THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 72. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Steamer Hansa.

NEWS OF THE SEIZURE OF SLIDELL AND MASON REACHED ENGLAND--THE CASE OF THE STEAMER NASHVILLE.

SANDY HOOK, December 12.—The steamer Hansa, from Bremen via Southampton on the 27th ultimo, has just passed this point on her way to New York. The following outline of her news has been received:

The American ship Corinthian arrived at Lisbon on the 25th.

The steamship La Plata, from St. Thomas, arrived at Southampton on the 27th (the day the Hansa sailed), and reported that the Confederate Commissioners, Slidell and Mason, had been forcibly taken from the steamer Trent on her passage to St. Thomas.

Captain Nelson had entered his protest against the capture of the Harvey Birch by the Confederate steamer Nashville.

The Southampton magistrates refused Captain Nelson a warrant for the search of the Nashville to recover his property, and referred him to the Secretary of State.

Captain Pegram and Mr. Yancey returned from London together. The latter states that it has been intimated to him, through a third party, that the Nashville is recognized by the British Government as a national vessel, and will be allowed to refit and repair at Southampton, as was the James Adger, so as to exercise perfect neutrality between the two contending parties.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON, November 27.—Consols closed at 91¾ for money, and 92⅛ for account.

Cotton closed dull with sales during the two days previous of 9,000 bales. Quotations were unchanged.

Manchester advices were unfavorable.

Wheat closed easier. Corn was dull.

Provisions closed steadier.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

RECEPTION OF THE NEWS OF THE SEIZURE OF SLIDELL AND MASON.

An Indignation Meeting.

The London *Times*, of the 28th, contains an account of a meeting in Liverpool in reference to the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell.

The following placard was posted on 'Change:—

"OUTRAGE ON THE BRITISH FLAG."

The Southern Commissioners Forcibly Removed from a British Mail Steamer.

A public meeting was held at three o'clock, and was crowded to excess. The chair was occupied by James Spence, who read the following resolution:

RESOLVED, "That this meeting having heard with indignation, that an American Federal ship-of-war has forcibly taken from a British Mail steamer, certain passengers who were proceeding peacefully, under shelter of our flag, from one neutral port to another, do earnestly call upon the Government to assert the dignity of the British flag by requiring prompt reparation for this outrage."

This resolution was received with great enthusiasm. The resolution was advocated by the chairman, who considered that he was expressing the feeling of the people, when he said it was the duty of the people to press on the Government the imperative necessity of vindicating the honor and dignity of the British name and flag.

Mr. John Campbell considered that there was reason to doubt whether the facts related and acted upon by this meeting were in reality a breach of international laws, and referred to the opinions of the law officers of the Crown, as being in some measure inclined to show that such a step as taken with respect to the Southern Commissioners was justifiable under the existing state of international law, and urged the propriety of postponing consideration on the subject till to-morrow.

Mr. Torr sustained Mr. Campbells views, and the chairman suggested that to meet the objections of Mr. Campbell, to strike out the words "by requiring prompt reparation for this outrage."

Thus amended, the resolution was passed nearly unanimously.

Several merchants present expressed their views after the adjournment, that the meeting and its action was premature.

The London *Times* is more moderate in its comments than the *News*—while denying that the Federal Government, on its own position, "that the existing war is a mere rebellion," has a right to overhaul neutral ships, it nevertheless admits that England herself has established precedents which now tell against her. But these precedents were made under circumstances very different, it asserts, from those which now occur. England was then fighting for existence and did in those days what she would not do now or allow others to do.

In discussing the question whether Messrs. Mason and Slidell were liable to capture as belligerents or contrabands, the *Times* states that it is the opinion of very eminent jurists that this was not a question to be adjudicated by a boat's crew. The legal course would have been to take the ship into port for adjudication. It concludes with the expression that England will discuss the question with calmness, and appeals to the Federal States not to provoke war by such acts.

The London *News* says: "The remote consequences of this act we shall not attempt to predict; enough for the present time to say, it is one which will make it the duty of our Government to insist on an ample, complete and immediate satisfaction. Its wanton folly bids us hope that Lieut. Fairfax was acting without instructions, and that the Washington Cabinet will no sooner learn what has taken place in the Bahama Channel, than it will disavow the act and restore Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and render the fullest apology. Nothing short of this reparation can be accepted.

The London *Times City Article* says that consols declined ¼ per cent. under the news of the capture of Mason and Slidell, but afterwards rallied ½ per cent, closing at 92½ ex dividend.

The Despatches of Messrs. Mason and Slidell.

The despatches of the Southern commissioners which escaped the vigilance of the officers of the San Jacinto, arrived safely in charge of a gentleman of the party. On arriving at Southampton, the Slidell and Mason families went on board the Nashville, and next day the despatches were taken to London.

The Case of the Nashville.

In reply to the application of Capt. Nelson for a warrant to search the Nashville to recover the property belonging to him and the owners of his ship, Earl Russell directed his Secretary to reply "that he cannot authorize magistrates to issue such warrants, and declined to interfere in the matter." The application was made on recommendation of Minister Adams. No repairs had yet been commenced on the Nashville.

The Bermuda at Havre.

The Confederate steamer Bermuda arrived at Havre on the 24th from Savannah with two thousand bales of cotton.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The Hansa did not sail from Southampton till the morning of the 28th ult., and she brings the London papers of that date.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Official Intelligence from the Fleet off Savannah---Important Reconnoitering to Within Ten Miles of Savannah.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Letters received at the Navy Department state that on the 5th inst., Commander Rodgers left Tybee Roads, before daylight, with the steamers Ottowa, Seneca and Pembina, and crossed the bar at Warsaw Sound at half tide. The United States forces approached the Fort on Warsaw Island within one mile, and sent Lieutenant Barnes to it with a flag of truce, who found it entirely deserted. The fort consisted of an enclosed octagonal work, with platforms for eight guns on the water faces. The guns had been removed, the platforms cut up, and the magazine blown up.

Commander Rodgers states that everything had the appearance of being very recently deserted.—The letter also says "from the mouth of the Wilmington river, we observed a battery bearing from us about N. W. by West ½ W., and distant about three miles. It is on the river about three miles distant and just above a house with a red cupola, which is one of the coast surveys points of transportation, and is about ten miles from Savannah. We counted five guns, apparently of large calibre, on the face of the battery towards us. We could see only one gun upon the other face, but there may have been more. We were near enough to see the men on the ramparts, and the glistening of their bayonets. Commander Rodgers was about eight miles from Warsaw Bar and about ten from Savannah, and between four or five miles from Thunderbolt on one side, and Montgomery on the other.

Friendly Action of the Viceroy of Egypt.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The following despatch from our Consul-General in Egypt is of such public importance that the Secretary of State has consented to its publication:

U. S. CONSULATE-GENERAL,
ALEXANDRIA, November 13th, 1861.

Sir:—I have the honor to announce that the Viceroy of Egypt has again shown his good will to the United States, by directing the Captains of the port of Alexandria to exclude all vessels bearing an unrecognized flag from the harbors of Egypt. Instructions to this effect, I am informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, were issued about two weeks ago, in consequence of a suggestion addressed to His Highness by this Consulate-General. At an interview which I had with him on the 3d inst., at Cairo, His Highness also assured me that no privateer in the service of the domestic enemies of the United States will be allowed to be fitted out or to bring its prizes in any ports of his dominions.

The following passages, translated from a note sent me by His Excellency, Nalar Bey, in behalf of the Viceroy, show that in the facilities for obtaining Egyptian cotton, our manufacturers are placed on an equal footing with those of Great Britain. The note is dated October 18th, and is in reply to some interrogatories which I had verbally made to the Secretary.

"Monsieur le Consul-General:

I have had the honor to report to His Highness, conformably to your desire, what you have said to me on the subject of the words addressed by His Highness to the Deputation of the Manchester Association for the extension of the culture of cotton. His Highness has charged me to inform you, Monsieur, that what he has said for any association which may be formed in England for the above mentioned purpose, he says equally to any which your countrymen may organize."

At the interview to which I have referred, the Viceroy repeated this assurance in person to me, saying that he had never intended to exclude my compatriots from an equal share in the privileges accorded the capitalists of Great Britain.

I may add that at the same interview His Highness manifested the liveliest interest in our national affairs, the journals as he said, being filled with nothing else. He seemed to appreciate the difference in resources between the Government and its enemies, and had no doubt, that the Government, sustained as it was by so large a majority of the people would, successfully quell the insurrection, though in consequence of the extent of our Southern territory the contest might be protracted. His Highness approved the large scale of our military preparations, saying that the only policy was to push the war once begun vigorously to the end, and that half-way measures were as bad in war as in everything else. The Viceroy, who is the son of the celebrated Mehemet Ali, may speak with hereditary authority on questions of this kind. It was very plain from the tone of his remarks that our Government has lost none of its prestige in his estimation.

A significant piece of news here is that the receipt of intelligence that a squadron had been sent by the authorities at Washington to open the Southern ports caused cotton to fall, in one day, from $25 to $21 a cantar, (one hundred weight.) Twenty-five dollars a cantar is the highest price ever known in Egypt. Prior to this time the highest figure was $23, the result of the Crimean war. The price is now about $18 or $19 the cantar. The Englishmen have begun to make advances to Fellahs with security of their coming cotton crops, in accordance with the concessions of the Viceroy.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM S. THAYER.

To Hon. W. H. Seward,
Secretary of State.

Interesting and Important Despatches from Captain Dupont.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Captain Dupont, in his communication to the Navy Department dated December 4, says that the apprehension of losing possession of the bay of St. Helena, so exceedingly valuable for a harbor from its proximity to Charleston, and for the command it secures of large rivers supplying interior communication with South Carolina, induced him to despatch a second expedition there under Commander Drayton, with orders to hold the island until General Sherman is prepared to assume military occupation of it, when he will transfer the Fort to his troops.

The reconnoissance by Commander Rodgers of Warsaw Inlet, was in order to ascertain the positions and force of the enemy's batteries there, information which the commanding General expressed his desire to obtain before landing troops on Tybee Island. In the necessary occupation of St. Helena Sound and Tybee Roads, and on the examination of Warsaw Inlet, a large number of vessels of the squadron is engaged which will be released and employed on blockading duty as soon as Otter and Tybee Islands are held by the army. Warsaw Inlet and Sound constitute a second entrance into the Savannah river, and as twenty-one feet can be carried over the bar at high water, this passage is but little inferior to Tybee entrance.

It appears from a private letter that our guns are but ten miles from Savannah, the steeples of which city are plainly visible from the decks of our ships as they ride at anchor. It seems to be understood that in addition to our occupation of Beaufort, General Viele was at once to be sent with a considerable force to occupy the most important point in the near approaches to Savannah, and that another force will go about the same time on a similar errand in the direction of Charleston to hold certain strategic points.

The Confederates Concentrating near Occoquan—Army Items.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—There are indications of a considerable body of Confederates in the vicinity of Occoquan Creek, numerous encampments being visible from the decks of the steamers on the Potomac.

Two privates, belonging to the 49th Pennsylvania regiment, who were performing picket duty from General Smith's division yesterday, having strayed beyond our lines, attempted to return this morning, when, on being ordered to halt by the guards, turned and run. One was shot by the guards in two places, and has since died; and the other was taken prisoner by them. As the guards had been changed during the absence of these pickets, they evidently supposed them to be enemies.

The Nineteenth New York regiment, Colonel Ledlie, was to-day, by order of the War Department, changed from an Infantry to an Artillery regiment, to comprise twelve batteries, and a portion of which consists of heavy guns.

Formal complaint was made to-day to the War Department, by Governor Andrews, of Massachusetts, against General Stone, for, as is alleged, compelling the troops from that State to assist in the restoration of fugitive slaves.

The Provost Marshal has determined to revoke all passes which have been transferred, and to revoke all those transferring them. A number of arrests have already been made.

The Appointment of Jewish Chaplains.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Rev. Dr. Fischel, of New York, had yesterday an interview with the President to urge the appointment of Jewish Chaplains for every military Department, they being excluded by act of Congress from the volunteer regiments, among whom there are many thousands of Israelites. In the meantime the Dr. will take charge of the spiritual welfare of the Jewish soldiers on the Potomac. The President assured him that the subject will receive his earnest attention, and expressed the opinion that this exclusion was altogether unintentional on the part of Congress.

Codification of the Laws of the United States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Senator Sumner intends pressing to a consummation the measures which he introduced ten years ago for a classification and codification of the statutes of the United States, and which has now been recommended in the Message of the President to Congress. Congress has since the organization of the Government enacted some five thousand acts and joint resolutions, which fill more than five thousand closely printed pages, and are scattered through many volumes. A bill for the purpose mentioned has been introduced in the House.

The Confederate Force at Leesburg.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—A Confederate deserter from Leesburg, who left there about ten days ago, states at that town there were four regiments of Mississippi Infantry, armed with Mississippi and Enfield rifles, and smooth bore muskets, one regiment of cavalry, who are used as skirmishers, and one battery of artillery, consisting of three small field pieces, making altogether upwards of three thousand men. Gen. Evans is commanding there.

The Trial of Colonel Kerrigan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The principal witness to day at the trial of Colonel Kerrigan was Robert McMeran, a Sergeant of Colonel Kerrigan's regiment, who testified to the desertion of Patrick Geffney on the 24th of July, and to his return on the 4th of September. That he was reinstated in his position by order of the Colonel, without a trial.

Military Appointment.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Lieut. John Hancock, of the 49th Pennsylvania regiment, has been appointed Assistant Adjutant General to General Hancock's brigade.

Advices from New Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Private advices from New Mexico say the report there is that the strong forces sent against the Texans in the Mesilla Valley have driven the enemy far back into Texas.

FROM MISSOURI.

Several Skirmishes Reported.

OTTOVILLE, Mo., Dec. 11.—Union men who have arrived from Lafayette county report that 700 Confederate recruits left Lexington yesterday morning to join Gen. Price's army. A band of Mexicans, sixteen in number, from the Confederate army, were captured near Durksburg on Monday.

A son and son-in-law of Colonel Magoffin have also been taken. They were the leaders of the foray on our teams near Georgetown, on Saturday. The scouting party which left here about ten days ago is said to have surprised a Confederate camp in Sabine county, capturing a large number of wagons and taking fifty prisoners. It is rumored that Gen. Price is advancing northward.

SEDALIA, Mo., Dec 11.—It is reported here that a fight took place yesterday near Lafayette county, between a body of Confederates under the notorious Joe Shelby, and a detachment of Federal cavalry.—They were fighting again this morning, but no particulars are given.

The Expected Steamer Europa.

HALIFAX, Dec. 12.—A snow storm is prevailing here, and there is no chance of the Europa arriving to night.

Interesting from the South.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 11.—Generals Rousseau, Negley, and Johnson's Federal brigades crossed, last Tuesday, to the southern bank of Green River, near Mumfordsville.

The following items of Southern news have been received:—

The Kentucky Provisional Government has passed an act taxing those brokers twenty five dollars per week who charge a discount on Tennessee and Southern money.

General Zollicoffer, with a large force, is at Barkville.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 9th says laborers are being hired for the immediate construction of a railroad from Centreville to Manassas.

R. W. Barnwell and J. L. Orr have been elected by the South Carolina Legislature to the Confederate Senate.

The Southern papers say the Federal forces cannot get more than one-third of the Sea Island cotton raised in the South, the value of which is only $750,000.

RICHMOND, Dec. 5, via New Orleans.—The *Despatch* says the flotilla lately at Old Point Comfort has gone up the Potomac, doubtless to attack Evansport or Centreville.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 5.—A party of Confederates visited Tybee Island, on Wednesday, and burnt the lighthouse there. The Federals shelled the Island, but none of the Confederates were hurt. From sixteen to eighteen vessels, apparently old whalers, were in the Roads to-day.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 5.—The electoral college of Tennessee has voted for Davis and Stephens for President and Vice President.

General L. Edward Sparrant and J. F. Semms have been chosen Senators to the Confederate Congress from Louisiana.

Spanish Danseuse.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—The Cubas, the celebrated Spanish Danseuse, are drawing full houses at the Academy of Music, creating a perfect furore. They will soon visit Baltimore and Washington.

FROM GENERAL BANKS' DIVISION.

FREDERICK, Dec. 12.—The firing at Poolesville on Tuesday proves to have been nothing but artillery practice by General Stone's batteries.

The General Court Martial was convened this morning, but owing to the military programme of the day no cases were brought up. The court adjourned at an early hour. The trial of private West, of the Connecticut Fifth, for shooting and killing a comrade while on the march towards Williamsport, was ruled for Monday next.

The Second Brigade (General Hamilton) has a review to day, and regiments are now passing through the city towards the ground. To-morrow the Third Brigade (General Williams) will be reviewed, and subsequently the First Brigade (Gen. Abercrombie.)

The departure of the Van Allen cavalry to join the regiment at Poolesville has been postponed by General Banks, who fully appreciates their services. Only two companies remain here at present; Company A, commanded by Captain Fitzsimmons, and Company K, commanded by Captain G. W. Cole. The latter are particularly skilled in picket duty and scouting service, while the former are attached to General Banks in person as a body guard.

Colonel Ruger, Provost Marshal, is taking energetic steps to suppress dissipation among the soldiers, and has restored quiet to the city. In a few days he will issue a series of orders, which will be executed to the letter, for the suppression of tippling and other vices.

The Twenty-seventh Indiana have organized a Masonic Lodge, under dispensation from Grand Lodge of Indiana, of which Captain Cassidy, of Company E, is Master, Captain Hill, Company H, is Senior Warden, Lieutenant Ash, Company —, is Junior Warden, Captain Kop, Company D, Treasurer, and Captain Buhler, Company C, Secretary. The dispensation is dated 15th November.

Last night a respectable citizen, name unknown, of this place, was robbed of $160 and a gold watch and valuable chain, while passing hence on the Baltimore turnpike. The Federal detectives are on the track of the robber.

WAR ITEMS.

Arrival of United States Gunboat Louisiana.

The United States gunboat Louisiana, Lieutenant Commanding Alexander Murray, arrived at this port yesterday from Old Point, having come up for temporary repairs. The Louisiana, under Lieut. Murray, has been actively engaged from the 7th of August, when she left Philadelphia, until the 10th instant, when she left Old Point for this port. During that period she has been in service in the vicinity of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and on the east coast of Eastern Virginia. The particulars of the attempt to burn a vessel at Chincoteague, which was being prepared as a privateer, have been previously stated. In that action Acting Master Hooper received a ball in the right chest, from the effects of which he has entirely recovered.

The Louisiana also participated in the blockade of the James river, and had a brush with the Confederate steamer Yorktown. Since the 3d of October the gunboat has been acting in connection with the land expedition under General Lockwood to Eastern Virginia, and was engaged in cruising about the various inlets and bays of both shores of the peninsula. On the 10th inst., receiving information as to the whereabouts of the reflectors and apparatuses connected with the Smith's Island Revolving Lights, Lieutenant Murray detailed a force, who landed on the Island, and after proceeding inwardly about a mile, succeeded in recovering the property. The reflectors, ten in number, comprising a first-class Fresnel light, were removed by the Southerners last May, since which there has been no guide to mariners in passing up the Bay in that vicinity. The light was properly replaced in position by Lieutenant Murray, and the proper authorities in Washington notified thereof.

The armament of the Louisiana consists of four 32-pounders and one Dahlgren rifled gun for long range. The following comprises a list of her officers: Lieutenant Commanding Alex. Murray; Lieutenant and Executive Officer Alfred Hopkins; Acting Masters Hartman K. Furniss and Edward Hooker; Assistant Surgeon Michael Bradley; Acting Paymaster Wm. W. Williams; Second Assistant Engineer John L. Lay; Third Assistant Engineers John W. Huxley, D. P. McCartney, and D. McK. Daniel; Master's Mates George Hollis and Edward McKeever; Acting Gunner E. A. McDonnell; Purser's Clerk Benjamin Oliver; Surgeon's Steward Edward Meade; Acting Carpenter John Mills.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of Yesterday Afternoon.

THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

At the Republican caucus held last evening the discussion was on Bingham's resolution providing for the unconditional emancipation of rebel slaves. Mr. Egerton was tired and disgusted with the talk that this revolution must go put down without molesting slavery. It could not be done, as slaves furnish the sinews that carry on the war. He was Providence's instrument of putting in our hands the means of crushing out the rebellion, we must use it.

Senator Chandler supported the resolution, but could not see the use of confiscating slaves when we had 220,000 men in arms here inactive against 80,000 of the enemy.

Mr. Sherman, of New York, said if we did not strike at slavery the rebellion will not be crushed for many years. From six months' experience in the army he was satisfied we over-estimated the intelligence of the master and under-estimated the intelligence of the slave.

Mr. Pomeroy, of New York, approved of all said against slavery. It was enough for him to know that the negro bears the same divine image as the white man. He deprecated the dissolution of the Republican party, and asked, "Where is the party now that elected Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency?" It had been sold out in New York and other States.

Mr. Beeman, of Michigan, said he would vote as his judgment dictated, with regard to the administration, and if the institution of slavery was in the way of peace, he would put it out of the way.

Mr. Julien, of Indiana, said the war had its support and nourishment in slavery. Compromise and peace had been tried, and failed; he was now for striking at the root. He was for compensating loyal masters, and if slavery could not be abolished in that way, he would strike it in the name of freedom.

Mr. Dunn, of Indiana, urged that the President must be supported by Congress, as he would be by the people. He was in favor of confiscating slaves of Confederates with other property, but was not for extreme measures. He did not agree with the gentleman from New York as to the necessity of perpetuating parties. The Democratic party by that means had brought the present condition of affairs.

Mr. Colfax briefly referred to the position of parties, and said he was for taking middle ground, and confiscating the property of rebels.

Mr. Lovejoy was in favor of supporting the administration whether he deemed all its measures wise or unwise. He knew of no party in favor of making this war one to abolish slavery, and had it been in his power to have inaugurated civil war, and could he have foreseen that the overthrow of slavery would have been the result of that war, he would not have done it, and it was therefore unjust to charge upon any portion of the Republican party that their purpose in carrying on the war is to abolish slavery, but we are for destroying slavery in order to put down the rebellion. He was at present content to confiscate the property and liberate the slaves of rebels.

Mr. Blake, of Ohio, advocated the hearty support of the President. He said that the government was in his (the President's) hands, and it must survive or perish there.

Mr. Van Wyck took similar grounds.

After a general interchange of opinion, it was found that there was but little difference among the members as to practical measures to be adopted. The conclusion seemed to be that the members present would vote for the confiscation of all property belonging to Confederates, and the liberation of their slaves, and adopt measures to fully compensate loyal masters for all the losses they might suffer.

NAVY YARD.

The Stepping Stones arrived last evening from the upper flotilla, but with no news of importance. Yesterday morning she ran into the mouth of Occoquan creek, but the appearance of a body of Confederate artillery forced her to return to the channel of the Potomac. There are evidences of a large body of Confederates in the vicinity of Occoquan creek, numerous encampments being visible from the decks of steamers.

INDIAN VISITS TO OUR CAMPS.

The delegation of Southern Chiefs now in this city—consisting of Creek, Seminole and Chickasaw Indians—paid a visit to the camps on the other side of the river yesterday, in company with Commissioner Dole and lady, Mrs. General Lane, Major Cutler, (the Creek agent,) Mr. Carruth, &c. They witnessed a review of Gen. Butterfield's brigade, and were highly gratified at seeing the evolutions of the troops. They also witnessed a review of General Blenker's division. After visiting the various forts, and inspecting the artillery and munitions of war, they expressed the most unlimited confidence in the success of the Union cause.

SIGNIFICANT.

The vote yesterday in the House, tabling Mr. Lovejoy's resolution, directing the President to order General Halleck to change the policy with reference to fugitive slaves flocking to his camps, should go far towards assuring the country that abolitionism is not to have the full swing in controlling the legislation of the session that many anticipate. It is well known that had all the anti-abolitionists of the body been present, the majority for laying it on the table would have been larger; at least fifty.

Special Washington Despatches to the Phila. Enquirer.

THE FRAUDS IN THE HOME CONTRACTS.

It appears that the frauds are more extensive than they were at first supposed to be. It will be some time before the answer will be made to the resolution offered by Capt. McPherson of the House. The Secretary of War has stopped all contracts in that line. We have already learned of several cases where mere speculators have had contracts given out by Quartermasters at forty cents per head for a thousand or fifteen hundred head, and they immediately re-let them at twenty-five cents to farmers, thus clearing from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars per week without an effort.

COLONEL MULLIGAN.

Col. Mulligan is still here. He meets with little encouragement from the Government. He says his friend are anxious that he should organize a regiment and again lead them to battle. He is enthusiastic in his patriotism, and thinks the war is in earnest.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Tribune.

EXECUTION FOR DESERTION.

It is probable that the first military execution for desertion will take place speedily. Private Johnson, who deserted from Company D, Lincoln cavalry, is now on trial. The proofs against him are conclusive. He was endeavoring not merely to get away from our army, but to go over to the Confederates. It is understood that an example will be made of him. The trial will probably be concluded to morrow.

GREAT STRENGTH OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

Information received by the Government confirms our chief officers in their opinion that the Confederate army outnumbers ours. Their forces along the line of the Occoquan has been especially increased by 75,000 fresh men just brought up from the South. This is certainly suggestive.

BISHOP HUGHES' MISSION.

The *Tribune's* assertion that Archbishop Hughes' secret mission is to Spain is believed here. Our relations with Spain have not been over friendly since the rebellion broke out. Without being so impertinent as England, she has shown little more sympathy with us than John Bull.

THE CASE OF WARD H. LAMON.

Mr. Van Wyck's Investigating Committee will report within a few days. Among the interesting cases reported upon will be that of Ward H. Lamon, Marshal of the District of Columbia, of whose "Virginia Brigade" much has been said.—According to the report of the Committee, General Lamon (as he registered himself) traveled many miles ostensibly in the service of the United States, really without commission or authority, either as Colonel or General, engaged in procuring soldiers to make up his "Brigade," *not from Virginia, but from regiments already formed in Pennsylvania and Illinois.* One transaction referred to in the report is this: At the instance of Lamon, E. H. Castle, Fremont's master of transportation, sent the Yates Phalanx (39th Regiment) all the way from Chicago to Williamsport, where it came under Lamon's command, at the expense of $30,000. The Committee, unable to make Lamon refund this sum, since Castle alone is responsible, recommend that he be required to refund his traveling and other expenses, retaining them, if need be, from his salary as Marshal. Lamon also tried to get a regiment which had been recruited in Western Pennsylvania.

THE DISPATCHES BROUGHT BY MR. GOODRICH—THE NASHVILLE.

The dispatches brought by Mr. Goodrich, special bearer, from our Ministers in Europe, are of the highest importance. The affair of the Confederate steamer Nashville, that put in at Southampton for repairs, had caused the greatest excitement, and was the subject of a diplomatic note from our Minister to Lord John Russell. Mr. Adams, on the part of our Government, protested against her remaining, but the British Government had, it was understood, determined to let her complete her armament. Capt. Pegram had arranged for the Nashville a complete gun-deck, which would make her a most formidable war-steamer, and she would be allowed to depart, without let or hindrance on the part of her Majesty's Government.

EXPENSE OF THE WESTERN FLOTILLA.

The Quartermaster's Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of one million of dollars, in addition to the one million and one hundred thousand voted at the former session, to meet the expenses incurred for the armed flotilla on the Western waters.

ANOTHER HUNGARIAN OFFICER.

Colonel Pigyelmesy, a Hungarian officer and a Colonel in Garibaldi's army, is in the city, and has offered his services to the Government.

A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

Hon. Maj Anson, M. P., arrived to-day, and is stopping at Willard's.

GEN. FREMONT'S MOVEMENTS.

A telegram from General Fremont announces that he will arrive in Washington to-morrow.

GEN. SICKLES' BRIGADE.

It is stated that General Sickles has asked that his brigade be made independent of Gen. Hooker's division.

Special Washington Despatches to the New York Times.

THE NEW EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Thirty-seven Confederate prisoners of the two hundred and fifty recently released, having arrived at Norfolk, a corresponding number of our own prisoners have been forwarded North by the Confederate authorities. It is understood that Col. Corcoran and the other officers designated as hostages for the safety of the privateers will not be released except in exchange for the privateers.

Special Washington Despatches to the N. Y. Herald.

CAPTURE OF TWO MEN AND A DRUMMER BOY BY THE CONFEDERATES.

On Monday afternoon two men and a drummer boy belonging to General Stickles' Brigade went out in a boat from Liverpool Point. Venturing too near the Virginia shore, they were captured by the Confederates.

MARYLANDERS RETURNING—NEWS FROM THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

Two wealthy gentlemen, residents of Lower Maryland, who fled to Virginia a few months since for fear of being arrested because they were secession sympathizers, have returned to the Maryland side. They have spent most of the time in Fredericksburg. There are about a hundred and twenty young men from Charles county, Md., in the Confederate army.

A VESSEL-OF-WAR FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN.

F. Bigelow Lawrence, of Boston, who came here to present the memorials of New York and Boston merchants, praying the government to detail a vessel-of-war to the Mediterranean to protect our commerce, has succeeded in his mission, and a sailing frigate, not yet designated, will be despatched in a fortnight. Rates of insurance on vessels trading to the Mediterranean have been increased on account of the absence of our war vessels.

NEW RAILROADS.

The initiatory step towards the building of a direct and continuous line of railroad between the government and commercial metropolitan cities of the Union, Washington and New York, was taken in the Senate to-day. Senator Harris introduced a bill for the construction of a railroad from Washington to Baltimore, under government directions. The paramount necessity of a "close communion" between the central seat of national government and the circumferences of power and loyalty will soon make Washington, like Paris, the radiating point of railway enterprise and activity to all parts of the Union.

Special Washington Despatches to the N. Y. World.

PRESIDENT'S LEVEE.

After the adjournment of the Senate the President held quite a levee, when most of the Senators, without regard to party, paid their respects to him. Among them was Senator Powell, of Kentucky.

THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THE NEGRO.

The direction of public sentiment here cannot be mistaken. The declaration of Representative Foulke to-day, in the House, that if his colleagues would attend more to the interests of the country, and less to that of the negroes, the former would get along better, was received with vociferous applause in the galleries.

THE CONTESTED SEAT OF SENATOR LANE.

The case of the contested seat of Senator Lane, of Kansas, by Hon. Fred. P. Stanton, will come up on Monday, in the Senate. At a late special session the report of the committee was in favor of Stanton's right to his seat.

THE SAN FRANCISCO AND CHINA MAIL LINE.

Senator Harris has presented the memorial of the New York Chamber of Commerce praying for the establishment of a mail steamship line between San Francisco and China. Several bills have already been before the Senate Committee on Commerce relating to this subject. The California Senators are warmly advocating the project.

New Confederate Commissioners en route for Europe.

The Havana correspondent of the New York *Herald*, under date of Dec. 6, says:

The Confederate steamer Vanderbilt (not the Vanderbilt so well known in New York) has safely arrived in this port, having successfully run the blockade. Among her passengers are two other ministers for Europe in place of Mason and Slidell, recently captured. These ambassadors are Hunter, of Virginia, and Soule, of Louisiana. They leave here to-morrow in the British mail steamer Clyde, and it is not likely that they will be captured by any Union vessel, as very few persons know anything about their arrival. The Confederate flag is in high favor here, and the Spanish ships-of-war salute it regularly.

From the New York Tribune, Dec. 12.

"Onward to Richmond."

The "Onward to Richmond" cry, this time, seems to come from an unexpected quarter. We have information that may be relied on, to the effect that men of high rank in the army, whose opinions can hardly be disregarded, are urging an advance movement before the Virginia roads shall become impassable. A plan has been proposed in the War office, to the President and some members of the Cabinet, which, at least, commands attention. Whether it will be permitted to be put into operation is not a question, as it had not, a day or two ago, though it may be talked of elsewhere, been presented to Gen. McClellan.

The Mortar Fleet.

Commodore Porter's mortar fleet will be ready to sail the latter part of this month. The schooners and brigs, twenty in number, are now receiving extra timbers at the New York ship-yards. The mortar bed-plates, upon which the ponderous ordnance will rest, are now in process of manufacture at New York iron works. Each vessel will carry one mortar of the largest dimensions, supplied by the Government. The draught of the vessels, equipped, will range from nine to twelve feet, especially adapting them for service in shallow waters. Their destination is known only to the Government.

Arms for the South.

We are informed that a large steamer left the Thames on Sunday morning last (17th November,) with papers made out for Teneriffe; but, in fact, for any port she can make in the Southern States. The vessel is filled to her decks, as we are told, with powder and other munitions of war, the bulk of which she took on board off Purfleet.—*English Paper.*

The Cambridge, (Md.,) *Democrat* states that the Delaware troops, stationed at that place, have been removed to Drummondtown, Va., and that a portion of the Home Regiment have been ordered to winter at Salisbury.

The New York *Tribune* states that the President refuses to communicate to Congress the papers he has received from the Governments of England, France, and Spain, relative to the joint intervention of those countries in the affairs of Mexico.

The number of immigrants arrived at New York last week was 245, making a total of 64,644 since January 1st, a decrease of 117,077 as compared with the same season last year.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS----FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1861.

SENATE.

On motion of Mr. HALE, of N. H., it was resolved that the committee on the District of Columbia inquire into the expediency of extending Pennsylvania avenue to Bridge street, Georgetown, by way of the new aqueduct bridge.

Mr. ANTHONY, of R. I., made a report from the Committee on Printing, relative to the order to print 10,000 extra copies of the President's Message and documents, statistics, maps, &c., also 3,000 copies of the navy register for the use of the Senate. The latter was referred to the Naval Committee.

Mr. WILSON, of Mass., presented a petition from Col. J. J. Abert, asking relief in consequence of having been retired by the army board. The Colonel says, "If I had died three months ago, my widow would have been allowed more than is now allowed for both."

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Ill., presented a petition from the Rev. Dr. Isidor Kalisch, praying that the law confining Chaplains in the army to Christian ministers be repealed, and that Jewish divines be allowed to serve in the same way.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wis., presented a memorial from the Board of Trade, of the city of Racine, in that State, asking the establishment of a national armory at that place, for the Northwestern States.

Mr. HOWE, of Wis., also presented petitions for a like purpose at some point on Fox river.

Mr. SUMNER introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of a solicitor of claims for the Department of State; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, submitted the following:

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be directed to inform the Senate whether, in the loyal States of the Union, any person or persons have been arrested and imprisoned, and are now in close confinement, by orders from him or his department; and, if so, under what law such arrests have been made and such persons imprisoned.

Objection was made, and the resolution lays over.

Mr. SUMNER offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be directed to consider the expediency of providing by law for the appointment of commissioners to revise the public statutes of the United States—to simplify the language, to correct their incongruities, to arrange them in order, to reduce them into one connected text—and to report them thus improved to Congress for its final action, to the end that the public statutes, which all are presumed to know, may be in such form as to be more within the apprehension of all.

Mr. S. said that ten years ago he had proposed this measure, but the Judiciary Committee never acted on it. The President had now advised it in his message, and it was incumbent that the thing should be done. The statute laws of Rome were said to have once equalled a camel's load. He would not say that our laws would amount to so much, but they were diffuse, and it was necessary for the convenience of the people that they be reduced in extent. The whole statute laws of Massachusetts had been put into a single volume, and largely purchased among the people. The resolution was adopted.

A message was received from the House, stating that they had passed a resolution in favor of the exchange of prisoners, and another recognizing the gallant, patriotic success of the late General Lyon and his forces at Springfield, Missouri, both of which the Senate referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. FOOTE introduced a bill to authorize the President of the United States to fill up the corps of cadets in the Military Academy, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, introduced a joint resolution to fix the mode of paying the awards authorized by the Act of March 2, 1861, for settling the Oregon and Washington war debts. Referred.

Mr. DIXON, of Connecticut, reported that no resolution was necessary to pay the widow of late Senator Bingham the amount due him.

Mr. MCDOUGALL, of California, introduced a bill to authorize the Supreme Court to adjudicate and decide upon its merits the case pending therein of Pedro Chaboya. Referred.

Mr. NESMITH, of the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill for the protection of overland emigrants, and recommended its passage.

On motion of Mr. ANTHONY, of Rhode Island, it was resolved that the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appointing the pupils at the Naval Academy on the ground of merit, to be decided by examination of all the candid