THE WEEKLY SUN

SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 1861.

All Squared Off.

Our SLIDELL-English account, which has sent down our stock market by the run, troubled our Canadian and Havana neighbors immensely, caused the people of Dixie to chuckle over an anticipated outbreak with England, and otherwise kept capitalists and nervous people awake for a long number of nights past, is likely to be squared off without a single cross word or angry look on the part of the English Government.

As things now appear, the aspect of affairs on this side of the Atlantic, has been precisely duplicated on the other side. While American funds have gone down here upon the seizure of the Rebel Commissioners, and troubles on account of it has been feared with England, the same result has taken place there upon trouble feared with America. The rebel privateer Nashville has gone into a British port, and received such countenance that a portion of the English press has as energetically called upon their government to surrender its officers and crew to our government, as some of the weak backed journals of this country have called upon our own Administration to give up Slidell and Mason.

As instanced by the rising effect upon financial matters in this country, British law and sense having evidently decided the question in our favor, a general disposition towards hilarity prevails, and "hands all around" bids fair to be the order of the day. The clouds of war will disperse after due supply of thunder from the London TIMES, and when the other papers, and the English people generally, shall have made the fur fly sufficiently from the sides of the British lion, to show that the affront, if there had been one, would have been resented, the affair will pass diplomatically away.

A Fair Look at Our Liabilities.

In these troublous times it requires nerve to look our financial position fairly in the face. But we hope our readers will do so, and we advise them to give the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, which will be found upon the first page, an attentive perusal. In interest to the reader it is not second to the Report of the War Department, while to the commercial and financial world it is the most important document of the year.

Its prominent feature is a debt, in round numbers, of ONE THOUSAND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS! This to European monarchy is not much, for they never expect to pay their debts; but to a new and vigorous country, which has never contracted obligations except to meet them, and which has frequently had from ten to forty millions of idle funds in its national purse, it sounds appalling, and leads us to feel poor indeed. That this amount, and the same twice told, will be cheerfully expended before our northern nation falters in its onward course, the people of the South and the nations of Europe may rest well assured, but it is to be hoped that our Government, by its wise and vigorous action, will either make the southern states tributary to a large portion of the debt, or by an early suppression of the rebellion curtail its proportions.

Among the suggestions for revenue, our readers will note with a smile the veritable "Stamp Act," which became so odious in the times of the Revolution, and from which the American mind starts back as if from the bite of a serpent. It is not generally known that this mode of raising revenue has ever been in force in this country, but such is the fact. It existed in Maryland for several years, in consequence of the internal improvements of that state having created a large debt, and no adequate means existing to meet the interest, except by such unusual enactments. During its existence, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, receipts, and other similar vouchers of debt and obligations, were invalid except written upon paper sold by the state authorities, and bearing a small stamped seal, something like the impress of a dime piece, upon one corner.

As to means for credit, from the first suggestion of the Secretary, touching the transfer of all the Banking interests of the country to Government hands, thus raising one of the most stupendous monopolies the world ever saw, every reader will start back with alarm. If the idea is thrown out to sound the popular pulse, the Secretary will soon be convinced that the people of this country are not easily led into any such delusions; but the policy of even admitting to the light, so monstrous a proposition, at a time when a good reputation for sound sense and good judgment on the part of the Department, is so much needed is, indeed, to be questioned. The second suggestion, which simply contemplates an enhancement of the Federal loans, and Federal credit by making its stocks the basis for a universal banking system throughout the whole country, is not so objectionable, although it is to be hoped that our National debt is not to be of that permanency which the suggestion implies. The plan would be productive of good to the Government, but the whole system would be overthrown on the final payment of our National obligations.

The report closes with the operations of the Mint, from which it appears that while Philadelphia retains the Mint proper, New York, through its Assay office, does all the coinage. An excellent time, now, to correct this long endured injustice.

The Indian Summer.

AN old farmer, to whom the weather months are as familiar as household words, surprised us, weeks ago, by the assertion that we would have no cold weather until the "Indian Summer" was passed. "Come and gone, long ago," was our involuntary exclamation. "Not so," replied he, "wait for the smoky days, then fine weather, and after that winter will be on."

And we begin to believe in his prophesy. Saturday, and more particularly Sunday, were to to be regarded as "smoky;" no weather could be fairer and finer than that of yesterday, and right ahead we may doubtless look for Winter's grim visage. Thus far the weather has been mild indeed, and, like the abundant crops of the past season, apparently fitted to make easy the straitened circumstances which the events of the war have called out among a large portion of our population.

The Gallant Colonel Corcoran.

IT is understood that although Government has commenced the exchange of prisoners, it will hardly be possible to rescue this brave officer from the death to which he is hastening, it being asserted, among his friends, that his predisposition to consumption, aided by incarceration in a not healthy jail, are tending rapidly to a decline which must ere long prove fatal.

And his release cannot be accomplished unless by some extraordinary exchange of rebel officials, for the Colonel is held as hostage for the pirate SMITH, in Philadelphia, and this pirate, who has been tried without the Jury being able to agree on a verdict, will hardly be allowed to leave his prison unscathed. It is to be hoped that the Government will otherwise take the case earnestly in hand, and return the Colonel to his family and many friends, before it becomes too late.

That "Prophesy."

IT is attracting so much attention that we shall almost be obliged to republish it, in order to its full exposure. A lady correspondent inquires to-day, as others have, where the fourth chapter of Haggai is to be found? No where. As before intimated, the "prophesy" proves to be fictitious.

The North Carolina Convention—The most Impudent Humbug of the whole War—Interesting Account of the Manufacture of a Governor, M. C., &c., &c.

Some time since there appeared exclusively in the TRIBUNE, resolutions purporting to be passed by a Convention of Unionists at Hatteras Inlet, which Convention, it was intimated, largely represented the feelings of the population in that state, it being attended by delegates from forty-five counties. In re-publishing a synopsis of these resolutions, the SUN took occasion to add that they would have given the greatest gratification to our northern people, if issued from the interior of the state, and by the people at large, instead of being proclaimed from under the guns of the Federal forces at the Inlet.

Our misgivings as to the prominence and credence to which those proceedings were entitled, are amusingly supported by the following private letter, received in this city, and of which we are permitted to publish a copy. The nature of this communication also throws doubts upon the propriety of the good people of New York having contributed so largely to the relief fund for the loyal citizens of North Carolina.—We mentioned yesterday that the motives of parties interested in the collection of these funds had been called into question, and, such proceedings as the following, are not likely to establish a high character for their patriotism or disinterestedness:

CAMP WOOL, HATTERAS INLET, N. C.,
November 30th, 1861.

Our late victories caused great joy among us, who are deeply interested, every victory being regarded as bringing us so much nearer home—a place which you may be sure we are all anxious to get to.

As for the Union government in North Carolina, I fear it is nothing but a *big farce*. The resolutions, which you no doubt have read in the papers, began with something like this: "We, the people of North Carolina, &c., &c" Now, the fact is, the whole of the said people amounted in all to about 120 ignorant Hatteras *fishers* and voters, the rest being boys, women and children. This GRAND CONVENTION, representing North Carolina, "free and independent," was addressed by a TRIBUNE reporter, (the only one here, I believe), a Mr. Foster, now an Hon. M. C., and Gov. Taylor. Well, the resolutions were read by the Governor, and the question of its adoption being put, no one could, at first, be found to second it. Afterwards the form of a man said, "I want to do what is right; *I don't know what it means*, but I will second it." When the vote was put, the "Delegates" looked one at the other, not knowing what to do, but after the resolutions were read over again, some one managed to gain courage enough to vote, and all followed suit. So, the provisional government was established. If this is not a "big thing," I don't know what is. On the 28th, Mr. Foster was elected to the U. S. Congress for this district.

THE LATEST NEWS.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Congress Interfering with Gen. Halleck.

Inquiry Ordered Into the Bull Run and Ball's Bluff Defeats.

The Slavery Question under Agitation.

XXXVII. CONGRESS.—Senate.
First Session.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Mr. Dixon (Conn.) presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Connecticut, asking that Senators and Representatives use their efforts to secure the repeal of so much of the act for the increase of the revenue as imposes an income tax, or else have the amount apportioned among special states, and allow them to raise the amount in their own way. These and succeeding resolutions were appropriately referred.

Mr. Dixon also presented the resolutions of the Legislature of Connecticut in favor of a system of decimal weights and measures.

Mr. Grimes (Iowa) presented a petition from a citizen of Iowa, who has invented a rebel mowing machine, or double acting bomb.

Mr. Wilson (Mass.) introduced a bill relative to court martials in the army; also a bill to provide for allotment certificates among the volunteers.

Mr. Sumner (Mass.) presented several petitions from citizens of Rhode Island and Vermont, calling on Congress, under the war power, to legislate on the subject of the emancipation of the slaves of rebels.

Mr. Collamer presented several petitions of the same character.

The President also presented a petition from citizens of Wisconsin, of the same character.

Mr. Sumner presented a resolution that all memorials and papers on the files of the Senate, relating to the recognition of Liberia and Hayti, be taken from the files and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Agreed to.

Mr. Clark offered a resolution requesting the Marshal of the District to inform the Senate by what authority he keeps slaves of the District in jail because they are refractory. He said he had visited the jail and found a number of slaves of the District confined for no reason only because their masters or mistresses sent them there because they were refractory. Agreed to.

Mr. Pomeroy introduced a bill granting pensions and land warrants to soldiers.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, introduced a joint resolution, directing the Secretary of War to receive and equip certain mounted regiments.

Mr. Harris introduced a bill to provide for the protection of public property from fire.

Mr. Hale's resolution, directing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the present Supreme Court and establish another was taken up. He said the present Supreme Court had failed. He believed if the rebels now in arms should succeed the Supreme Court would decide that the soldiers now in Virginia were trespassers and rioters.

Mr. Foster thought that Congress should legislate only for the great question before Congress. While he believed that the Supreme Court had lost the confidence of the country, he did not think the Judiciary would be benefitted by the denunciation of its members. He did not believe this was the time for radical legislation on the judiciary.

Mr. Browning thought that it was not in the power of Congress to repeal the Supreme Court. Such power was not given in the Constitution. We had no more power to repeal that Court than we had to repeal the Constitution.

Mr. Collamer moved, as a substitute, that all portions of the President's message relating to the judiciary be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Hale offered a resolution that the Judiciary Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making alterations in the constitution of the several courts. Laid over.

On motion of Mr. Chandler, the resolution inquiring into the causes of the disasters to our army at Bull's Run and Ball's Bluff was taken up.

Mr. Pomeroy (Kansas) thought that these investigations were of doubtful expediency.

Mr. Chandler said that officers of the army were not liable to impeachment, but one of our own number has fallen (Baker), and nobody is to blame. He thought the facts ought to be known.

Mr. Chandler enumerated a great variety of causes which had been given for the disaster at Bull's Run, and said that he wanted the true cause to be known in regard to the disasters in Missouri, referred to by the Senator from Kansas. If General Fremont is to blame, let it be known: but if not, in God's name, let him be justified, and let the country know it.

Mr. Lane, of Kansas, said he did not attribute the blame to any particular officer, but he did know that troops were on hand to relieve Gen. Lyon and Col. Mulligan, and the people believed that there was a want of capacity or dereliction of duty somewhere.

Mr. Foster thought it best not to investigate the subject now. Under the present circumstance, he thought Congress had better not do it. If military officers manage the army badly, Congress would only make a bad matter worse by interfering. It would let the military alone in time of war. An inquiry of this kind would only call men away from higher duties. At the proper time Congress might make the inquiry.

Mr. Fessenden thought no harm could come of such an inquiry, and good might be the result. Congress might make the inquiry without any man putting obstacles in the path. He had seen many things which seem wrong, and thought it better to make the inquiry now and promptly. The Senate is not under the control of the military; they are not second, but first, and their requests are to be obeyed; they should perform their duty and calmly investigate the subject.

Mr. Sherman concurred with the Senator from Maine, but thought the inquiry should not be confined to disasters of war, but should be a general inquiry into the whole conduct of the war. Many orders have been given which might be inquired into. One officer is said to have refused to take any cotton; if so, it is wrong; and another is said to have refused to receive slaves in camp; and one high official of the Government, the Adjutant-General, has been travelling over the country to pick up scraps of testimony which are not worth anything, and has had such stuff published. The people in the country are full of enthusiasm, but here it is not so.

He knew that in many departments of the Government, impediments had been thrown in the way of the progress of the army. He would record his solemn conviction that before the war ceased, slavery would almost if not entirely cease to exist, but the war should be carried on without any reference to the subject of slavery, to preserve a free country for free men. If he could infuse the spirit of the people into all the departments of the Government, the war would soon end.

Mr. Grimes proposed to amend the substitute so as to appoint a joint committee of three members of the Senate, and four members of the House to inquire into the conduct of the present war.

Mr. Hale thought that this was not quite pointed enough, and moved to add especially the disaster of Ball's Bluff.

Mr. Wilson was glad the resolution had to take a wider field. He thought it was time that the proclamations, by officers, should cease, and the Government have the sole rettled policy.—We must remember that we had not men of large military experience. Great mistakes had been made, and were likely to be made, but he wanted it understood that the people had not expected that no mistakes would be made, but that every man shall give all he has, and is, to the country.

Mr. Latham asked for the yeas and nays.

The resolution was agreed to. Yeas, 33; nays, 3, (Messrs. Carlisle, Latham and Rice.)—Absent — Messrs. Bright, Collamer, Foote, Thompson, Willey and Wilmot. Adjourned.

House of Representatives

Mr. Dawes, from the Committee on Elections, introduced a resolution, which was passed, authorizing the parties in the contested election case of Beach against Upton in the Fairfax district of Virginia to take evidence.

Mr. Morrill (Vt.) gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill donating lands to the several states for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanical arts in the establishment of colleges.

Mr. Richardson, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following, which was passed:

Whereas, The exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion has already been practiced indirectly, and as such exchange would not only increase enlistments and the vigor of our army, but subserve the highest interests of humanity, and as such exchange does not involve recognition of the rebels as a government; therefore,

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, &c., that the President of the United States be requested to inaugurate systematic measures for the exchange of prisoners in the present rebellion.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of furnishing relief to the starving population of Ireland, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Wickliffe, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill, authorizing the raising of a volunteer force for the better defence of Kentucky.

In the course of the proceedings, Mr. Lovejoy (Ill.) introduced the following joint resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to revoke the first section of the Federal Order, dated November 26th, 1861, of Major General Halleck, commanding the Western Division of the Army.

The section alluded to in the above resolution is, as follows:

"As it has been represented that information of the number of our army, and condition of our affairs has been conveyed to the enemy by the means of fugitive slaves who have been allowed to enter the lines, therefore, in order to remedy the evil, no such persons shall hereafter be permitted to enter the lines of the army, and any now within them shall be excluded therefrom."

Mr. Cox moved to lay the resolution on the table, which was disagreed to by a vote of yeas, 63; nays, 68.

Mr. Lovejoy then moved the previous question.

Mr. Olin moved that the House adjourn.

Mr. Olin's motion was lost by a large majority.

Mr. Lansing offered the following substitute which Mr. Lovejoy accepted.

Whereas, Major General Halleck, of the Western Department, has issued an order prohibiting negroes from coming within the lines of our army, and excluding those already under the protection of our troops, and

Whereas, a different policy and practice prevails in other departments by the direct sanction of the Administration; and whereas said order is cruel and inhuman, and in the judgment of this House based upon no military necessity, therefore

Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested to request Gen. Halleck to recall said order, or cause it to conform to the practice in other departments of the army. Lost.

On motion of Mr. Vallandigham it was

Resolved, That the President be requested to furnish, if not incompatible with the public interest, copies of all proclamations or orders issued since the 4th of March last, relating to the pending contest with the so-called Confederate States.

Mr. Conkling introduced a bill to subject certain persons to military trial and punishment. It covers the cases of such as may enter into speculations for the purpose of defrauding the Government, and who may offer bribes for the advantages of furnishing military stores, munitions of war, etc., military and naval court martials are authorised. Those found guilty are to be punished with imprisonment for not less than two years.

Mr. Conkling said:—The Government has been cheated of large sums of money. There was a multitude of harpies which no man could number, preying upon the vitals of the commonwealth. They should be punished with certain severity. He repeated there was a class of desperate speculators who are depleting the treasury to enormous amounts in a variety of ingenious modes.

Mr. Dawes (Mass.) who is on the special committee to examine into Government contracts, briefly spoke of the discoveries of fraud that have already been made. He said that without further legislation the Treasury will become bankrupt.

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Bingham (Mich.) also introduced a bill to organize the medical department of the army.

Mr. Bingham (Mich.) also introduced a bill repealing all acts and parts of acts authorizing the committment of persons of color as runaways, or suspected or charged with being runaways, and being sold to pay expenses, &c., and to punish such practises.

Mr. Gurley (Ohio) introduced a bill to confiscate the property of rebels, liberate their slaves and colonize them.

Mr. Hutchins (Penn.) introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. Referred.

Mr. Webster's resolution, instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into the expediency of establishing a railroad from New York to Washington, via the Central Railroad, was adopted.

The Speaker presented the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. Cox, (Ohio) it was resolved that the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to consider the mode of the tariff taxation, with a view to equalize the burdens of the present war upon all citizens, upon all sections, and upon capital and labor, and that for this purpose the present tariff and direct tax bill be so modified as to carry out the principles of just and equal taxation.

Mr. Upton (Va.) introduced a bill to facilitate judicial proceedings in the confiscation of captured property, and for the better administration of the prize law. Adjourned.

From Washington.

Washington, Dec. 9.—As tomorrow and Wednesday will be devoted to proceedings consequent on the death of Senators Baker and Bingham. The House has postponed the consideration of the various slavery propositions until Thursday.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, had modified his resolutions in several important particulars; namely, declaring there can be no solid Union so long as slavery exists, and that all slaves be proclaimed free, compensation to be made to loyal masters who have been and continue to be supporters of the Union.

The bill introduced by Mr. Hutchins, of Ohio, to day, proposes unconditionally to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

Gen. McClellan has issued an order, calling the attention of officers to the enlistment law, which provides that if any officer shall enlist other than "effective and able-bodied men," he shall forfeit and pay the amount of the bounty and clothing which the person so recruited may have received from the public.—The Gen. complains that large numbers of men unfit for service have been enlisted, and says that the law shall hereafter be enforced. As to minors, he says, that every possible precaution must be taken to prevent their enlistment. The officer must judge for himself in cases where he believes the age to be misstated. The enlistment of married men accompanied by their wives, must be governed by the want of laundresses.

General Fremont has taken a residence in E street, between 9th and 10th. He probably intends to stay in Washington some time.

A delegation of eight Cherokees, Creeks and Seminoles have arrived here, to examine and report to their people the true condition of political affairs. They today had an interesting conversation with the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and have expressed their surprise at finding things so entirely different from the representations made to them by the rebel leaders.

The following is an extract from a recently intercepted southern letter:

"I suggest that you send your letters through Hon. James M. Mason, at London. In this way they will be sure to reach their destination."

Col. Kerrigan, for some time past confined in the city prison, was this morning arraigned before the court martial, when the specifications and charges were read to him, to all of which he pleaded not guilty, excepting to the charge of sleeping outside the camp without the permission of his superior officer. The court adjourned till tomorrow, in order to afford Col. Kerrigan an opportunity to obtain counsel.

At the Republican caucus this evening, the general feeling seemed to be to confiscate the slaves and all other property of the rebels, and the traitors and abettors, but not to interfere with those of the Unionists.

From Fortress Monroe.

Fortress Monroe, Dec. 6th, via Baltimore, Dec. 7th.—The steamer S. R. Spaulding arrived here early this morning.

On the 2d inst., a furious gale prevailed at Hatteras Inlet, but the fortifications remained uninjured by the tide, which was not as high as that of the previous month.

The troops were all in good health.

According to a dispatch, dated Augusta, Tybee Island was evacuated by our troops, and the lighthouse burned by the rebels.

A Skirmish on the Potomac.

Frederick, Md, Dec. 9.—Advices from the upper Potomac inform us that a smart skirmish commenced there, at Dam No. 5, on Saturday afternoon, and continued at intervals until Sunday night, when the rebels retreated with a loss of 15 or 20 killed and many wounded. Their force consisted of a battery of 6 pieces, 400 infantry and 200 cavalry. They abandoned their guns once, but returned again and took them away.

Southern Items.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 9.—We are in receipt of the following items:

Savannah, Dec. 4.—The news from Tybee Island is that the Federals have entirely evacuated it.

East Pensacola, Dec. 4.—The Florida and Pamlico engaged a Federal vessel off Horse Island battery. The Federal vessel retired.

Richmond, Nov. 26.—Congress has unanimously ratified the convention entered into between Hon. R. M. S. Hunter and the Commissioners from the State of Missouri.

Milledgeville, Ga., Dec. 5.—A resolution has been introduced into the State Senate that the Banks suspend specie payment and issue Confederate notes.

Memphis, Dec. 4.—The AVALANCHE of today says that the Federal force between Bowling Green and Louisville is 50,000, and that Gens. Johnston and Buckner are fully prepared for them.

Bird's Point, Dec. 6.—The Federal troops have left Cairo and Paducah in large numbers. It is supposed they are going to New Madrid to cut off Jeff. Thompson.

Memphis, Dec. 4.—The AVALANCHE confirms the Federal victory in Morristown, East Tennessee, but thinks Major-General Crittenden will overcome the Union forces there. It is rumored here that the Federals have become alarmed for the safety of St. Louis, and that Cairo and Paducah are being evacuated by the Federal troops, who are going to St. Louis with all possible dispatch.

The Charleston MERCURY says that General Ripley has ordered every pound of cotton, likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, to be burned.

The Savannah REPUBLICAN says that the privateer Sumter was not captured, but wrecked off the Trinidad coast.

The battering ram or turtle of Commander Hollins passed through Memphis on the 4th inst., for Columbus, Ky.

Municipal Elections in Massachusetts.

Boston, Dec. 9.—Mr. Wightman was reelected Mayor of Boston today by 6,753 votes, against 5,786, cast for E. S. Tobey, the Republican and citizen's candidate.

Lowell, Dec. 9.—Hocum Hadford, citizen's candidate, was elected Mayor today by 55 majority over J. W. Graves, Republican.

Lynn, Dec 9.—Peter M. Neal was elected Mayor today, receiving 1,097 votes against 729 for Mr. Breed the present incumbent.

Roxbury, Dec. 9.—Wm. Gaston was reelected Mayor today.

Charlestown, Dec. 9.—P. J. Store, citizen's candidate, was elected Mayor today over Hutchins, the present incumbent.

Worcester, Dec. 9.—P. Emory Aldrich, (Rep.) was elected Mayor over Dawes, the present incumbent, by 113 majority today.

Newburyport, Dec. 9.—George N. Jackman was elected Mayor today, nearly unanimously.

GEORGE WILKES, of the SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, accidentally let drop a Derringer pistol, on Saturday last, in Washington. It exploded, and the ball entered the leg above the knee, inflicting a wound which will probably confine him to his room some weeks.

Military and Naval Movements.

The business in the Ordnance Department on Governor's Island, seems to increase every week. There are now five schooners at the wharves loading and receiving stores of different kinds, which are piled up in every available place, to the extent of hundreds of tons.

A garrison Court Martial convened on Saturday at Fort Columbus, for the trial of soldiers charged with minor offences, such as drunkness, quarrelling, absence without leave, &c.—the punishments for which are fines, and short confinement in the guard house. Very strict discipline is necessarily maintained now at all military posts, and soldiers are courtmartialed for misdeeds, which a few months ago, would have been considered sufficiently punished by a couple of day's confinement or an extra tour of guard duty.

The new marine barracks on Flushing avenue are nearly ready for the reception of the marines stationed there, who expect to eat their Christmas dinner in their new quarters. Capt. Abraham N. Bravoort having been placed on the retired list on his own application, after upwards of 41 years service, will be succeeded as Commandant of Marines, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, by Lieutenant Rathbone.

The new sloop-of-war Tuscarora, Captain Craven, arrived here yesterday from Philadelphia, where she was built, to receive her armament. She is already in commission.

The purchased propeller Patomska and the bark Pursuit have arrived at the Navy Yard, to be armed and put into commission.

The steamer Mercedita, 9, left the yard yesterday, and anchored off the battery to receive her powder.

The new gunboat Winona and the bark Arthur, being now ready for sea, will be put into commission tomorrow, and will take their departure as soon as their powder is on board.

The crew of the steamer Wyoming expect to be paid off today.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH REGIMENT of Massachusetts Volunteers will arrive here this morning, and will be escorted by the Sons of Massachusetts from the foot of 23d street, where they and, down Broadway to the Park Barracks.

About one hundred and fifty men belonging to Major Lyons' Rocket Battalion arrived here on Sunday last, *en route* from Albany to Washington, and were yesterday temporarily quartered in the Park Barracks. They are the first corps of this character ever formed in this country, being armed with war-rockets and other new and most dangerous weapons.

An inspection of the Fourth and Fifth Regiments of the Irish Brigade, took place yesterday at Fort Schuyler, preparatory to their leaving for the seat of war. The Fifth Regiment leaves today. Both regiments presented a fine appearance, and they will no doubt add more laurels to the fame already won by the sons of old Erin in the gallant Sixty-ninth.

CITY NEWS.

The City Canvassers—An Alarming Discovery, which resulted in nothing but a Fright.

The Board of City Canvassers resumed its session at ten o'clock yesterday morning. Ald. Froment presided.

A portion of the Third Ward and all of the Fifth were then canvassed. The Mayoralty vote of the *Fifth Ward* stood: Opdyke, 709; Gunther, 675; and Wood, 539, showing a loss of one from Wood, and a gain of one for Gunther.

The First Aldermanic District was then taken up, and the canvass resulted as follows: *First Ward*, Opdyke, 409; Gunther, 505; Wood, 584. *Second Ward*, Opdyke, 211; Gunther, 96; Wood, 112. This is a gain in the First Ward of one vote each for Gunther and Opdyke.

Several districts of the Fourth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth Wards were then canvassed. In the 9th and 11th districts of the latter ward a loss of some 250 from the Associated Press report of Opdyke's vote was discovered—quite an alarming fact for the outsiders, until at length it became generally known that this was an error on the part of the Associated Press, and that the new development entirely tallied with the returns at the Police Headquarters, and in no way endangered Mr. Opdyke's election.

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Wards followed in the canvass with the following result: 19th Wood, 1,531; Opdyke, 1,161; Gunther, 1,235, 22d Ward, Wood, 1,411; Opdyke, 1,451; Gunther, 1,316. In the Nineteenth Ward, Opdyke gains four votes, Wood five, and Gunther one over the returns of the Associated Press. In the Twenty-second Ward, Wood gains 6 and Gunther 56 over the Associated Press returns. Adjourned to 10 o'clock this morning.

THE FAIR OF THE HOUSE OF MERCY, commenced at Dodworth's rooms last evening, and will continue until Friday evening. Every Episcopalian parish of New York is represented in the fair by a table attended by some of the fair parishioners, and the variety of articles presented for sale or offered to the "lucky" in schemes of chance, is fully equal to any fair we have ever attended. Holiday toys and gifts of all descriptions, from an endless variety of dolls up to the most valuable articles of virtu, are offered on all sides by the loveliest hands and urged on the visitor in the most dulcet tones, with a persistance most promising of depletion of the purse of the visitor, and repletion of the funds of the House of Mercy. The object of the fair being so good, it is to be hoped that our citizens will disburse their loose funds without any more persuation than may suffice to exhibit the charming skill of the fair saleswomen.

IN THE REPORT of the City Canvassers yesterday, it is stated in a resolution by Ald. Farley, that "whereas John Hogan threw a quantity of votes on the Inspectors' table, where the votes were being counted," &c. We are desired to state that John Hogan, the candidate for School Commissioner in that district, did not thus do.

THE FINE PICTURE of Gignoux's "Autumn in Virginia," is now on exhibition at Schaus Gallery in Broadway.

WE UNDERSTAND that, while avoiding as much as possible all reference to his relations with the Government, Gen. Fremont has, in private conversation, given expression to the most kindly feelings toward President Lincoln, ascribing his own removal to the necessity of maintaining the unity of the Cabinet, which demanded his sacrifice.

CAPTAIN ZAGONYI, of the Fremont Guards, the hero of the desperate cavalry charge at Springfield, Mo., is at the Astor House.

EX-POSTMASTER FOWLER, late of this city, is carrying on a tobacco manufactory in Tepec, Mexico, and is said to be making money.

DEATHS in this city the last week, 385; increase over the week before, 53; over same week last year, 47. Adults, 165; children, 220; males, 205; females, 180.

Bord of Councilmen—Monday Evening.

A communication was received from Harry Howard, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Board, tendering his resignation.

The Comptroller submitted his financial budget for 1862, and the Board referred it to the Finance Committee and ordered 500 copies of it to be printed.

It appears by this document that the total amount required to be appropriated for the year 1862, is as follows:

For the support of the City Government	$4,996,256 00
For the interest on the city debt	712,800 00
For the redemption of the city debt	71 657 36
Total	$5,780,713 36

A resolution was received from the Board of Aldermen to appoint a committee to ascertain and report whether a suitable location can be obtained for a market on some point of the North river, north of Canal street and south of 14th street.

Mr. Pinckey spoke in strong terms condemnatory of the measure. He regarded it as an attempt at fraud, which should be voted down. It was concurred in, however, and subsequently Councilman Hogan, who was in the chair, appointed, as the committee, Messrs. Hogan, Bickford, Shannon, Ottiwell and Stevenson.

Adjourned to Thursday.

Board of Supervisors—Yesterday.

A communication was received from the Supervisors of Rensselaer county, N. Y., asking the Board to concur with them in their endeavors to have the war tax imposed by the General Government collected by the State Tax collectors.

A communication was received from the Commissioners for Building the New Court House, asking for an additional appropriation of $50,000. Referred.

Other proceedings of no general interest. Adjourned.

Fires, Inquests, Accidents, &c.

The Murder of Mrs. McGill—Inquest by Coroner Schirmer—The Perpetrator pronounced to be Insane.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Schirmer, at Bellevue Hospital, upon the body of Mrs. Charlotte McGill, late of 292 First avenue, who was killed on Sunday afternoon by being thrown out of an upper window by her son, Thomas. The following evidence was adduced:

Francis Conlon, a boy 14 years of age, testified, that while playing ball in the yard of the above premises he heard screams proceeding from a fifth story room, and on looking up saw the prisoner throw deceased out, and heard him, immediately after say, "You are going to hell," and then again, "This hand will go to Heaven, and this one to hell." He was leaning out of the window when he said this.

Chas. H. Whitford testified that he occupied a room next to deceased, in said house, and knew that the prisoner was delirious during most of last week. On Sunday afternoon, he heard prisoner and deceased quarrelling. He wanted to know of her who sold her the rum and poisoned her mind. Witness did not hear any reply, but soon heard prisoner say that if she did not tell him within five minutes, he would throw her out of the window. Witness then heard scuffling, during which the prisoner said several times, "I am the brother of the Almighty, and all the world shall obey me." On looking out of the window, witness saw deceased falling, and saw her strike a shed, and heard prisoner say, "I have sent her to hell, and will send you all there too, if you don't obey me.

Wm. J. Miller, merchant at No. 12 Maiden Lane, testified that prisoner worked for him as a polisher. He had exhibited symptoms of insanity on several occasions, but more especially on the last three days of last week. He seemed to think that he was a great theatrical character, and once asked me to hire the Academy of Music for him. Witness felt satisfied that he was insane, but did not discharge him as he thought he could be cured.

John McGill, a brother of the prisoner, testified that the latter, several years ago, was sunstruck and was ill for a long time. Three years ago he attempted suicide with poison, and of late his hand had been refused by a girl to whom he had offered it in marriage.

Dr. Geo. B. Bouton testified that, in his opinion, the prisoner was insane, and the jury rendered a verdict "that the deceased came to her death by injuries received by being thrown from the fifth story window of the house No. 292 First avenue, by her son, Thomas McGill, he being laboring under a paroxysm of insanity at the time."

Upon the rendition of the verdict, the prisoner was temporarilly committed, and will shortly be sent to the Insane Asylum.

FOUND DROWNED.—Geo. W. Pearcy, a lad 7 years of age, son of Ex-Police Justice Pearcy, was found drowned yesterday in a pond in 8th ave., near 124th st. He had been missing since Thursday last. The body was taken to the residence of his parents in 125th st., near 8th ave., where an inquest will be held upon it.

The Courts, Yesterday.

Nothing of any interest transpired at any of the Law Courts.

WILLIAMSBURGH.

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION AT FURMAN'S DISTILLERY—HORRIBLE DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE.—About 5 o'clock yesterday morning an explosion and loss of life took place at Furman & Co.'s (late Polley's) distillery, which occupies the block bounded by 1st and 2d, North 4th and North 5th sts. The explosion took place in an alcohol still situated at the northeast corner of the building. A column of flame shot up into the sky, and the report was so loud as to be heard for a great distance around, and to awaken people from their slumbers. Such was the force of the concussion that a portion of the wall on North 4th street was demolished, and the street is covered with bricks and half-burned timbers.

The man who was attending the still at the time, named Frank Teague, must have been almost instantly killed. The burning alcohol bursting out and flooding the yard with a sea of flames, must have covered him with fire, and his torments, though horrible, could not have lasted over a minute. He had apparently ran about twelve or fifteen feet and then sunk in a corner, a mere heap of reeking cinders, the head, arms and hands alone bearing a hideous semblance of humanity. The head, or rather the skull, for that was all that was left of it, was charred as black as coal, only relieved by the ghastly white of the staring eyes. As this man was the only person who could have told how the explosion happened, the origin will probably never be explained. There was a watchman in the building at the time, and another man named John Adams, attending a whiskey still, but both escaped without injury.

The burning alcohol in pouring out of the exploded still, flooded the fire-room and yard, set fire to the surrounding tubs and wood work, and did a great deal of damage to the interior of the building. Six tubs were burnt, worth from six to twelve hundred dollars each; two copper coils were destroyed, valued at from twenty-five hundred to three thousand dollars each. Altogether, the loss will amount to from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars. The loss will probably be covered by insurance, as the establishment was insured for small sums in a large number of New York and Williamsburgh insurance companies. The fire companies were promptly on the ground, and worked most indefatigably.

A similar explosion occurred at this same distillery some eighteen months ago, by which three persons lost their lives.

While the members of Continental Hose Co., No. 6, were absent at the fire, their house was entered by some contemptible thief, and a gold watch, worth $75, and $15 in money were stolen from the clothes of the Foreman, Mr. Samuel Guthrie. Mr. Joseph Cherry, one of the members, also lost his watch, valued at $45. Mr. William Vogle had $10 in cash stolen from his pantaloons pocket.

Foreign Intelligence.

Arrival of the Steamer Africa.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE NASHVILLE.

Opinion of the Crown Lawyers.

Interesting Speeches upon American Affairs.

The steamer Africa, from Queenstown 24th, arrived here yesterday.

The Anglo Saxon reached Londonderry on the 22d ult., bringing news of the loss of the North Briton on Paraquette Island, on the 5th inst.

THE AFFAIR OF THE NASHVILLE AND THE HARVEY BIRCH.

The affair of the confederate steamer Nashville and the ship Harvey Birch, of which we received some particulars per last steamer, created considerable sensation in England.

The Harvey Birch was a fine full rigged ship of 1487 tons, American measurement, and cost about $125,000 in her construction. She had a total of twenty-nine souls on board, including Mr. Blydenburg, (a son of her owner), who was a passenger, Capt. Nelson, 2 mates, 2 boatswains, cook, steward, carpenter, and 20 seamen. The men were put in irons on board the steamer (with the exception of the captain and mate, who were treated with great politeness,) and kept as prisoners until the arrival of the vessel here this morning, when they were immediately landed in the docks and set at liberty, with all the personal effects belonging to them. It is stated that before they were put in irons the Confederate oath was tendered to the men, which they refused to take; but Captain Nelson tells us that he is not aware of the fact, although it may be correct.

On leaving the Nashville, Capt. Pegram told Capt. Nelson that he hoped they would not part bad friends, for what had been done was a simple act of retaliation on the northern states for invading their territories, burning their houses, ill-treating their women and stealing their negroes, and they were bound to retaliate on the property of the North in every way they could.

The captain states that the Nashville has put in here to have her top deck taken off and to be fitted out as a vessel of war; but how far this intention will be found to square with the legal and international bearings of the case remains to be seen.

The paddle wheel steamer Pacific, lately belonging to the Galway Company, which has been lying in our docks for some months, and has just been sold, is now fitting out in the docks, it is said, for a voyage to the West Indies, but a strong impression prevails that she is bought for the Confederate states.

Capt. Peagrin indignantly denies the statement of Capt. Nelson that he holds no commission from the Confederate States of America, and has furnished us with a copy of his commission under the Confederate seal.

Underwriting business in American