THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 87. BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Committee of Arbitration for month of December.

CHAS. BULLING, G. T. HOPKINS, WM. H. GRAHAM, A. CLOSE, J. CORTLAN, Jr.

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, December 31, 1861.

The Stock market here continues very quiet, the only transaction at the Board to-day being a sale of $200 Baltimore City 6's 1856 at 86. The general feeling in the market was however firm, and but few stocks were offering. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is still moving upward, and it closed to-day at $49¾ bid, $52 asked, these figures being an advance of half a dollar to a dollar on yesterday's quotations. For Northern Central $17 was bid again to-day, but none was offered under $18. Railroad bonds were firm, Northern Central 1885's closing at 61 bid, 62¾ asked, and Baltimore and Ohio bonds at 81 bid ex dividend for 1867's, and 49¾ bid, 50 asked for the extra dividend bonds. City 6's were ¼ to 1 per cent. better than on yesterday, 1875's closing at 86¾ bid, and 1890's at 87 bid, 88 asked. For Maryland 6's quotations were unchanged, coupons of 1870 closing at 91 bid, and inscribed 1870's and 1890's at 90 bid. For Baltimore Gas Co. $101 was bid again to-day, but there was none of this stock offering. Canton Co. left off at 29¾ bid, Springfield Mining Co. at $1.65 bid, $1.70 asked, and Guilford Mining at 30 cts. bid, 35 cts. asked.

The Merchants' Bank, of this city, has declared a dividend of three per cent., payable on the 8th of January, both the State and city taxes being paid by the bank.

The Chesapeake Bank, of this city, has declared a dividend of three per cent., payable January 8, both State and city taxes being paid by the bank.

The Maryland Gas Company will pay the interest on their bonds due 1st of January, 1862.

In New York to-day Missouri 6's declined ¾; Erie and Reading advanced ¼ each; but Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina 6's, New York Central and Treasury notes all closed at the same figures as on yesterday.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD

TUESDAY, December 31, 1861.

$200 Baltimore 6's '86 86

PRICES AND SALES OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK. BY TELEGRAPH

Through WILLIAM FISHER & SON, Stock and Bill Brokers No. 22 South street.

	1st Board	2d Board.
Virginia 6's	48	00
Missouri 6's	42¾	42¾
Tennessee bonds	43	00
North Carolina bonds	59¾	00
Canton Company	30	00
Erie Railroad	32¾	32¾
New York Central Railroad	80	80¾
Reading Railroad	35	35¾
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents	99¾	00

Market steady. steady.

The following is a comparative statement of the condition of the banks of New York city, December 21st and December 28th;

	Dec. 28.	Dec. 21.	
Loans	$154,756,318	$155,784,230	Dec. 1,027,912
Specie	29,357,712	28,813,359	Dec 7,555,657
Circulation	8,459,463	8,459,381	Inc. 119,893
Deposits	116,471,931	124,897,534	Dec 8,425,603

The New York *Post* of Monday afternoon says:

Wall street wears a new face this morning. The adjustment of the Mason and Slidell controversy, followed by a suspension of specie payments by the banks, has produced a marked effect in Wall street. The stock exchange is rampant, and prices of the speculative shares are 2 per cent., and in some cases 5 per cent., higher.—There was great excitement on all the active stocks when called, the transactions being largest in New York Central and Erie. After the extravagant effervescence early in the day, the stock market since is flat, and prices are ¾@1¾ per cent, and in some cases 2¾ per cent. below the highest points touched at the Board. New York Central since the Board is 79¾@79¾; Erie 31¾; do. preferred 53¾@54; Pacific Mail 93¾@94.

In reference to the stock market, the *Herald* says:

As was expected, the stock market advanced to-day, and was buoyant at the advance. At the morning board to-day, Pacific Mail rose 6¾, New York Central 2, Erie 2¾, Erie preferred 3, Michigan Central 3, guaranteed 1¾, Illinois Central 1¾, Galena 1, Toledo 2¾, Panama 4¾, Missouris 3¾, United States sixes 2, and other securities in proportion. After the board there was a drop in prices, and the market gave way. At the second board, however, the decline was recovered, fresh buyers came in, and the market closed strong and tending upward.

The New York *Herald* of yesterday says:

As was to be expected, everything is in confusion in banking and borrowers' circles. Several banks—among others the City, Commerce, Manhattan, New York, Fulton, Chemical, Leather Manufacturers', America—have continued to-day to pay all checks in specie when desired. The ground taken by the managers of these institutions is that the suspension was not unanimous, having been declared by twenty five votes against fifteen in a meeting at which only forty banks were represented, and is therefore not binding on the institutions which do not approve of it. It is evident, however, that, with the exception of the Chemical, which stands in a position of peculiar strength, and is managed with such discretion that it never suspends when other banks do, all the other dissentients must either follow the lead or close their doors.

The following is the weekly statement of the Philadelphia banks, as compared with the previous week:

	Dec. 30.	Dec. 23.	
Capital stock	$11,970,150	$11,970,150	
Loans	30,864,291	31,060,001	Dec. $195,720
Specie	3,493,181	7,167,266	Dec. 1,664,085
Due from other bks.	1,465,412	1,274,782	Dec. 190,630
Due to other banks	3,586,253	3,649,645	Dec. 63,392
Deposits	21,048,610	22,548,463	Dec. 1,499,853
Circulation	2,001,179	2,113,650	Dec. 102,471

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

TUESDAY, December 31.

COFFEE.—There has been no movement in Coffee for several days past, and there seems to be very little demand for it, but the market although quiet is very firm in tone. Rio may be quoted at 18¾@19 cts. for common, and 20 cts. net for good. The stock of Rio here is about 15,000 bags, but there is very little of it offering. We quote Laguayra Coffee at 22 cts. net, and Java at 25 cts. per lb. net, but there is very little of either description here.

COFFEE CIRCULAR.

	1861.	1860.	1859.
Imports of Coffee at this port from Rio	133,585	182,163	231,371 Bags.
" other ports	1,904	2,840	9,750 "
	135,489	185,003	241,124 "
Decrease of imports as compared with 1860			49,514
" " " " 1859			105,635
Stock on hand this day, of Rio			15,000
" " same period of 1860			25,000
Total sales for consumption of Rio for 1861			143,595
" " " " " 1860			175,163
Decrease of sales as compared with 1860			31,578
Estimated Stock of Brazil Coffee at all ports of United States, Dec. 31, 1860			121,000
Estimated receipts " " for 1861			904,000
" sales for consumption			1,025,000
			966,000
Estimated stock of Brazil Coffee at all ports of United States this day			59,000

RICE.—Since the late advance in price, our market has been quiet and sales very limited. The total transactions for the month of December amount to 6,500 bags Rio, in lots to the trade, at 18 to 20 cts. Holders are now firm at the following quotations, viz: Good to prime Rio, 20 cts; ordinary to fair, 18 to 19 cts. Laguayra, 23 cts. Java and Ceylon, 23 to 25 cts. Notwithstanding the derangement of trade, caused by national troubles and revision of the tariff, our statistics for 1861 show the sales for consumption of Brazil Coffee in the United States to be nearly equal to the average of former years. Of the entire receipts for 1861, about 532,000 bags have been entered at New York. The stock on hand, as estimated, comprises, in New York, 43,000 bags; Philadelphia, 1,000; and Baltimore, 15,000 bags.

Baltimore, Dec. 31, 1861. WHITE & ELDER.

FLOUR.—There is a good demand for Flour, and the market for it continues steady and tolerably firm. Sales were made late yesterday of 2,000 bbls. Ohio Extra to arrive at $6, and to day we have reported sales of 200 bbls. first Middlings at $4 62½, 500 bbls. Ohio Super at $5 50, 300 bbls. Howard Street do. at $5 62½, 200 bbls. do. do. Extra at $5 75, and 200 bbls. do. extra at $6 12½ per bbl. Super closes steady and firm at $5.62½ for Howard Street; $5.50 for Ohio; $5.12½@5.25 for City Mills: and we quote Extra firm at $6 for Ohio; $6@6 25 for Howard Street; and $6 25@6.50 per bbl. for standard shipping brands City Mills.

FAMILY FLOUR.—Family Flour is still selling by the dray load to the trade at $8 25 for the best brands Baltimore, $6 50@7 for Ohio and Howard Street, and Baltimore high grade Extra is bringing $7.75 per bbl.

RYE FLOUR AND CORN MEAL.—Rye Flour is selling at $4 25 and Corn Meal at $3.20@3.25 per bbl. for both Baltimore and Brandywine, but for both articles the market is very quiet.

GRAIN.—Grain was in very light supply this morning, the offerings at the Corn Exchange embracing only some 1200 bushels Wheat, 6,000 bushels Corn, 500 bushels Rye, and 4,000 bushels Oats, making a total of about 12,000 bushels. Wheat was firm, but of course very little was done in it. We quote red at 130@135 cts. for good to prime, and white at 130@140 cts. for fair to good, and 145@150 cts. for prime and choice parcels. Corn was steady and tolerably firm, sales were made of 1,500 bushels of yellow at 60@62 cts., and 3,000 bushels white at 60@65 cts. There was nothing done in Rye, but Oats were in pretty good demand, and sales were made of 3,000 bushels Maryland at 40@41 cts., and 1,000 bushels Pennsylvania at 43@44 cts. per bushel.

MOLASSES.—There is some molasses selling, but the transactions in it are unimportant. We quote as follows, viz: Cuba at 22@25 cts. for tart clayed, 28@32 cts. for sweet do., and 33@35 cts for Muscovado; English Island at 32@40 cts.; Porto Rico at 34@44 cts.; and New Orleans at 55@56 cts. per gallon four months.

PROVISIONS.—There are some occasional sales of Provisions making to parties who have Government contracts, but beyond this there is hardly anything doing. We noticed some days since the fact that a considerable sale of Bacon Sides was made to go to New York, for Government purposes, but we have since learned that the purchase embraced 700 bbls. Bacon Sides, at from 5¾ up to 6¾ cts., and 300 bbls. Mess Pork at $12.50@12 75 per bbl. Bacon may be quoted to-day as follows, viz: at 4@4½ cts. for Shoulders; 5¾@5¾ cts. for Sides, and 6@9 cts. for Hams. Sales to a limited extent are making by the jobbers at these figures. There is no Bulk Meat here and we can give no quotations for it. There is some inquiry for Lard, and we note sales within the last day or two of 150 tierces Western at 8¾ cts. We quote Mess Pork to-day at $12@12.50, the latter figure being for new Western; Prime do. at $9@10; and Rump do. at $8@9 per bbl. Baltimore packed Beef is selling at $12@12.50 for No 1, and $16 per bbl. for Mess, and we quote Western Mess at $12@13.50 per bbl.

RICE.—We quote Rice at 7¼@7¾ cts., but there is none selling. There is however hardly any here.

SALT.—Salt is in fair demand and Liverpool is selling in lots from shipboard and store at 110@115 cts. for Ground Alum, 170@175 cts. for Marshall's, Worthington's and Jeffrey & Darcy's fine, and 195@200 cts. per sack for Ashton's do. Turks Island Salt is selling at 25@30 cts. per bushel from store.

SEEDS.—For Grass Seeds the market is still dull and heavy. There is very little Clover arriving, and it ranges in price at from $4 up to $4 62½ per bushel, the latter figure being for strictly prime parcels. We quote Timothy Seed at $2@2.25, and Flaxseed at $1.60@1.75 per bushel.

SUGARS.—Sugars are inquired for, but there are none selling, the prices asked for them being above the views of buyers. The market is however very firm in tone, and holders do not seem disposed to press sales. We quote as follows, viz: Cuba at $7.75@8 12½ for refining, and $8.50@9.25 for grocery grades; English Island at $7.75@8.50; Porto Rico and New Orleans at $8 50@9 75; and Manilla and Pernambuco at $8@8.25.

REFINED SUGARS.—The rates for refined Sugars are now as follows, viz: 11¼@11¾ cts. for loaf; 11¼@11¾ cts. for crushed, powdered and granulated; 10¾@10¾ cts. for soft crushed white; and 10¾@10¾ cts. for C yellow.

WHISKEY.—Whiskey continues dull. We hear of no sales of moment, but we quote it as before at 21¾ cts. for City and 21¾@22 cts. for Ohio.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamer Etna.

RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

COMMENTS OF THE ENGLISH PRESS.

SILENCE OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE TRENT AFFAIR GENERALLY REGARDED AS FAVORABLE TO PEACE.

RUMORED PROPOSITION OF FRANCE FOR A MEDIATION BY ALL THE GREAT POWERS.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS STILL GOING ON.

NEW YORK, December 31.—The steamer Etna, from Liverpool on the 18th, and Queenstown on the 19th, has arrived here.

President Lincoln's Annual Message to Congress had been received and published in England. It claimed great attention, notwithstanding that public feeling was deeply engrossed with the death of Prince Albert.

The silence of the President's Message on the Trent affair was the subject of much conjecture and comment. It was, however, generally regarded as a loop-hole for an escape, and gave rise to some hopes of peace, although its general construction was warlike.

The *Times* argues that by his studied silence on the subject the President had left himself a door open for retreat, but thinks that the chances for peace being preserved are undoubtedly diminished.

The *Times* says nothing can be more ungracious than the President's treatment of foreign Powers for their forbearance. It thinks that a gracious and courteous acknowledgment was due.

The *Times* also devotes an article to the report of the Secretary of the Navy, which it treats with ridicule; and it denounces as an unparalleled crime the project of blockading up ports by sunken vessels.

The *Post* treats the Message as undeniably warlike, and remarking on the silence of the President relative to the Trent affair, says that it was scarcely within the ordinary scope of the Message. It also charges the President with ingratitude in dealing with maritime Powers.

The *Daily News* considers the silence of the President on the Trent affair as an indication of his prudence and caution, and as favorable to peace.—The editor is pleased to believe that President Lincoln desired to hold himself free to speak at the appropriate time.

The *Star* justifies the silence of the President relative to the Trent affair, and praises the clearness, force and ability of the Message.

The *Herald* takes quite a contrary view, and fears that the preservation of peace is almost hopeless. The vote of thanks to Captain Wilkes offered in Congress it regards as an insult to England.

Warlike preparations still continued in England. The Persia took nearly 1,200 troops to Canada.

The Latest.

LONDON, December 19.—A rumor was current at Paris yesterday that the French Government had sent a note to Russia, Prussia and Austria, suggesting a common mediation of the great Powers between England and America.

The London *Herald's* correspondent observes that the tender of such mediation would be a menace, and would be rejected on that very ground.

Several of the French journals maintain that France should give moral support to England by recognizing the justice of her demands and the independence of the South.

The *Opinione Nationale*, the organ of Prince Napoleon, says that France has no other enemy but England, and should not weaken the United States.

MADRID, Dec. 19.—The American Minister has left.

PARIS, December 19—Count Fourtalis, the Russian Minister, is dead.

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE

Arrival of the Asia at Halifax.

HALIFAX, December 31.—The steamer Asia from Queenstown on the 22d, arrived here this morning.

The steamer Canada arrived at Queenstown on the 21st.

The steamer Magdalena would embark about one thousand men at Southampton on the 21st.

The mail steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, numbering about fifty, were to be armed, and made capable of resisting privateers in case of war.

The gunboats on the second class reserve at Portsmouth have been ordered to fit out immediately.

A Berne despatch asserts that France has issued a diplomatic circular, taking ground against the arrest of Mason and Slidell, and had sent representations to Washington, in order to determine the American Government to make indispensable concessions.

The London *Morning Post* says that the Americans cannot possibly complain of the tenor of the despatches to Lord Lyons.

The Liverpool Cotton market closed firm, and prices unchanged; sales 6,000 bales.

Breadstuffs closed firm. Flour quiet, but prices tending upward.

Provisions are firmer.

Consols 90¾@90¾ for money.

The sales of Cotton for the week amounted to 28,000 bales. The market opened with a decline of ¼d., which was afterwards fully recovered. The sales of Friday were 6,000 bales, the market closing steady.

Breadstuffs were all slightly lower on Friday. Provisions closed firm.

Consols closed on Friday at 90¼@90¾ for money.

The ship Ben Payson had arrived at St. Nazaire, France, from Charleston.

The Latest.

Warlike preparations continued unabated. Additional troops have been ordered to be ready to embark, but the *Army and Navy Gazette* of the 21st says that no more troops are likely to be placed under orders until hostilities are actually declared.

In that event some of the regiments now in the Mediterranean garrisons would probably be sent in the war vessels now rendezvousing at Gibraltar.

The steamers Adriatic, with 14,000 of the Grenadier Guards, and the Panama, with 1,000 of the Scott's Fusilier Guards, left Southampton on the 20th.

FROM WASHINGTON.

A Bill to Blockade the Southern Ports

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The following are the provisions of the bill introduced yesterday in the House by Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania:

First—That all laws, or parts of laws, creating and establishing ports of entry or delivery in any State now in rebellion be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Second—No vessels, either foreign or domestic, except such as belong to or are employed by the Government of the United States, shall enter or leave any of the said ports unless driven there by the stress of weather.

Third—If any vessel shall violate, or attempt to violate, the provisions of this act, the said vessel, cargo, and everything appertaining thereto, shall be forfeited, the one half to go to the captors and the other half to the United States; and every person is hereby authorized to make such seizure, and the captain or commander of such vessel shall be fined not exceeding $500.

Fourth—The said vessel and cargo may be seized at any place at sea, or in any port, and the goods may be taken wherever found, on land and water.

Fifth—The proceeds shall be divided among the captors, according to the law now regulating prizes.

Sixth—The ship and cargo may be tried, as well as the officers, in any Court of the United States into whose jurisdiction the same may be taken.

Seventh—The States now in rebellion are Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. If any other States should hereafter become rebellious the President shall proclaim the fact, and the provisions of this act shall then apply to such State or States.

Eighth—The President shall have power to declare any harbor or harbors ports of entry when, in his judgment, it shall be expedient.

The Position of the Enemy at Drainesville.

WASHINGTON, December 31.—Recent reconnoissances from Gen. Smith's and Gen. McCall's divisions show that the enemy has a strong picket guard beyond Drainesville, but no troops at that place.

Fraud in Army Clothing--Gen. Sumner.

WASHINGTON, December 31.—The Quartermaster of the 7th Maine regiment received from the Clothing Bureau on Saturday coats and pantaloons for that corps, but was soon thereafter obliged to return them, owing to the fraud which in their manufacture and material had been practised upon the Government.

General Sumner, who was lately injured by the stumbling of his horse, has been brought to Washington for medical treatment.

Presentation of a Stand of Colors.

WASHINGTON, Dec 31.—Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson to-day presented a costly stand of colors to the "Dickinson Guard," 59th regiment New York Volunteers. Hon. R. H. Duell received them in behalf of the regiment, delivering a felicitous address. Vice-President Hamlin, General Casey and Staff, Hon. W. S. Doane, Augustus Schell and others were present.

Post Office Order.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The Post Office Department has issued the following:

APPOINTMENT OFFICE, Dec. 31, 1861.

The Congressional branch office being now in operation, the attention of Postmasters at the distributing offices is again called to the order of this Department, requiring every distributing office to make up a separate bag for all matter, letters and papers, directed to members of Congress, exclusive of all other matter. Special and careful attention is required to this order, and the clerks should be so instructed. Such bags are to be labelled "Congress, Washington, D. C.," and route agents at Washington will deliver these bags direct to the Congress Messenger.

(Signed) JOHN A. KASSON.

First Assistant Post Master General.

Female Spies—Plot for the Escape of Mrs. Greenhow.

WASHINGTON, Dec 31.—Mrs. Bayley, of Baltimore, arrived here this afternoon in custody, and was placed in prison for females in the Western part of Washington. It will be remembered she was recently arrested on the Old Point boat as a Confederate spy. Not only in the folds of her dress, but in the rolls of her hair, were discovered contraband letters, which are in possession of the proper authorities.

Several days ago, Mrs. Greenhow, who was among the first female arrests, and who was still a prisoner here, received a cake from a friend of her's unknown to the guard. Before delivering it into her hands, Lieutenant N. E. Sheldon, of the Sturgis Rifles, suspecting something wrong, examined the cake and found embedded therein a note informing that lady that arrangements had been made for her escape and conveyance to Richmond, naming the day and hour for her deliverance. This information, however, was not communicated to her by the lieutenant, nor has the writer of the note been discovered.

Payment of Troops.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Arrangements have been made to pay all the troops up to the first of January. Orders for the preliminary muster were issued several days ago.

A False Alarm.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Heavy firing late this evening created apprehensions of a fight on the Virginia side, but it proved to be merely artillery practice.

Colonel Kerrigan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Col. Kerrigan's parole having expired, he is again in prison. His trial will be resumed on Thursday.

FROM GEN. BANKS' DIVISION.

Information from the Confederate Forces at Martinsburg and Leesburg.

FREDERICK, Md., December 31.—Contrabands from counties adjacent to the Potomac continue to arrive daily, and after examination by General Banks, are forwarded to General McClellan's headquarters to be disposed of. It is stated that at least one third of the slaves of Loudoun county have made their escape, and some from Fairfax, Fauquier, and Culpepper, occasionally turn up in this vicinity. This morning some ten or twelve, and four or five white refugees, were despatched by cars to Washington. The refugees represent that if our forces were to enter Loudoun, the whit-population now there, almost to a man, would gladly renew their allegiance to the Union.

At last accounts the Confederate force at Leesburg had been considerably augmented, the rebels, however, showed a great disinclination to fight, and were put to work on new fortifications, the precise location of which is not given, but is probably well known to our military authorities. The number of troops in and about Leesburg is estimated at 6,000, including the militia.

Advices from Dam No. 5, this morning, inform us that the Confederates made a demonstration there yesterday and fired several shot and shell at the Dam and our men from their 12-pound rified gun, doing no damage On Sunday they showed themselves at Falling Waters. A portion of Colonel Leonard's command, stationed there, laid upon their arms all night, but discovered no enemy in the morning. While the enemy of late have only shown one gun (the 12 pound Parrett cannon), it is known that they have in the vicinity of Martinsburg a full field battery, which is probably masked in some place where they anticipate we are to pass, should an advance be made. A number of the enemy are still engaged in taking up the track north of Martinsburg, and their occasional appearances near Williamsport are probably only reconnoitering parties. Thus far none on our side have been hurt, but our Parrott battery at the Dam is known to have played some disastrous freaks in their ranks. They have quite an encampment at Bunker's Hill, which they are entrenching, and are throwing up heavy fortifications at Martinsburg.

General Kelly's men have opened the railroad seven miles south of Hancock, and are steadily progressing towards Martinsburg, daily circumscribing the enemy's river line. As far as the road has been completed it is strongly guarded by our troops at the different stations.

The tone of Union sentiment in Western Virginia and State endorses the release of Mason and Slidell as a measure of wise policy in the present exigency.

The Maryland public are cautioned against the exchange or purchase of horses in the hands of persons unknown to them, as horse-stealing by deserters and retired teamsters has been prevalent of late. The latest case was the desertion and theft of a cavalry man from the Poolsville Division, who exchanged his horse at Ellicott's Mills. Both the man and horse are in custody.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Southern Intelligence—Suicide of a Confederate General—Great Fire at Nashville.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 30.—The Norfolk *Day Book*, received here to-day by a flag of truce, gives a curious account of the capture of the steam boat Sherwood. Among other things, it is stated *three* of our gunboats were *disabled*, and that the steamer Express was *set on fire*; whilst all the damage done by our shells at Sewall's Point is said to have been the killing of a rooster.

The Richmond papers announce that "Philip St. George Cooke, recently appointed a Brigadier General in the Confederate army of the Potomac, committed suicide on Thursday last at his residence. He was a graduate of West Point and esteemed a fine officer."

The Commissary stores, including a portion of the Ordnance Department stores, in Nashville, Tenn., were destroyed by fire on the night of the 22d. The loss is estimated at nearly a million of dollars.

The following are the names of the Tennessee Representatives to the Confederate Congress: First District, J. B. Heiskell; Second, W. G. Swan; Third, J. B. Gardenhire; Fourth, M. P. Gentry; Fifth, W. Jones; Sixth, H. S. Foote; Seventh, J. D. Atkins; Eighth, John W. Wright; Ninth, D. M. Currin.

Six contrabands were taken from a small canoe in the Chesapeake Bay, off Back River, this morning, in an almost exhausted condition. They were brought to headquarters, and stated that the inhabitants of Yorktown, and also the military there, were very much frightened at an expected attack from the Twenty Thousand troops. It was believed that General Burnside's expedition was certainly destined to go up the York River, and also that General Wool would co-operate in an attack upon Yorktown. The report there was, General Magruder had telegraphed the condition of affairs to Richmond, and asked permission to destroy Yorktown by fire, and to have received a reply directing him to refrain from doing so until he should be certain that the place was to be immediately attacked. Six large batteries are placed on each side of York River, and a force estimated at 30,000 men is in the vicinity of Yorktown.

[The reported suicide of Col. Philip St. George Cooke is probably a mistake, as that gentleman is now serving in the Federal army of the Potomac. There is a Col. Cooke in the Confederate army, and the report may probably allude to him.—*Eds.*]

From New Mexico.

KANSAS CITY, *Dec.* 30.—The Santa Fe mail, with dates to the 14th instant, has arrived.

The reported massacre of twenty men by the Indians, near Fort Stanton, proves to have been incorrect.

Memorials have been passed by the Territorial Legislature, petitioning Congress to enact laws and make such appropriations as will authorize the Indian Department to select suitable lands for Indian reservations. Also, that New Mexico be relieved of the payment of the amount of tax assessed to her by the late law of Congress. The law for the protection of slave property in New Mexico was repealed by an almost unanimous vote in both Houses.

Important from Cairo.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—The telegraph operator at Cairo says:—

"A fight is going on at Paducah, Kentucky, to-day, but the Adjutant General refuses to allow reports of it to be sent to-night. We shall probably have something to send to-morrow for publication."

CAIRO, ILL. Dec. 30.—The charges of swindling in lumber contracts at this point have been investigated by Captain Hillyer and substantiated. An immense quantity of lumber, purchased at $9.50 per 1,000 feet, was charged in the bill at $10 50. Other charges of fraud are undergoing investigation.

Latest from Kentucky--No General Engagement Yet.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31.—There is nothing from Paducah to-day. Exciting rumors of a general engagement in the southern part of the State have prevailed all day, but are generally discredited, no notice thereof having been received at headquarters.

From California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The steamer Sonora sailed on the 21st instant for Panama, with twenty cabin passengers, 125 soldiers, and $1,170,000 in treasure, of which $270,000 are intended for England.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Another severe rain has renewed the freshets in the interior of the State, and the city of Sacramento is again partially overflowed, but without much damage—the central and business portion of the city not being affected.

Another Spec of War.

HALIFAX, Dec. 3 1—Passengers by the Asia report a rumor that the blocking up of Charleston harbor with the stone fleet was likely to lead to a difficulty with England. It was also further rumored that England's warlike preparations will continue in view thereof, and that the surrender of Mason and Slidell are not the whole of England's demand.

Kentucky Bank Suspension.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 31.—The North Bank of Kentucky suspended specie payment to-day.

The Steamer Europa Outward Bound.

CAPE RACE, Dec 30.—The Royal mail steamship Europa passed here on Sunday, at half-past one P. M., but owing to the heavy sea and high easterly gale it was impossible for the yacht to place the latest despatches (including the news of the surrender of Mason and Slidell) aboard of her.

Arrival of British Troops at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31.—The steamers Adriatic and Persia have arrived here with troops. The Cleopatra and Parana are expected to-day.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE STATISTICS.—We are indebted to Col. F. H. B. Boyd, Fire Inspector, for the following interesting statistics of fires, which have occurred during the past year, the value of the property destroyed and the amount of insurance on the same. Col. Boyd, aided by his efficient clerk, has expended much time and labor in securing the data, and it is certainly the most accurate information which can be reached. It will be seen that the value of the property destroyed is less in amount than the expenses incurred in sustaining the Fire Department. The number of incendiary fires is small for a city with the population of Baltimore. This good result is mainly due to the efforts of Col. Boyd, who has been no compromising in his determination to hunt down the miscreants who take pleasure in applying the torch. There is no city in the Union with even half the population of Baltimore, but has suffered more from fire than she has. Our Fire Department to-day is the best in the country, and daily it grows in efficiency. When the water pipes have been increased in size, and made uniform throughout the city, so that the steam fire engines can be supplied to their utmost capacity, it will be a fearful conflagration, indeed, which they will not be able to subdue. The following table shows the number of fires in each month of the year:

No. of Fires.		*Accidental.*	*Incendiary.*
January	9	5	4
February	8	5	3
March	17	14	3
April	9	6	3
May	7	4	3
June	5	2	3
July	16	14	2
August	5	2	3
September	3	3	0
October	5	4	1
November	7	3	4
December	9	7	2
Total	100	69	31

There was destroyed or injured, mostly to a slight extent, 101 dwellings, warehouses, stores and other buildings, of which 72 were brick tenements and 29 were frame. The value of the property destroyed was $56,387 31, on which there was an insurance of $38,403 21, leaving a loss to the owners of property of only $17,984.10.—Nearly one half of this last amount was lost a few days since by the burning of the coal oil manufacturing establishment of the Messrs. Hamill, on which there was no insurance. Besides the real fires there were 19 false alarms, 6 alarms for fires in the country, and 14 from the burning of chimneys. This exhibit should be a source of great congratulation to the public, and it speaks volumes in behalf of our present paid Fire Department.

BURNT TO DEATH.—Yesterday morning about ten o'clock, one of the most distressing cases of burning which has ever taken place in this city occurred at the City Block. A number of young girls, among whom was one named Mary Miller, were in the yard attached to the oyster packing establishment of C. S. Maltby, engaged in hunting for oysters in the pile of shells. The girl Miller got on the boards which covered one of the lime kilns, it is supposed for the purpose of warming her feet, when the boards gave way, and she was precipitated into the burning kiln, and sunk into the shells up to her waist. Her terrific screams soon brought the employees from the packing house, and several police, to the scene, who labored earnestly, but in vain, to rescue the girl from her terrible situation. Her screams were heartrending, and as she gradually sunk lower and lower into the kiln, her pleadings grew more earnest, until, exhausted, she died, truly burnt alive. An alarm of fire was sounded which brought the engines to the scene, but too late to be of any service. When the body was taken out it presented a most horrible appearance. The flesh was burnt from the limbs, and the white bones protruded. Coroner Sparklin held an inquest over the body, and a verdict was rendered in accordance with the facts. The body was taken to the home of her parents on Bond street, near Lancaster street.

MEETING OF BANK OFFICERS.—In consequence of the suspension of specie payment by the New York banks on Monday last, a meeting of the Presidents of the various banks of Baltimore was held yesterday morning, at which Chauncey Brooks, Esq., of the Western Bank, presided. After consultation between the gentlemen composing the meeting as to what measures should be adopted, in view of the action of the New York, Philadelphia and other banks, it was decided to recommend to the cashiers that they adopt the same course pursued by them [illegible] of the Union Bank, is President, was accordingly held in the afternoon, at which it was decided that instead of paying the balances between the banks in specie, as has been done since the suspension about a year since, the balances should be "struck" and interest paid on them so long as due. As before stated, this course was observed during the crisis of 1857, and the banks of this city were enabled to transact business with comparative ease; and there is every reason to believe that the result of the adoption of this means of balancing their accounts will be equally satisfactory at this time.

FROM HAVANA—*Steamer Aground.*—The steamship Baltimore, Captain Denkin, from Havana, in coming up the bay on Monday night, ran aground on North Point. No difficulty will be experienced in getting her off. She brings a cargo of fruits, &c., to Messrs. Friend, Ricketts & Co. She reports an intense feeling on the subject of war between the United States and England prevailing at Havana. The English and French war vessels had left the harbor of Havana, and their destination was not known. General Prim, the commander-in-chief of the allied forces to operate against Mexico, had arrived, accompanied by his wife, son, and a numerous staff. He was enthusiastically received by the Spanish residents of the island.

DWELLINGS SEARCHED BY THE POLICE.—On Sunday last a squad of policemen proceeded to the house of Mr. Cashmeyer, on the Philadelphia road, four miles from the city, for the purpose of searching the premises, suspecting that Mr. Cashmeyer was holding communications with parties in the State of Virginia. Mr. Cashmeyer was at church when they arrived there. The house was searched, but nothing found. The dwelling of Mrs. Margaret Cashmeyer, No. 11 South Eden street, was also searched on the same day, but nothing was discovered to confirm the suspicions of the Government. This is the fifth time that the house of Mr. Cashmeyer has been searched.

UNION NOMINATING CONVENTION.—This body met last night in Temperance Temple, for the purpose of nominating a candidate, to represent the city of Baltimore in the State Senate. It was organized by the selection of Judge Spicer as chairman.—There was but one ballot, as follows: For Marcus Denison 51; Thomas Swann 39; Wm. F. Alexander 9; John P. Kennedy 1. Mr. Denison, having received a majority of the votes, was unanimously declared the nominee.

IDENTIFIED.—The body of the boy who was killed by the cars on Central avenue on Monday afternoon, has been identified as the son of Mr. George Monet, living at No. 44 Bond street, near Lombard street.

Amusements.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—Another crowded house greeted the talented company at the Holliday Street Theatre last evening. The admirable play of *London Assurance* was produced in a style perhaps never equalled in our city, and the large audience appeared to fully appreciate the individual efforts of the company. To night we are to have presented the tragedy of *Macbeth*—Mr. J. W. Wallack, Jr., sustaining the part of the Thane of Fife; Mr. E. L. Davenport as Macduff; and Mr. Mark Smith as Hecate. The part of Lady Macbeth will be sustained by Mrs. J. W. Wallack, Jr., whilst Mrs. Julia Bennett Barrow will personate the singing witch. The other characters in the tragedy will be sustained by the excellent company now at the Holliday. It has been a long time since a production of the immortal Shakspeare has been brought forward in Baltimore with such a powerful cast, and no doubt the house will be filled to its utmost capacity.

FRONT STREET THEATRE—*Duchess of Malfi.*—Mrs. Waller will appear to-night in one of her best characters, the Duchess of Malfi, and should secure, by this announcement alone, a large audience. Her Lady Macbeth last evening was the finest portraiture of that ambitious, wicked woman, that we ever had or can expect to have in Baltimore.—Without question, Mrs. Waller is the greatest impersonator of Lady Macbeth in America; we cannot even except Miss Cushman. Those who desire to see one of Mrs. Waller's best characters should see her as the Duchess of Malfi. We wish the great tragedienne could be prevailed upon to appear as Meg Merrilies.

BALTIMORE MUSEUM.—There will be a grand minstrel entertainment by Kunkel's Troupe this (New Year's) night. Many new songs, dances, &c., will be introduced and "*La Statute Noir*" produced for the last time, with its new and comical transformations, &c. On Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, there will be a special day entertainment.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* the schooner Seeing and cargo. Before reported. Libel dismissed and property restored to claimants, each party to pay his own costs.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Taylor and others *vs.* Horn. Bill for sale of property. Under *curia*.

Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PARCE.

TOWSONTOWN, December 31.

The Baltimore County Court, after an adjournment of ten days, met again this morning, and the case of the State *vs.* Alexander Knotts, a private in the Second Maryland regiment, jointly indicted with others for forcible entry, breaking furniture, &c., the property of Betsy Preston, a free colored woman, residing in the 8th district of this county, was called up for trial. It was in evidence that everything in the house was demolished, and that the fright occasioned the death of said Betsy Preston. Verdict "guilty." Not sentenced. J. T. Ensor, Esq., for the defense.

The roll of the civil docket was then resumed, and a few unimportant cases disposed of.

WAR ITEMS.

THE