that the alterations in her rig only tended to increase her safety. The committee speak favorably of her officers and crew, and point out the fact that at the time of her loss exceptional storms proved fatal to a number of merchant vessels.

SHARP CRITICISM.

The Pall Mall Gazette this evening, in a leading article on the affairs in the Transvaal, says: At any time the past three years we have had it in our power to secure peace by concession and justice. We are entering in an expensive and irritating war of conquest, against a people whose injuries we admit.

THE GREEK QUESTION.

VIENNA, Dec. 22.—It is reported that certain Turkish diplomats advocate the creation of a court of arbitration on the Greek question, to be formed of neutral powers, such as the United States, Belgium and others.

THE STATE TRIALS—LITTLE EXCITEMENT.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The correspondent of the Times at Dublin says the first day of the state trials was remarkable only for gloom and dullness. Those who expected the city would be full of excitement, that thousands would assemble in the streets, and that the court would be besieged by an eager multitude clamoring for admission, were sadly disappointed. There has not been the slightest manifestation of public feeling beyond the gathering of about two hundred persons of the lowest class on the quay in the vicinity of the court.

That Impending Railroad War.—Further particulars as to the "impending railroad war," heretofore spoken of in our columns, are given as follows: As is well known there has not been of late a very cordial feeling between the Central Vermont and Northern (N. H.) Road, nor between the former and the Connecticut river line. The rather critical relations between these lines have been very much aggravated by the sale of the Sullivan Road to the Connecticut River Corporation. The Central is laboring to get a shorter and more direct route to Boston, and is also striving to get an independent road between Windsor and Bellows Falls to take the place of the Sullivan Road, the use of which latter the Central is liable to lose at any time. The Central is backed by the Grand Trunk, and also by the Boston and Lowell, and they can secure the building of the Forest line road from Windsor, Vt., to Greenfield, N. H., when they will have a practically consolidated trunk line from Chicago to Boston. The first movement to bring this about was the leasing of the Nashua and Lowell Road by the Boston and Lowell Corporation, but the parties opposed to the building of the Forest line are reported as being determined to break up this lease on the ground of alleged illegality, and also to get control of the charter of the Forest line and thus prevent its construction. The opposition to the building of the Forest line road comes from the Northern, Concord, Cheshire and Connecticut River roads, which make a pretty strong combination. With the building of the Forest Line road the heavy through freight which now comes through Concord would be sent wholly over the new route via Windsor and Greenfield, as would also the Central business, which now goes over the Cheshire road. The several railroads which will be concerned in this expected contest have retained a large number of lawyers and lobbyists, and the fight, if it comes, will be a bitter one. On the other hand there are those who say that the Central Vermont is agitating the Forest line question in order to frighten the Northern road and get better and more permanent freight tariff arrangements.

Richmond.—The fire that burned the Richmond Hotel was first discovered by the engineer of the early passenger train about half past four o'clock. He blew the danger signal whistle for several minutes, when help arrived at the grocery store where the fire originated. The door was broken in, when the dog staying there ran for dear life, the flames bursting out of the door. There was no wind at the time, or the whole row of buildings must have burned. The out buildings from the hotel were very near the building of the Hon. J. L. Mason and it was with much hard work that his buildings were saved. The outbuildings connected with the hotel were torn down and cleared away. Mr. Mason generously rewarded the men that saved his property. Capt. Coffey has rented the Sherman block for a hotel and will immediately put it in thorough repair.

The Universal Society held a fair the evenings of the 15th and 16th, at the church parlors, from which they realized some $100.

Christmas was observed at the Catholic church, and quite a number of families had Christmas trees.