THE EVENING STAR.

PUBLISHED DAILY, Sundays Excepted,
AT THE STAR BUILDINGS,
Pennsylvania Avenue, corner 11th Street,
BY
The Evening Star Newspaper Company
S. H. KAUFFMANN, Pres't.

THE EVENING STAR *is served by carriers to subscribers at* TEN CENTS PER WEEK, OR FORTY-FOUR CENTS PER MONTH. *Copies at the Counter,* TWO CENTS EACH. *By mail—postage prepaid—*60 *Cents a month; six months,* $3.00; *one year,* $6.00

THE WEEKLY STAR—*published on Friday*—$2.00 *a year, postage prepaid.*

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Rates of advertising furnished on application

SPECIAL NOTICES.

NEW JERUSALEM TEMPLE, North Capitol street, between B and C—Service Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7½ p. m. Seats all free. Subject for next Sunday evening:—"How could the Divine Being be born into the world." 1t*

MEMORIAL CHURCH, 14th street and Vermont avenue; pastor, J. G. BUTLER.—Service of praise Christmas day from 7 to 8 o'clock in the morning. Christmas Sermon, Saturday morning at 11; Children's service at 7 p. m. Christmas Tree Tuesday night at 6 p. m. 1t*

A MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN BRANCH OF EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE, for the election of officers, to arrange for "Weeks of Prayer," and other business, will be held on MONDAY, 27th instant, at 1 o'clock p. m., in the Parlor of Y. M. C. A. 1t*

OFFICE OF FIREMEN'S INSURANCE COMPANY OF WASHINGTON AND GEORGETOWN, *Room No. 1, Over Bank of Washington.*—The Stockholders of the Firemen's Insurance Company will meet at their office on MONDAY, January 3, 1876, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 1 p. m., for the purpose of electing thirteen Directors for the ensuing year.
dec23-tJan3 [Rep.] C. W. HOWARD, Sec.

A MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the WASHINGTON AND GEORGETOWN RAILROAD COMPANY, for the election of Directors, will be held at the office of the Company, corner of 1st street west and Pennsylvania av. on WEDNESDAY, the 12th day of January, 1876.

The polls will be opened at 12 m., and closed at 2 p. m.

Transfer books will be closed on the 10th of January, 1876, and opened January 13, 1876.
H. HURT, President.
C. M. KOONES, Secretary. dec23 td

THE PEWS IN THE NEW ASCENSION CHURCH will be rented on MONDAY EVENING, the 27th inst., at 7 o'clock. The Vestry hope all persons desiring to rent will be present at the renting.
dec22 dts CHAS. C. DUNCANSON, Register.

CHRISTMAS MARKET.—WESTERN MARKET, K street, between 19th and 20th streets northwest. Market will be held in this market all day and evening on FRIDAY, December 24, (Christmas Eve,) commencing at 5 o'clock a. m., until 11 o'clock p. m. No market will be held Saturday.
dec22 3t* J. W. BOOTH, Market Master.

WASHINGTON MARKET COMPANY.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Washington Market Company will be held at the Office of the Company, on the market grounds, in the city of Washington, at 12 o'clock noon on the FIRST MONDAY, being the 3d day, of January, 1876, for the choice of thirteen Directors for the ensuing year, and to act on any other subject within the power of the corporation.
BENJ. D. WHITNEY, Secretary.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 20, 1875. dec21-tJan1

NOTICE TO POLICY-HOLDERS.
OFFICE OF THE MUTUAL FIRE INS. CO., }
WASHINGTON, December 14, 1875. }
Policy holders are hereby notified to renew their Insurance (for 1876) at the office of the company, on or before MONDAY, Dec. 27th, 1875. In order to save time and avoid the crowd, come several days before the last Monday.
dec15-8t* J. WESLEY BOTELER, Sec'y.

NEW BOOKS, DIARIES, GAMES, &c., IN great variety at ROBERTS' Book and Stationery Store, 1010 7th street, above New York avenue. dec13-2w

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, Corner 9th and D streets.
FREE READING ROOM, CIRCULATING LIBRARY, PARLOR AND CONVERSATION ROOMS, EVENING CLASSES IN GERMAN, FRENCH, GRAMMAR, and ARITHMETIC; LITERARY SOCIETY; DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS, at 12:15 and 6 p. m; SABBATH SERVICES in Lincoln Hall 3:30 p. m., conducted by the young men of the Association; Music, led by organ, cornet and precenta; Young Men's (exclusively) meeting, 6 p. m. Young men cordially invited. dec7-tr

WEST'S ALADDAN SECURITY
PRATT'S ASTRAL,
And all pure OILS can be had from
nov27-1m* GEORGE EYNEAL, JR., 639 D st.

ALL PERSONS DESIRING TO LEARN PITMAN'S SHORT-HAND may find an experienced teacher at Roys's Academy, Sunderland's church, 4½ street northwest. Full course of 20 lessons, $10. Thorough mastery of the whole subject guaranteed. oct30-tf

BOILING HOT OR ICE-COLD TEA,
COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE,
Pure and Fragrant,
WITH MILBURN'S UNRIVALLED SODA,
1429 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,
oct20-tr near Willard's.

SEE DIPLOMA of *Holmes' Old Man of the Mountain Liver Pills* at Dr. Geo. M. Howard's Drug store, corner 7th and I streets northwest. $1,000 for the detection of Mercury or any other poisonous substance in them. Sold by all Druggists. oct18 10w*

LEWIS JOHNSON & CO.,
BANKERS,
Corner of 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue,
Dealers in Government and District Securities, Foreign Exchange and Gold. sep14-ly

H. E. OFFLEY & CO.,
BANKERS,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND F STREETS,
Opposite Treasury Department.
BANK OF DEPOSIT, EXCHANGE, &c.
Deal in GOLD, Government and District BONDS, Foreign EXCHANGE, &c.
Collections made on all points.
Investment Securities on Commission. mar4-tr

H. D. COOKE, JR., & CO.,
BANKERS,
ap19-tr 1429 F street.

EVERYBODY WILL HAVE IT!—The United States "CENTENNIAL MEDAL." A beautiful little souvenir illustrating the growth and prosperity of a free people in a hundred years.
Only authorized agents for the District of Columbia, HAMILTON & PEARSON,
Y. M. C. A. Building, 9th and D streets, Dealers in Chandeliers, Plumbers, Goods, &c., &c mar6.stf

REMOVAL.—WM. F. HOLTZMAN, *Attorney-at-Law,* has removed to No. 1321 F st. northwest, opposite Ebbit House, and will be pleased to see his friends and business acquaintances. Legal businefs solicted, and money invested.
Rooms and Offices for rent in same building. je9-tf

SAMUEL G. YOUNG,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
oc17-tf OFFICE—STAR BUILDING.

FRANKLIN & CO.,
OPTICIANS,
No. 1227 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,
Genuine Brazilian Pebble Spectacles. dec7-1y,1stp

C. Y. DAVIDSON & CO.,
BALTIMORE, MD.

CLOCKS. STATUARY.
BRONZES.

GAS FIXTURES
GAS FIXTURES

PUT UP COMPLETE
IN WASHINGTON FREE OF CHARGE.

The Largest and Handsomest Stock
in the Country.
GOODS RETAILED AT
WHOLESALE PRICES.
No. 5 N. LIBERTY ST.,
BALTIMORE, MD. dec10-19t1stp

BRAZILIAN PEBBLE SPECTACLES.
H. H. HEMPLER,
OPTICIAN,
dec9-tr1stp 453 Penna. ave., corner 4½ street.

AT A SACRIFICE—One Light LANDAULET, three circular front COUPEES, one Coupe ROCKAWAY, all nearly new. Large assortment of new and second-hand CARRIAGES and BUGGIES, on hand at
P. D. SCHMITT & CO.'S,
Carriage Repository,
dec15 tr No. 319 12th st., bet. C and D n. w.

Brady's
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY,
625 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, BETWEEN 6TH AND 7TH STREETS.
Mr. Brady has the pleasure of announcing to his friends and the public that he has returned to Washington and re-opened his Gallery. He will be aided by a corps of the best artists, and will avail himself of all the recent improvements in the Photographic Art. Mr. Brady will give personal attention to his patrons daily from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m d16-m,w,f,1m

L. C. BISHOP,
Druggist,
1113 PENN. AVE., bet. 11th and 12th sts.

DRUGS, MEDICINES AND CHEMICALS.
DRUGGIST'S SUNDRIES and TOILET GOODS of the best quality.
English HAIR, NAIL and TOOTH BRUSHES, SOAPS and PERFUMES.
MODERATE PRICES.
1113 Pennsylvania avenue, between 11th and 12th
nov30-1m streets.

A CARD TO THE LADIES.—Artistic DRESS MAKING in all branches. Wedding, Evening, Reception and Dinner Suits made to order in the latest Parisian styles. 1923 Pennsylvania avenue. The patronage of Ladies who desire first class work solicited only. Private entrance. Closed on Saturday's. Mme. LOUIE & CO. nov30-1m

F. J. HEIBERGER,
(Successor to H. F. Loudon & Co.,)
CITIZENS, ARMY AND NAVY
MERCHANT TAYLOR
Metropolitan Hotel, (late Brown's,)
No. 362 Penna. ave., Washington

DRESSMAKING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, at MRS. S. E. MATLOCK'S, No. 1114 9th st., between L and M. Cutting and Fitting a specialty. dec16-2m*

DR. PERABEAU TEACHES PIANO, HARMONY, and the Cultivation of the Voice. Address at Mrs. REICHENBACH'S Piano Forte, No 623 11th street northwest. dec14-1y*

The Evening Star.

VOL. 46—No. 7,097. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1875. TWO CENTS.

EVENING STAR.

DOUBLE SHEET.

Washington News and Gossip.

Government Receipts To-day.—Internal revenue, $404,455.89; customs, $445,462.94

The amount of national bank note currency received at the Treasury to-day aggregated $779.792; total for the week ending to-day, $3,652,772.

January Interest.—The Secretary of the Treasury has directed the payment of the January interest, to commence on Monday next, without rebate.

The President returned from New York last evening, and among those who had interviews with him to-day were Sanator Maxey, and Representative Hancock, of Texas.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue denies that he has the legal right to prescribe the quantity of malt that shall be equivalent to a barrel of beer for purposes of taxation, which right has been contested by the Brewers' Association.

Attorney General Pierrepont says there is no truth in reports that have been circulated that the President is in favor of pardoning Joyce, who was recently convicted at St. Louis of complicity in the whisky frauds.

A Conscience Stricken Britisher.—The Commissioner of the Internal Revenue has received a $10 note from a conscience stricken individual in London, who says it is due the United States, and requests an acknowledgement in the personals of the New York *Herald*, with the signature "P. H."

A Decision Wanted.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has submitted to the Attorney General the question as to whether dividends due non-resident alien stockholders of the Illinois Central railroad shall be paid to said stockholders or to the company, as claimed by the latter. The Attorney General will render a decision on Monday.

The money order office of the post office in this city will be removed from its present location to room 15, in the west corridor of the general post office building, by the 1st of the New Year. The room, which has been appropriately furnished, is much more convenient in point of location, and is better adapted to the transaction of the money order business than the one at present in use.

Wedding at the Metropolitan Church.—Metropolitan M. E. church was crowded last evening at 6 o'clock by the relatives and numerous friends of Mr. Clarence H. McEwen and Miss Bettie Havenner, on the occasion of the marriage of the couple named. The groom is a highly appreciated clerk in the Sixth Auditor's office, and the bride is the charming and accomplished daughter of a much respected citizen, Mr. John F. Havenner. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Newman, after which a pleasant reception was held at the residence of Mr. Havenner, and the wedded couple took the 9 o'clock train for New York. Messrs. E. Graves, E. B. Hay, Thomas K. Rowe, F. J. Tibbitts, F. Rowe and E. Smoot were the ushers at the church.

Naval Orders.—Lieutenant Commander Edwin T. Woodward, ordered to the Vandalia as executive, 10th January next; Ensigns Orin E. Lasher, Frank A. Wilner, Ten Eyck D. W. Vecder, and S. W. B. Diehl, Passed Assistant Paymaster J. Porter Loomis, Gunner Samuel D. Hines and Acting Carpenter Solon H. Maloon, to the Vandalia, 10th January next; Lieutenant Commander John McGowan, jr., reports his detachment from the Juniata, European station, on 29th ult., by Rear Admiral Worden, and has been granted permission to remain in Europe; Lieutenant Henry O. Handy, from the coast survey, 30th instant next; Lieutenant Francis M. Barlier, from special duty and ordered to the Vandalia, 10th January; Master John W. Danenhower, from the Colorado on the 31st instant and ordered to the Vandalia, 10th January; Boatswain John Hall, from the navy yard, Boston, on 31st instant, and ordered to the Vandalia, 10th January.

A Fashionable Wedding.—Bloomington, Illinois, was excited over a fashionable wedding on Wednesday evening, the contracting parties being Henry Stuart Swayne, a manufacturer of Toledo, Ohio, son of Justice Swayne, and Miss Sallie Worthington Davis, daughter of Justice Davis, Judge Swayne's colaborer on the Supreme Court bench. The wedding occurred at Judge Davis' residence. The bride entered leaning on the arm of her father, and Mrs. Davis on the arm of Justice Swayne, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. John McLean, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Bloomington, under whose pastoral care Miss Davis had worshipped from her childhood. The invited guests were from all parts of the Union, and included many prominent persons. Judge David Davis is a native of Cecil county, Md., and went, at the age of 25, to Illinois, where, after a year spent in Pekin, he settled to practice law at Bloomington. While studying law at Lenox, Mass., he had made the acquaintance of Miss Sarah, daughter of Judge Walker, of that state, who became his wife.

The Philadelphia Methodists and Bishop Haven.—The ministers of the M. E. Church, in Philadelphia, held a meeting on Tuesday evening, at which Rev. T. Sherman proposed a vote of approval for what is known as the "third term" speech of Bishop Haven, which was objected to by several members of the meeting. Dr. Woodruff stated that it was not intended to have any political signification, but simply the customary complimentary vote. After this explanation the meeting unanimously adopted the resolution.

A Fiendish Act.—Mr. Bergh's agent at Highland Falls, N. Y., arrested a man named Paul Rausom for cruelty to animals. It appears that the wretch poured a quantity of turpentine over the hind parts of his horse and deliberately set fire to it. The poor beast was horribly burned. Rawson was tried before Justice Abby, who sentenced him to the Orange county common jail for one hundred days and to pay a fine of $25.

Verdict Against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company.—The suit of Mrs. Sherman against the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company was concluded in the circuit court of Shenandoah county, Va., on Saturday with a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $3,000. Her husband, Nathaniel Sherman, was run over and killed by a detached part of a freight train in 1874, and the suit was to recover damages for his loss.

Railroad Collision.—A passenger train on the Louisville, Nashville and Great Southern railroad ran into the rear end of a freight train, yesterday, near Louisville, Ky. Frank Moore, engineer of the passenger train, was seriously injured on the head and had his thigh and knee broken. One fireman was slightly hurt. All the passengers escaped injury. The engine and a number of freight cars were wrecked.

The Alexander Double Murder.—The coroner's jury in the case of Sarah Alexander, the murdered Jewess, concluded their inquest at the Brooklyn (N. Y.) morgue yesterday, with a verdict that the girl came to her death at the hands of Pesach N. Rubenstein on or about the 12th of December, and that the death of the child was consequent upon that of its mother.

The mild weather has caused a sufficient rise in the Delaware river at and near Port Jervis, N. Y., to move the ice. A gorge formed at Narrowsburg yesterday, damming the water and causing it to rise rapidly. The gorge and flood at that point last winter proved very disastrous.

Food During Fever.—It has been found to be a successful method to freeze beef tea and to administer it in lumps to children or patients to suck. They will take it in this form rather than any other kind of food.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

Good.—Under instructions from Judge Knight, of the circuit court at St. Louis, the chief of police of that city has notified the managers of the Missouri state lottery that no further selling of tickets or drawings will be permitted.

☞ Harvard has accepted Yales' challenge for an eight-oared coxswain four mile race.

UNDERTONES.

The absurdity of the idea entertained by many Congressmen,—by a majority of them, it may be said,—that first-class works of art can be got for the adornment of the national capital by advertising for proposals and samples, as they do for fuel, sealing-wax, etc., is very forcibly illustrated by the recent experience of the Boston committee charged with the duty of erecting a memorial statue of the late Mr. Sumner in that city. After carefully examining and weighing the merits of all the models sent in, they finally rejected the best three which had been accepted for award of contract for one of them, in accordance with the terms of the competitive arrangement, and decided to give a commission for the work to Thomas Ball, the favorite Boston sculptor, without any limitation as to conception, pose or arrangement, but subject to final rejection by the committee. This leaves the artist free to do his best work, under the inspiration of his best moods and conditions, without the embarrassment of trying to carry out the ideas of other people, who, by the way, are quite likely to know nothing about art. In no other way can first-class pictures or sculpture ever be obtained. Not only this, but as a rule the best artists refuse to enter into competitive exhibitions of this kind, so that the field of selection is generally limited to the efforts of mere tyros, or those who have not yet obtained a recognition and standing as artists.

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What does the high-flying sublimated sort of musical criticism so often met with in the big newspapers amount to, any way? The readers don't understand it; the artists are rarely satisfied with it; and, as a fact, nobody believes it. And little wonder, as to the latter, particularly. It is claimed by friends of the former musical critic, lately deceased, of one of the many "leading American newspapers" published in New York, that he brought more than $30,000 worth of advertisements of musical instruments, etc., to its columns,—"and this in addition to the ordinary standard announcements of that class!" At this rate, a musical critic is a truly valuable and probably a necessary adjunct to a "leading newspaper,"—in a pecuniary point of view; but the question which will disturb the reader is whether the reviews of the critic were written in the interest of the public or of the advertising columns aforesaid. Either way, the revelation is a sickening commentary upon the value of the "intelligent and independent criticism" one reads so much about now-a-days.

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A goose died recently in the Garden of Plants, at Paris, which was shown by unquestioned documentary evidence to have been two hundred and three years old at the time of her death. This seems at first reading to be a ripe old age, even for a goose; but in our city markets one may occasionally buy one,—and not infrequently a pair of ducks,—if toughness may be taken as evidence, a good deal older. Indeed, if dryness and resistance count for anything, a couple of centuries would not seem to be a very great age for a chicken.

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The plan which was first suggested and urged in this column a long time ago, of putting a placard or time-table on the letter-boxes throughout the city to show at what hours the mail matter deposited therein will be removed to the post office for mailing, has at last been adopted by the powers that be. But in part, only; for, while these useful bulletins may be found on many of the boxes in the business parts of the city, they are conspicuously absent from those located in the more remote portions of the town, where such information is really more important, or rather more difficult to obtain, than in the central parts of the city near the post office, and where, perhaps, the collections are made oftener. The device is so useful, so simple, and costs so little, either in money or trouble, that there is really no good reason to be given for not making its application universal. Will not the proper authorities therefore give the necessary instructions to this end? Where so much can be accomplished with so little, it seems inexcusable not to utilize that little to the utmost.

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"Judge not; the workings of his brain
  And of his heart thou canst not see;
What looks to thy dim eyes a stain,
  In God's pure light may only be
A scar, brought from some well-won field,
Where thou wouldst only faint and yield.

"The look, the air that frets thy sight
  May be a token that below
The soul has closed in deadly fight
  With some infernal fiery foe,
Whose glance would scorch thy smiling grace,
And cast thee shuddering on thy face."

⁂

The efforts to convert the Centre Market-house into a battlemented castle and the old National Hotel into a Venitian palace seem to be earnest enough, but there is danger that they will hardly reach, so to speak, in an architectural sense.

⁂

query propounded above as to the value of musical criticism is by no means limited in its application to music alone. It is, indeed, applicable with equal force to all branches of art,—to painting and sculpture, as well as to music and the drama, and, in fact, to everything in regard to which no absolute and visible or tangible standard can be set up, and where much must necessarily be left to individual taste and judgment. And this, too, irrespective of the baser elements of pecuniary consideration or personal favoritism or prejudice, which too often enter into the case. The theatrical debut of Oakey Hall in New York last Saturday evening affords a most striking illustration on this point. The verdict rendered on this interesting event by the newspaper gentlemen of that city who assume to have all knowledge of things pertaining to dramatic art in their special keeping, is so conflicting in character as to leave the reading public entirely at sea as to whether Mr. Hall's effort was a complete success, only tolerably good, or a flat failure. One of the critics, for example, says he presented himself throughout simply as Oakey Hall; that in not one of the dramatic situations of the play "did he for a moment succeed in getting himself outside of his own shell;" that "his visage is fixed, severe, and inexpressive; his voice hard and metallic, his action angular and wooden." Another records it that the ex-Mayor "acts like one born to the stage," and that "his success was not only unequivocal, but as well deserved as it was unequivocal." A third says: "Mr. Hall's task, which was very difficult, and which demanded the most delicate and careful treatment, has been successfully carried out;" while a fourth curtly dismisses his adoption of a new profession by saying that "the plot of the piece is weak, and the language stilted," but nothing about the actor, except that, "with time he will, no doubt, achieve what all his friends desire,—success." * * More might be quoted from other papers; but to what end? It would only serve to show, as these extracts do, that people who want to know the merits of a play, an actor, a singer, a piece of statuary, or a picture, must needs go and see for themselves, and decide for themselves,—if they can. If not, dismiss it from mind altogether, as a thing not worth bothering about. But above all things, it will not do to rely on what the critics say.

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The book reviewer in *Harper's Monthly* goes for Rev. Dr. Newman's recent volume of travels in the east in a way that must be as surprising to that gentleman as it is refreshing to the reading public. Considering that the book in question was published by the Harpers, that they are Methodists in religious profession, and that the author is a shining light in that denomination, and pastor of what is familiarly called the church of state, one naturally would not expect a very sharp pointing out of the defects and faults of either book or author from that source; yet, in spite of these supposable mitigating circumstances, the critical scalpel is used, as stated, without mercy, though not without discrimination and force. What will the un-Godly, like Donn Piatt and fellows of his ilk, for instance, be thinking and saying of the reverend doctor when those so closely allied to the saints put it upon record that he loses no opportunity for romance—that he spices his narratives with exaggeration of coloring—that he reaches points where credulity ceases to be a virtue, and that his readers should not accept too unquestionably his surmises as to traditional sites of sacred places? Alack and Alas! If the wicked chaps up about the Imperial Hotel get to selling pools on the publisher of the traveling parson's next book, it is clear that the Harpers will sell very low down in the list.

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"Dear, dear, what an age of progress and high-priced toys this is!" is the way it struck an elderly lady on Pennsylvania avenue, yesterday. At least that is what she said.

HOW NEWS IS GATHERED.

Old-Time Journalism and the New.

Thirty years ago, nay, less, instead of the corps of representatives of the press now established in Washington, the best newspapers of the land were content to await the slow process of mails (no fast ones then) to bring them the news from this political center. What Congress did Monday usually reached them Friday. Their writings were as ponderous as their notions. They had more idea of didatic flourish than of the value of current events. In those days of Washington letter-writers, had a President been assassinated, the fact would have been found only in the moral which their labored effort would have revealed. They were not men of facts, and only alluded to them for the purpose of basing a text for studied effort and fine writing. As the world moved on they were pushed to the wall. The active American mind had more to do than read newspaper sermons.

When the telegraph was perfected, the old covies gave way to what they then deemed the upstarts. Dignity and essays succumbed to what is now called American cheek and enterprise.

WHERE NEWS IS OBTAINED.

The mode of getting news and the handling of it is no secret. Every newsgather has channels of information which belong to him pretty exclusively. By this is meant that one may enjoy facilities, of a social nature, which may pour the article into his lap. The great point is first to get the crude facts. It is the talent of the writer which adds the spice and the sauce. Those who have merely the "nose for news," without the faculty of working it up, must not expect to reach the highest round of the professional ladder.

Now the main spring for all news is in the executive departments. In the seven grand divisions which the Constitution created. In each of them, too, is found twenty diverging channels. Some of course have depth; others are shallow, but like all small streams the latter at times catch some of the drift, and a wrecker must watch them all.

In the Treasury department the fountain head is the Secretary. To one who has never applied the newspaper pump to Mr. Bristow, or who puts it in operation for the first time, the conclusion would be jumped at that he is a rather dry fountain. Well he is. There is no trouble to get at him. That is to get into his presence. But to draw from him some of the troubles which wear upon him requires tact and ingenuity. He treats all who wait upon him cordially. He listens attentively, but has few opinions or suggestions to volunteer. Go to him on some definite subject, ask him about it, and he will give such information as is consistent with his sense of duty and responsibility. Ask him the general question if "he has any news," and his answer is a shake of the head. Carrying as he does in his head all the grand batch of whisky information (not whisky) what a fund he has in store if one could only check it out. There is only one way to get at Mr. Bristow. If one is in doubt as to the truth of some statement which he has caught in the other rivulets, put it to him as a fact, and if it is not so his eyes will betray him. Likewise if it is. He speaks more with his eyes than with his mouth.

Mr. Conant, one of the Assistant Secretaries, is always willing to give to the press the information which comes under his observation. He deals in the public debt statements and makes the calls for the redemption of bonds.

Judge Burnham, the other Assistant, is quite cordial in his welcome to all callers. His class of information is the interpretation of customs laws and matters affecting the tariff. The New York *Bulletin* and *Journal of Commerce* representatives find in his office an Elysium; but to newspapers that don't care about printing the changes of duties on codfish balls, lobsters in tin overcoats, and the ad valorem on jute butts, cow's hair, or argols, any more than printing often the Sermon on the Mount, find in that quarter but little to amuse or instruct the general reader.

The officer in charge of the customs division would rather see a book agent or a wildcat come into his office than a newspaper man. Some of "the boys" call on him every day, more for the purpose of letting him know they are around than with any view of being benefited by the call, either socially or intellectually. All the information from his division is given out through the chief clerk's office.

Mr. Pratt, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, is a favorite with newspaper men. He can state a fact with terseness, and has a head as clear as a bell.

John Jay Knox, the Controller of the Currency, rarely has an item. He has a remarkable facility also of forgetting when he has a good thing on hand.

The jolliest, and best liked man by the guild in the Treasury department is Treasurer New. His heart is as big as his vaults. He has a genuine Western *bonhommie* which makes a visitor feel at home, the minute the door closes one in his office. He can tell a good story, enjoys one with a keen relish, and is not chary with his information when he has any.

But the worst to do business with is Architect Potter. He may be all right when you get at him, but it is the getting at him where the rub comes in; one must go through a round of visiting cards, and the etiquette of the thing is too tedious to create a desire for frequent calls. Once in his presence, however, barring a good deal of dignity on his part, he usually gives the information sought for.

In the way of statistics, Prof. Young can overwhelm an ordinary mind in less time than any other known quantity in the Treasury department. He has more statistics in him to the square inch than has the multiplication table or a crop report ten times magnified. What he can't hold in the way of statistics he hands over to his assistant, Prof. Elliott, who can not only retain out of the *largesse* what Young don't want, but in addition can find time to write Christmas stories on the "Earth's Radius Vector."

In the Department of Justice the only officer usually called upon is the Attorney General. There is no difficulty in seeing him. If a dozen visitors are in his office when one calls he will direct that he be at once shown in. He rather exerts himself to give information, than conceal it. At times, while he does not give what is asked for in a positive way, he leads one to the point by that class of negative information which a little judgment can make positive and prove correct.

At the White House, Gen. Babcock usually makes public such matters as the President desires should be announced. The appointments to office are given out by the clerk in charge of the book in which they are recorded. Other than this latter information the White House is not a good hopper for news.

At the War department the changes in the stations of army officers are first printed and then give to the press representatives. Sometimes a stray bit of serviceable news is communicated by Gen. Vincent. The Secretary himself is not much troubled with newspaper men, and for the reason that they don't know how to take him. He is variable in his treatment. At times pleasant, affable and obliging. Again "quite the reverse."

Gen. Humphries, the chief of engineers, is occasionally visited. He is quite nervous when information in his possession is sought after. He believes in army regulations, and usually wants authority from the head of the department before he will divulge.

It does not take long to skip through the Navy department. What is gotten from it is a daily budget of naval orders, and occasionally the movements of our ships in foreign waters. This class of information is prepared by the chief clerk, and Dr. McNairy, an old salt who has anchored in this harbor for over twenty years. No newspaper man thinks of going to Secretary Robeson in person. He hates the guild, and will pay no more attention to a card sent in by one of them than would an Egyptian potentate to the salaam of his humblest subject.

Postmaster General Jewell wants "the boys" to have everything that is worth having in his department, and the heads of bureaus and divisions, knowing this, give willingly to the press all matters of interest which are worth printing.

Secretary Chandler is also a favorite Cabinet officer with the journalists; he has nothing to conceal, and is willing that the press should have every facility extended them in their laborious hunt for news.

ART NOTES.

It is worthy of note that in addition to being a place of popular and elevating resort, alike for residents and strangers, the Corcoran Gallery is steadily coming into use by art students, who avail themselves of the extensive and valuable material collected within its walls, as a means of educating themselves in drawing, color, etc. During a brief visit on Monday last we observed not less than six enthusiastic workers engaged in copying pictures in the main and east rooms, and we were informed that several others who were not then in the building are similarly occupied on the "pay days" of each week. Of those we saw, four were ladies, two being engaged in reproducing Durand's fine forest view, and two at work on Muller's 'Charlotte Corday,' while one gentleman was engaged on the 'Talking Well' and the other on James Hart's cattle piece. From such an inspection as a somewhat distant and hasty glance afforded, the copies, so far as they were advanced, bade fair to be creditable, and gave promise of better work in future. It is to be regretted, however, that more use is not made by beginners of the grand casts in the lower rooms. Copying favorite and striking pictures in color is a pleasant amateurish pastime, and shows apparently more gratifying results for the time expended than drawing from the antique; but if students wish to lay a broad and sure foundation for after success in art, their best field will be found for some time among the casts in the halls of statuary,—than which, by the way, for purposes of training, no better collection can be found in the country.

—Under a commission from Columbian University, Mr. Ulke is painting a three-quarter sitting portrait of Mr. Corcoran, which, so far as the likeness of the subject is concerned, will, we think, be pronounced the best that has been painted of him; and this notwithstanding Elliott's in many respects superb representation of the same gentleman on the walls of the gallery that bears his honored name. It might also be called Mr. Ulke's best picture, except that in respect of the pose it is not so natural and characteristic as that of the President, painted by him a short time since. As to the mere likeness, in color, features, and expression, it seems to be all that could be desired by any one; but its otherwise good effect is somewhat marred by the prominent introduction of an elaborately carved chair and a showy gold-headed cane, which is brought forward in a stiff obtrusive sort of way. Mr. Ulke is also engaged on a portrait of Professor Henry, which bids fair to be a most creditable effort, although when we saw it the likeness had not reached the same degree of excellence which marks the portrait of Mr. Corcoran. It is also a three-quarter picture, and represents the eminent scientist seated in a natural and easy position before a table, his right hand, which holds a pen, resting on the arm of his chair. Upon the table are placed materials for writing, and a few volumes of Smithsonian Institution Reports and other scientific works. These accesories are subordinated to the central point of interest in the picture, and add to rather than detract from the quality and effect of the composition. The claim of Mr. Ulke's friends that each of his pictures is better than the last seems to be fully justified by these portraits. They both show gratifying progress.

—Since his return from the Pacific coast, Mr. Baumgras has been turning to good account the large collection of studies made during his long absence, and which includes characteristic scenery and figures found all along the other side, from Panama to Vancouver's Island, and from San Francisco to Omaha. So far, most of the pictures he has painted up to this time since his return have been small in size, and interesting for the almost photographic fidelity with which they represent foliage and geological formations, rather than valuable as works of art in the broader sense; but he has now on his easel a view in Humbolt Valley, Nevada, which promises to fill, when completed, all requisite conditions in the latter sense. It shows the lake and marshes in the foreground, with the magnificent mountain range, in a strong sunset light, in the distance, and combines throughout excellent atmospheric effect, fine color, and great breadth and freedom of treatment. Indeed, we shall be surprised if it be not pronounced when finished and placed on view, the best work in landscape that Mr. Baumgras has yet done.

—All Washingtonians interested in art and artists will learn with pleasure that Mr. Rowzee, one of the most promising of our young painters, who had to give up work for a year or two on account of partial loss of sight, has so far recovered the use of his eyes as to be able to again pursue his studies. He dare not undertake as yet anything minute in detail or elaborate in finish, but he is making good the loss in this direction by giving us a series of broad free transcripts of nature, in which the characteristics of outdoor life and the breezy freshness of the fields are portrayed with marked fidelity and tenderness. He is at present working on landscapes of this class, for several of which we understand he already has orders.

—Mrs. Fassett, a Chicago artist of considerable repute, who has recently opened a studio here, has made a good beginning in painting a portrait of Mr. Justice Miller, of the U. S. Supreme Court. It is a three-quarter full front view, showing the judge seated, wearing his judicial robes, and gives great satisfaction to the family and friends of that gentleman. Mrs. F. is also engaged on a portrait of Vice President Wilson which promises to be a faithful likeness and excellent picture, notwithstanding the fact that she never had the advantage of a sitting from her subject during his lifetime. We note with real pleasure the acquisition of new artists here, and trust this accomplished lady may never have occasion to regret having exchanged Chicago for Washington.

—At Markriter's, where beautiful things are always to be found, may be seen a number of pleasant landscapes in pastel, by Brewerton. While pictures in this material are not valued by connoisseurs as highly as those in oil or water colors, they have the positive merit of being almost always soft and poetical in effect, clear and bright in appearance, and lasting in color. It happens, furthermore, that some very highly prized pictures are in pastel,—notably, the famous 'Chocolate Girl,' in the Dresden Gallery, which has been copied so many hundred times. We remember also to have seen a few years ago a pair of large figure pieces by a distinguished European artist which were held at $25,000 each. Mr. Markriter has likewise on view several of Max Weyl's landscapes that deserve the notice of those interested in art, together with a number of pictures on porcelain by Dresden artists,—some of which are among the largest and best of their class that we have yet seen.

—Mrs. R. Colburn exhibits at Warren Choate & Co.'s a little picture in oil colors, which, though hardly equal in merit to some other work we have seen from her pencil, is so thoroughly apropos of the holiday season, and tells its story so prettily, as to disarm criticism and challenge the admiration of all passers by. Whether it is for sale or not we do not know, but if it is it would make a capital 'Christmas gift' for some lover of the beautiful, as a reminder of the happy days of childhood, long ago, when presents were fewer and simpler, and also, we suspect, more highly prized than now.

—Prof. Hillyer is hard at work in his new studio in Colonization Building, but the only important work under way at present is a striking view on the coast of Scotland, to which he is giving some finishing touches. The studies that cover his walls and fill his portfolios are, however, not less interesting to observers than valuable to the artist, since they include a great deal of characteristic scenery in both this country and Europe, and [illegible] illustrate in a striking way the industry and earnestness of their owner. Among these, the most noticeable are the sketch of a picture intended for the Centennial exhibition and the first drawings of a group of three allegorical pictures intended to represent the Past, the Present, and the Future,—the first shown as a dream, the second as a reality, the third as a mystery,—about which more will deserve to be said by and by, when they shall be completed, or nearly so.

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Ex-Senator Nye was removed from an asylum for the insane only after his recovery had been pronounced hopeless.

SOCIAL MATTERS.

The exodus for the holidays has produced no visible difference in the throng upon the streets. The Avenue, especially in the afternoons, has presented the animated appearance of a large social gathering. In its contempt for conventionalities, our city has the power of drawing together its resident and floating population in an informal manner that is usually possible only in communities of limited size. When our citizens sally forth as in the holiday season, having a common object in view, they meet and greet each other and laugh and chat in groups upon our thoroughfares with as little restraint, though with as great decorum, as if assembled beneath the hospitable roof of a mutual friend. This warmth of manner and independence of unfavorable criticism appears especially appropriate to the celebration of Christmas, when, if ever, all should feel the strong ties of a common humanity. Moving in and out among the animated groups and lingering promenaders, we saw "men as trees walking," or trees as men walking, as you prefer, suggesting an incursion of dry goods; or, better still, that "Birnam wood had come to Dunsinane," but come on pleasure bent, and not on hostile thought intent. The Christmas trees thus borne along made a festive appearance, in which the many individuals hastening by, garlanded with wreaths of evergreens and holly, and bearing crosses, stars and other devices for decorations combined to give an exhilarating assurance of the good time at hand. Adding to the pleasing effect was the air of mystery assumed by all who, overladen with paper parcels and with happy faces, passed upon their way, etc.

Fine ladies and gentlemen exquisites have not the smallest objection to carrying bundles when Christmas is at hand; rather it seems as if the indignity consisted in walking the business streets without one. Among the bright faces in the gay crowd we were pleased to observe Mrs. Robeson, Captain and Mrs. Hoff, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. McKee, Mrs. and the Misses Kilbourne, Mrs. Rogers, Judge Otto, Mr. Longworthy, and many more of the favorites of society. Col. Donn Piatt, accompanied by his guests, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond, were taking an airing by means of a drive.

The Spanish minister, a noble looking man with his handsome young wife, the American beauty; Madame Mariscal, the wife of the Mexican minister; Mr. Barges, the Brazillian minister; Sir Edward and Lady Thornton and the Misses Thornton and Baltazzi Effendi, were among the foreigners who seemed to enjoy the novelty of the scene, as well as the pleasure of greeting all of the society people of the capital. It was a fine pageant, and if only the balmy spring-like weather continues we will have the merriest Christmas for many years.

Next week opens with many festivities. Monday evening the Army and Navy Club give their second german, and Mrs. Redfern has invitations out for a german for the same evening. Miss Mamie Redfern, who has been at school in New York, where she has borne off the first honors, has returned home for the holidays, and the entertainment is given in her honor.

During the holidays Miss Leila Ray gives a german. This will be a novelty, as there will be only twenty couples, and the ladies will all wear fancy costumes.

Invitations are out for the wedding of Mr. Frank Swayne, son of Mr. Justice Swayne, to Miss Young, of Toledo. Miss Young is the daughter of a former law partner of Chief Justice Waite. He is now the wealthiest banker in Toledo. Miss Waite is to be one of the bridesmaids. The wedding takes place on the 29th. Judge Swayne and family and the family of the Chief Justice have already left Washington for Toledo.

The entire state of Illinois was in commotion over the approaching nuptials of the daughter of Mr. Justice Davis to another one of the sons of Judge Swayne, Mr. Harry Swayne, which took place at Bloomington, in that state, a few days ago.

The engagement of Dr. Baxter, chief medical purveyor of the army, to Miss Florence Tryon is announced. Miss Tryon is the niece of the Hon. Otis Norcross, ex-mayor of Boston. The young lady is handsome and accomplished. She was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Willard last winter, and is now on a visit to this city.

Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Patton returned on Wednesday from their bridal trip. A new and beautiful home awaited their return, and the young couple at once entered upon the responsibilities of housekeeping.

On Tuesday Miss Wendell gives a german in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Patten.

Miss Dunn, daughter of the Judge Advocate General, is spending the holiday season in New York with her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lanier. When Miss Dunn returns she will be accompanied by her young aunt, Miss Lanier, who will make her debut in society this winter.

Judge and Mrs. Howell are enjoying the pleasure of a visit from their son, who is a student at Worcester, Mass. Judge and Mrs. Aldis have likewise welcomed a cadet of their family, who will spend his Christmas vacation with them.

The Postmaster General and Mrs. Jewell will have their agreeable daughter, Mrs. Dodge, with them during the holidays.

Mrs. Chipman is making all her preparations for her removal from the city to California. She has now gone to visit friends at the north. Gen. Chipman lingers in Washington only long enough to bid adieu to his many friends, who deeply regret the loss society will sustain in the absence of this agreeable gentleman and his popular wife.

Mrs. A. R. Shepherd will be at home on Tuesdays after Jan. 1st.

Mrs. and Miss Kilbourne will receive their friends on Fridays, as also will Mrs. Alexander Bruen and Miss Bruen.

Mrs. Secretary Chandler will begin her receptions on the first Wednesday in January. Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Robeson will also continue theirs on the day custom has assigned for the cabinet ladies. The wife of the Speaker is likewise one of those to whom Wednesday belongs, and so would be the wife of the Vice President if we had a Vice President and if he had a wife.

On Monday last Mrs. Bancroft received many of her friends, among them the Count and Countess Hoyos, Senor and Senora Sant Anna, Mrs. and Miss Fish, Mrs. and Miss Eames, Mrs. and the Misses Beale, Mrs. and Miss Kilbourne, Mrs. and Miss Watmough and Gen. and Mrs. Marcy. The portrait of Kaiser Wilhelm received the customary tribute of admiration, and many noticed as the commanding figure of Gen. Marcy appeared that it seemed as if the canvas opposite the door reflected his face and form in the uniform of the Emperor of Germany.

Madame Borges has recommenced her Sunday evening receptions, which are very informal, and are restricted to her most intimate friends and members of the diplomatic corps.

Many of the friends of Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Robeson on Wednesday called upon them to exchange the compliments of the season. A few of those making calls on that day were Mr. Blaine, Judge Richardson, Captain Gore Jones, Mrs. and Miss Watmough, Miss Eames, Miss Stout, and many of the diplomatic corps.

Mrs. S. S. Cox has gone to New York for the holidays, as has also Mrs. Field.

Senator Robertson, of South Carolina, will enjoy the recess in Charleston.

Paymaster, Mrs. and Miss Watmough will spend Christmas with Mrs. Watmough's relatives, who reside in the old homestead, on the North Penn. railroad, near Fort Washington station.

Mrs. Blaine will again welcome her cousin, Miss Dodge, (Gail Hamilton,) as a member of her household this winter.

Mr. R. S. Spofford left Washington on Tuesday evening to enjoy the recess with his wife and relatives at Newburyport. On his return Mr. Spofford will be accompanied by his gifted wife, whom to know is in itself a liberal education. Mr. and Mrs. Spofford have made a home of ideal beauty for themselves on Deer Island, in the Merrimac river, just outside Newburyport. Mr. S. purchased this diminutive island and has built thereon a spacious and, of course, artistic residence. His own mother and sister and the parents and sisters of Mrs. Spofford are members of the household.

Mr. John Flagg, one of the popular clerks of the Senate, left for New York on Friday evening, expecting to return early in the ensuing week.

Mr. Henry Watterson, during his short stay in this his native city, had abundant opportunity to test the utility and beauty of our improvements by riding and driving about our streets. We hope his gallop on Saturday last by the side of Miss Clara Morris was improved by his being convinced of the substantial progress our city has made, for we know the agreeable converse of the lady could make even such conviction against his will acceptable to the able editor of the *Courier-Journal*.

The *Graphic* of Monday last published portraits of Messrs. Halstead, Bowles and Watterson, figuring as a triumvirate of dark magicians forecasting the horoscope of the Presidential canvass. The artist must surely have caught his subjects atwixt the champagne and the sherry, for else they would appear as genial gentlemen and merry.

Some very elegant visiting and walking costumes have been noticed at the recent receptions. Madame Mantilla wears a dark blue silk, garnished with many bands of narrow gold braid. Madame la baronne de Overbeck has a most becoming hat and suit of dark blue velvet. Madame Borges and Madame Lindenerone wear rich black velvet costumes and Mrs. Stewart of a fine shade of garnet velvet.

Miss Stewart, the very handsome daughter of Mrs. Elisha Ward, when receiving with her mother on Tuesday wore a black silk over a black velvet petticoat, the waist and upper skirt being relieved with broad bands of bullion and large buttons of the same.

The board of directors of the Children's hospital hope to give a grand ball for the benefit of that institution early in the season, in lieu of the Easter ball usually given for the same worthy object. They will model the entertainment by the famous and always successful "Charity ball of New York." One of the theatres will probably be used for the occasion, and no pains will be spared to make this the leading social event of the gay season. An international tea party also for the benefit of the Children's hospital is in contemplation, which it is hoped will be no less successful than was the Peasants' Carnival last week, the net proceeds of which were $2,500.

Telegrams to The Star.

CLEWS & CO. COMPROMISE.

FIRES, MURDERS AND ACCIDENTS

NEWS FROM OVER THE SEA.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Kintah Taken by the British.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The *Times* has a special telegram from Penang to-day saying Gen. Colborne reports that he has taken Kintah without any loss. The Maharajah's Ismail and Lela fled to Palape.

Accident to an Ocean Steamer.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 24.—The steamship Kenilworth, which left Liverpool on the 13th and this port on the following day for Philadelphia, has returned here, having lost her propeller.

Railroad Accident.

NEWBURG, N. Y., Dec. 24.—A passenger train on the Connecticut Western railroad ran into some freight cars on the side of the track near Millerton last night, the accident occurring through the neglect of a switchman. The baggage-master, named Burke, was fatally hurt, and several others slightly. ward in charge, and lodged him in jail. Woodward some two years ago was county trustee and absconded, leaving a deficit of about $160,000. He intimates that others shared in the embezzlement, and that he will make it warm for them when the proper time comes, as thus far he is the only one who has suffered.

Fires.

GENEVA, N. Y., Dec. 24.—The White Spring farm building and mansion, owned by Jas. O. Sheldon, were destroyed by fire last night. Loss $50,000.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Dec. 24.—Fire at Red Oak, Iowa, yesterday, destroyed the entire east side of the public square. The buildings were all of wood, however, and the loss will not be more than $20,000.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The following is the weekly bank statement: Loans, decrease, $1,829,060; specie, decrease, $654,100; legal tenders, decrease, $1,198,300; deposits, decrease, $3,595,200; circulation, decrease, $77,900; reserve, increase, $354,600.

Conviction.

WILKESBARRE, Dec. 24.—Patrick Ryan was to-day convicted of murder in the second degree for killing J. Tooley, and sentenced to 11 years and 10 months' imprisonment.

Probable Murder.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—James Smith, while intoxicated last night, beat his wife, Margaret, inflicting injuries which will probably prove fatal. Smith was arrested.

The Bowen Libel Case.

NEW YORK, Dec.—The jury in the libel suit of Henry C. Bowen against the Brooklyn *Eagle* retired last night, but have not yet agreed.

Clews & Co.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Henry Clews & Co. have arranged with their creditors and obtained a full discharge.

A Fugitive Defaulter Brought Back.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 24.—Sheriff Anderson has arrived from San Francisco with A. Wood-

Charles O'Conor Better.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Charles O'Conor has again rallied, and is better.

The Markets.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—Virginia consolidated, 71; West Virginias, 9; North Carolina 6's, old, 16; do. new, 8; do. special tax, 2 bid to-day. Sugar firm, 10½a10¾.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—Cotton fairly active and steady—middling, 12¾. Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat quiet—No. 2 western red, 1.34a1.35; Pennsylvania red, 1.25a1.38; Maryland red, 1.15a1.45; do. amber, 1.47a1.50; do. white, 1.15a1.45. Corn dull—southern white, new, 52a58; southern yellow, new, 58a60; western mixed, old, 63a63½. Oats dull nominal. Rye dull, 80a85. Hay quiet and steady—Maryland and Pennsylvania, 22.00a24.00. Provisions quiet and steady. Pork, new, 21.50. Bulk meats—shoulders, 8; clear rib sides, 10¾a11; loose packed, 8¼a11¼. Bacon—shoulders, 10a10½; clear rib sides, 13a13½. Hams, 15¾a16. Lard dull but steady—crude, 13a13¼; refined, 13½. Butter active and firm—western extras, 29a30; do. firsts, 26a28. Petroleum nominally unchanged. Coffee nominally unchanged. Whisky dull and heavy, 1.14¾a1.15.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Stocks dull and lower. Money, 6. Gold, 13. Exchange, long, 485¾; short, 489. Governments dull.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat dull and drooping.

LONDON, Dec. 24, 12:30 p. m.—U. S. bonds, 1867's, 107; new 5's, 105. Erie, 13¾.

THE WHISKY FRAUD CASES—*The President and Convict Joyce.*—A special dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer, from St. Louis, says:—"A message was received here on Wednesday from President Grant, in which he characterized as wholly malicious and false the rumor that he had expressed a willingness to consider an application for Joyce's pardon; that he had no friends to favor in the whisky ring prosecutions, and the law shall have its course." Joyce said to an interviewer to-day that the evidence against Babcock would be startling and more damaging than either his or McDonald's case, and that if the government attorneys pressed the matter properly, exposures of others and more important members of the President's household, or to use Joyce's expression, "the entire White House will be damned badly scorched, the President not excepted."

WHAT GEN. SHERMAN BELIEVES IN.—Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, dressed in military costume, was on the point of starting for the New England dinner last evening as a Sun reporter was ushered into room 90, in the Fifth Avenue hotel. The reporter asked for an expression of opinion as to whether sectarian issues would affect the next presidential election. "Oh, I wouldn't for the world say a word about that," said the general with great earnestness. "It is a thing about which people ought not to speak, or even to think. I believe in the constitution of the United States, and the ten commandments. That's enough for me."—*N. Y. Sun*, 23d.

WESTERN METHODISTS FOR THE THIRD TERM.—The Methodist preachers of Cincinnati and vicinity held a meeting yesterday, and sat upon the third term speech of their Boston brother, Bishop Haven. The discussion was lively, and lasted for a long time. The speakers were sorry that the Boston bishop had been so indiscreet as to say what he did, but the proceedings of the meeting developed very plainly the fact that Grant would not be entirely without support for a third term among the Methodist preachers of Cincinnati.—*Cincinnati Gazette, Dec. 21.*

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT is hard at work endeavoring to increase its forces in the field. A conspiracy against the Christian population has been discovered, and thirty-six Turks have been arrested. It is stated that a feature of the proposed reforms is that the ambassadors of the several great powers at Constantinople shall have control over their execution in the provinces.

ABORTION IN BALTIMORE.—Mrs. Elisabeth Sinclair, in Baltimore, professing to be a midwife, was arrested yesterday, charged with producing an abortion upon Mrs. Elisabeth Airey, who died December 15. A Mrs. Sallie Stricker was arrested as accessory to the crime. Both were committed to jail to await a hearing.

THE COMPETITION FOR THE SUEZ CANAL SHARES.—It is rumored at Cairo that the Khedive is negotiating for the sale of Egypt's shares in the Suez canal. The government of Great Britain and M. de Lesseps (representing a combination of French capital) are the bidders. The latter has offered nine million dollars for the shares.

EX-MAYOR LOAGUE, of Memphis, has been acquitted of the charge of stealing scrip, but found guilty of knowing of its embezzlement by his clerk and failing to report it. The mayor says he did report it to the council, and it was their duty to prosecute.