THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 78. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

BOARD OF TRADE.
Committee of Arbitration for month of December.
WM. H. GRAHAM.
CHAS BULLING, | A. CLOSE,
G. T. HOPKINS, | J. CORTLAN, JR.

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, December 19, 1861.

The Stock market continues dull and depressed, and to day nothing was done at the Board. There are but few stocks offering, but there is no disposition whatever to buy. Maryland 6's were weaker than on yesterday, 1870 coupons closing at 90 bid, and inscribed 1890's at 88 bid ex dividend. Baltimore City 6's were however steady at yesterday's figures, 1875's closing at 86 bid, 86¼ asked, dividend on, and 1890's at 85¼ bid ex dividend. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad closed as on yesterday at ¾45 bid, $50 asked, and Northern Central was offered at $17¼, but no bid was made for it. Northern Central bonds closed steady at 60¼ bid, 61 asked, but Baltimore and Ohio bonds were 1 to 2 per cent. lower, 1867's closing at 79 bid; 1875's at 73 bid; and 1862's at 45 bid, 46¼ asked. Springfield Mining Co. closed to-day at $1.50 bid, $1.70 asked, ex dividend; Canton Co. at $9¾ bid; Baltimore Coal Co. at $50 bid, which is an advance; and Baltimore Gas Co. at $100 bid. Bank stocks were generally firm; $59 was bid to day for Merchants'; $72 for Bank of Baltimore; $52¼ for Union; $22 for Farmers and Planters'; $24 for Marine; $18¾ for Bank of Commerce; $13¾ for Mechanics'; and $7¾ for Citizens'.

In New York to-day stocks were decidedly firmer than on yesterday, and in most of the leading securities there was a considerable advance. Virginia 6's improved 1 per cent; Missouri 6's 1¾ per cent; Erie ¾¼; New York Central ¾; and Reading ¾. Canton declined ¼, but Tennessee and North Carolina 6's, and Treasury notes all closed at yesterday's figures.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

THURSDAY, December 19, 1861.

No sales at the Board to-day.

PRIORS 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	47	00
Missouri 6's	37¾	37¾
Tennessee bonds	49¾	00
North Carolina bonds	58	00
Canton Company	9¾	00
Erie Railroad	25	25¾
New York Central Railroad	76¾	76¾
Reading Railroad	32¼	32
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents	90¾	00
	steady.	steady.

The Boston *Courier* of Wednesday says:

The tone of the market was decidedly better to-day, with an improvement in some prices, while parties who were anxious sellers yesterday became ready buyers to-day. There is much less excitement about public affairs, and people are more disposed to look upon matters with greater calmness, and quietly await results.

The New York *Post* of Wednesday afternoon says:

Stocks opened with renewed heaviness, and the fright of Monday seemed to have again taken complete possession of the market. The speculative shares tumbled 2 to 4 per cent., with great pressure to sell early in the day. The immediate cause of this fresh pressure to sell is the disappointment felt in regard to the refusal of the bank presidents last evening to suspend specie payments. This disappointment was the more severe on account of the large majority against the step, as many as forty one banks out of the fifty-five so voting on the question. The private letters by the Europa also failed to give any encouragement, and this, together with unfavorable advices by the Jura, aggravated the depression. Towards the close of the morning board there were some signs of a rally, New York Central advancing to 75¾@75¾, but this was immediately followed by a desire to sell for cash, and the price dropped to 75¾. The heaviest fall was in Erie common and Erie preferred. These stocks were 2¾ to 3 per cent. lower, under, it is supposed, a fresh supply of stock by the Europa, from London holders. A broker who generally deals in the stock on foreign account, sold largely to arrive, deliverable at any time in thirty days.

The New York *Herald* of yesterday says:

Stocks fell off heavily this morning, partly on the foreign news, and partly on the bank resolutions, which were regarded as foreshadowing a possible conflict between the banks and the foreign bankers on the one hand, and between the government and the banks on the other. At one time a perfect stampede prevailed. New York Central fell 1¾; Erie, 2¾; preferred, 3; Michigan Central, 4; Pacific Mail, 2¾; Reading, 2; guaranteed, 1; Panama, 3¾; Illinois Central, 2; Toledo, 2¾, Rock Island, 2; Quincy, 2¾. Governments were lower, without large transactions. State stocks were pretty steady. After the board it transpired that Mr. Chase had expressed the opinion that the trouble with Great Britain was susceptible of a pacific solution, and that his negotiations with the banks were progressing satisfactorily. On the strength of this the market improved, and rallied ¾@1 per cent. at the afternoon board. Stocks closed steady.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, December 19

COFFEE.—The market for Coffee continues very buoyant and strong. We hear of no sales but there is very little offering, the bulk of the stock being withdrawn entirely from the market. There is no Rio now to be had under 19 cts, and most of the lots offering are held at 20 cts per lb. The stock of Rio here is about 15,000 bags. We quote Laguayra nominal at 22 cts, and Java at 25 cts.

FLOUR.—There is comparatively little doing in Flour, but the market for it is steady and tolerably firm. We heard this morning on 'Change of sales, part of which were made late yesterday, of 400 bbls Howard Street Super at $5.50; 700 bbls. do. at $5.62¾; 100 bbls. do. cut Extra at $5.68¾; and 400 bbls Ohio Extra at $6 per bbl. Super may be quoted as closing steady at $5.50@5.62¾; for Howard Street; $5.50 for Ohio; $5.25 for City Mills; and we quote Extra steady at $6 for Ohio and Howard Street, and $6.25@6.50 for good shipping brands City Mills.

FAMILY FLOUR.—Family Flour is still selling by the day 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 firm at $4.37½@4.50, and we quote Corn Meal steady $3.20@3.25 per bbl. for both Baltimore and Brandywine.

GRAIN.—Wheat was dull and heavy again this morning. The receipts were light again only about 5,000 bushels being offered, but they were quite equal to the demand. Red sold at from 123 to 126 cts., the latter figure being paid for a small lot of very prime, and white at 110@115 cts. for common, 120@125 for medium, 130@135 cts. for fair, and 140@150 cts. for good to prime parcels. Corn was however in good demand and pretty firm. There were about 13,000 bushels at market, most of which was sold at from 55 to 62 cts. for new white and yellow, 64@66 cts. for old yellow, and 72 cts. for old white. A lot of 100 bushels Pennsylvania Rye, the only one at market, sold at 76 cts. Oats were in good supply some 11,000 bushels being at market, but they were mostly sold at 40@41 cts. for Virginia and Maryland, and 45 cts. for Pennsylvania.

MOLASSES.—There is some inquiry for Molasses, but we hear of no sales. We still quote as follows, viz: Cuba at 23@25 cts. for tart clayed, 28@32 cts. for sweet do., and Porto Rico at 34@44 cts.; and New Orleans at 55@56 cts.; per gallon four months.

PROVISIONS.—We hear of no movement worth noting to-day in Provisions but the market is unchanged for all descriptions. We quote Mess Pork at from $12 to $13.50 as in quality. Prime do. at $10, and Rump do. at $8@10 per bbl. There is a little inquiry for Bacon, but it is selling only in small lots. We quote as follows, viz: Shoulders at 4¾@4¾ cts., Sides at 5¾@5¾ cts, and Hams at from 6 to 10 cts. per lb. There is no Bulk Meat selling and we can give no quotations for it. Lard may be quoted at 8¾@9 cts. for City and Western, but there has been no movement in it for a day or two past. 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 7(@7¾ cts., but there is none selling. There is however hardly any here.

SALT.—We continue to quote Liverpool Salt steady at the following rates, viz: 105@110 cts. for Ground Alum, and 155@160 cts. per sack for Marshall's, Worthington's and Jeffrey & Darcy's fine. Turks Island do. is still selling from store at 25 cts. per bushel.

SEEDS.—Grass Seeds are dull and heavy. We quote Clover as ranging from $4.37½ to $4.75, the latter figure being however only obtainable for some small lots, and Timothy at $2@2.25 per bushel. Flaxseed is still bringing $1.60@1.75 per bushel.

SUGARS.—Sugars are quiet, but the market for them continues very buoyant and firm. We are not advised of any sales to-day but we still quote as follows, viz: Cuba at $8@8.25 for refining, and $8.50@9.25 for grocery grades; English Island at $8@8.50; Porto Rico and New Orleans at $5.50@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 10¼@10¾ cts. for C yellow.

WHISKEY.—There is very little doing in Whiskey, but we continue to quote it at 22 cts. for City, and 22@23 cts. for Ohio.

BALTIMORE LIVE STOCK MARKET.—Dec. 19.—CATTLE.—There was a very considerable increase in the receipts of Beef Cattle to day, the offerings at the scales amounting to 950 head, against 650 head last week, and they were dull and considerably lower in price. The receipts were disposed of as follows, viz: 150 head were sold to go to Washington; 50 to Annapolis; 25 for stock cattle; 150 were left over unsold; and the remaining 575 head were taken up by Baltimore butchers at prices ranging from $2.75 to $4 25 per 100 lbs. gross, showing a decline of 50 cts. per 100 lbs. on last week's prices.

HOGS.—Live Hogs continue to droop, the sales to-day being made at $4.50@4.75 per 100 lbs net, these figures being a decline of 75 cts per 100 lbs on last week's prices. The market for them to-day was dull.

SHEEP.—There were none at market to-day, but we quote them as before at $2 50@3 per head.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

MONTEVIDEO, Oct 28.—(Correspondence Baltimore Exchange Reading Rooms.)—Flour had become entirely neglected in consequence of excessive arrivals in the beginning of the month of Chilian Flour direct as well as from Rio de Janeiro, but a large portion of these supplies having been ordered on to Buenos Ayres, there was an improved demand again during the last week, allowing small sales to be made at improved prices The Stock in first hands of Chilian Flour amounts to equal of about 6,000 bbls., with next to none in second hands, and may be quoted $7¾@8 per two bags in bond. American Flour without stock. For fresh Baltimore we quote $8@8¾. Our crop of Wheat promises to be very plentiful this year but cannot be expected in market before the end of January; at present it is selling at $8¾@9; Native Flour 12 rls.

Refined Sugar.—In the beginning of the month a small lot sold at 22rls. arra. in bd., but the demand has since improved; stock being limited we consider American crushed at present worth 22¾ rls.

Dry Ox and Cow Hides have moved freely, sales amounting to 50 mil.: viz: 13 M for Havre and Antwerp, 54@58 rls.; 11 M. Spanish, 56@58 rls.; 10 M, for Italy 49@50 rls.; 2 M. kips, 41@42 rls., and 14 M. al barrer, 51@54¾ rls., all duty paid. We remain with a stock of about 2 M. of all descriptions.

Salted Hides and Tallow.—We have now to advise, the first contract having been effected, viz: about 12 M. hides at 62-15 rls., and the corresponding tallow at 19¾ rls., deliverable in the Uruguay.

Salted Horse Hides.—About 6,000 sold at from 13¾@14¾ rls. We have no stock.

Dry Horse Hides.—Neglected at 13@14 rls. The stock is very small.

Horse Hair—There has been a sale of about 40 bales prime mixed at $20¾@21¾. The stock consists of about 200 bales of inferior quality, which is neglected.

Hide Cuttings abundant without demand. Nominal value $2¾@3 baled.

Wool.—The balance of stock consisting of about 7,000 arras. Washed Creole sold at 26 rls. arra. For fine unwashed Merino and Mistica of the new clip an offer of $5 arra. has been refused; asking price $5¾.

Horns continue neglected. We nominally quote prime Ox $70; do low $30 Mil.

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

BOSTON, Dec. 17.—The Flour market is quiet but steady—common brands Western at $5.25; fancy brands at $5.50@5.62½; extra at $5.75, and $6@7.50 for superior, including choice St. Louis. Southern Flour is quiet, and we quote choice brands Baltimore at $7@8 75 per bbl. Corn unaltered and in moderate demand. We quote Western and Southern yellow at 70@73 cts., and Western mixed at 67@68 cts. per bushel. Oats are dull and in moderate demand. We quote at 42@43 cts. per bushel for Western and Canada; and Prince Edward Island dull at 40 cents In Rye the sales have been in small lots at 83 cts. per bushel. Shorts are steady and have been selling at $16.50@17 per ton; and Fine Feed and Middlings at $18@24 per ton, as to quality.

CHICAGO, December 18.—Flour market flat. Wheat 1 ct. lower—68½@69 cts. for No 1; 62½@63 cts. for No 2, in store. Corn 1 ct. lower—22½ cts. for mixed, in store. Oats firm.

OSWEGO, December 18.—The amount of grain in store and afloat at this port to date is 550,600 bushels Wheat; 129,000 bushels Corn; 33,200 bushels Barley; 20,200 bushels Rye; 12,000 bushels Oats; 1,900 bushels Peas. Of the Wheat 250,000 bushels is held by city millers, and about 50,000 bushels of the Corn is for distilling. $c.

FROM THE SOUTH.

The Norfolk and Richmond papers of the 17th instant contain some matters of interest, which we subjoin:

The Richmond *Examiner* says: We have some further particulars of Col. Johnson's repulse of the enemy on the Alleghany Mountains. It is not known with what loss the enemy were driven back, but they are said to have left seventy or eighty on the field, having, it is supposed, carried off a number of their killed during the progress of the action. They were not pursued. Among the killed on our side was Captain Anderson, of the Lee battery, and Lieutenant Thompson, of the Marion Guards. The victory is said to have been dearly bought by a considerable loss on our side. It is thought not unlikely that our success will be followed up by an assault upon the enemy's entrenchments on Cheat Mountain, which are about seventeen miles from the scene of the late battle, which was on the summit of the Alleghanies, on the pike from Staunton.

Army Appointments.

The Confederate Congress is said to have confirmed, up to yesterday, not less than 7,000 army appointments.

Brigadier General Appointed.

Colonel Maxey Gregg, commanding officer of the 1st South Carolina regiment, has been promoted to Brigadier-General, with orders to report to General Lee, commanding the forces in South Carolina.

Expected Battle on the Potomac.

The *Examiner* says that intelligence apparently better founded than that which generally finds its way from Washington, has been received of an intention on the part of the military authorities of the United States, to make an advance on the lines of the Potomac and risk another general engagement within the next ten days.

The Fortifications at Centreville.

The Centreville correspondent of the Richmond *Dispatch*, writes, December 15th:

The fortifications around Centreville are now completed, and present quite a formidable appearance. For field fortifications they are built very strong, some of the works being fashioned forts, constructed in a manner that shows skilful engineering on the part of somebody; Beauregard, I presume.—Great care seems to have been taken with the embrasures, which are built to combine convenience for handling the guns with the best method of protecting the men. They are very strongly built with hurdles and sand bag revements, and will stand a heavy cannonading before giving way.—The armament of these forts having arrived from a place where they make most excellent guns, they have been put in position, and all that is asked is that McClellan shall bring on his Yankees. The different artillery companies are drilled in these batteries nearly every day, and some have become proficient marksmen. All have attained perfectly the range of any point where a hostile battery could be placed.

Legislative Proceedings.

A series of resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Tennessee, relative to the opening of the Southern ports and recommending that no crop of cotton be seeded in the ensuing year, had been received by the Virginia Legislature.

Cabinet Resignation.

R. M. T. Hunter is censured by the correspondent of the *Examiner* for wishing to resign his place in the Confederate Cabinet, to avoid the trials which possibly await the Administration.

Relief of the Charleston Sufferers.

The Norfolk *Day Book* has a notice of a meeting at the City Hall to take some steps for the relief of the sufferers by the Charleston fire. The Mayor recommends it be held at Oxford Hall, because another meeting had been called at the City Hall, to consider some plan for the better protection of our property.

Advance of Federal Troops to Green River.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 16 (via New Orleans 17.)—The Bowling Green correspondent of the *Union and American* says that the Yankee advance of from 5,000 to 6,000 troops are at Green River, with some artillery, but have shown no disposition to cross the river. They are repairing the bridge there.

Paducah advices represent that Humphrey Marshall is steadily advancing towards Lexington, and meeting with little or no opposition. A gentleman who left Paducah on the 11th states that the Federals have only 6,000 troops there, 10,000 at Cairo and Bird's Point and 700 at Smithland. A despatch from Frankfort says that General Crittenden was at Cumberland Gap on Saturday with a large force, and 5,600 more troops were at Morristown and would join him. It is feared that Crittenden will invade Kentucky from that point.

News from Mexico.—A Battle at Matamoras.

The Brownsville *Flag* of the 21st ult. (two weeks later), gives an account of an attack on the city of Matamoras by General Caravajal. The General appeared before the city on the 15th, and commenced the attack on the 20th. Great carnage took place, and at the hour of the *Flag's* going to press both parties claimed a success.

Floyd Ordered to Kentucky.

General Floyd's army has been ordered to Bowling Green, Kentucky. "The removal of this army to the far West," says the Richmond *Dispatch*, "leaves a very large portion of Virginia exposed to the enemy. The effect upon the temper of the people in the exposed counties will be extremely untoward."

Miscellaneous Items.

The Confederate Congress on Monday passed a bill, under the form of a preamble and resolutions, expressing the deepest sympathy for the oppressed people of the State of Maryland, and urges them to adopt such a line of policy as will give them an easy and speedy admission into the Union of the Confederate States.

Much complaint is made in Richmond on account of the great difficulty experienced in the transportation of articles of merchandise and army stores through the city of Petersburg. There is an interregnum at that point of railway of nearly a mile, and the supply of horses, mules, carts and drays was entirely insufficient for prompt transportation. A bill was pending before the city council of Petersburg for the construction of a railroad through the town, and the editor of the *Enquirer* waxes warm in advocating its passage. The detention of army stores at that point was a most intolerable inconvenience.

It is reported in Richmond on good authority that the Legislature of Georgia, upon receiving intelligence of the great fire in Charleston, unanimously passed a bill appropriating the sum of $100,000 for the relief of the sufferers.

It was recorded as a most gratifying fact that the splendid building owned and occupied by the Sisters of Mercy escaped destruction, although it was greatly feared that it would be burned to the ground at one stage of the fire.

The Legislature of Virginia had devoted much of its time during the present week to the discussion of the salt question and the expediency of sending a committee to Smyth and Washington counties for the purpose of examining the salt works. It was stated in the course of the debate, that the annual consumption of salt in the State was ten millions of bushels, whereas the utmost resources were but seven hundred thousand bushels.

Richmond Markets, Dec. 17.

Exchange—On New York, ¾% per cent. premium; on silver coin, 25 per cent; on gold, 35 per cent; on Confederate bonds 98 and 98¾. The average rate of discount in nearly all the banks of western virginia was 10 per cent. Bacon—Hog round 24 cts. per lb., sides 22 cts., and shoulders 21 cts. Beeswax 27 cts. per lb., and but little trade in it. Butter, both print and lump, 45 to 55 cts., and nearly the entire stock in the hands of speculators. Bone Dust at the rate of $25 per ton. Beans from $1.00 to $2 per bag. Meal—Bolted 85 cts., unbolted 70 cts. Corn 70 to 75 cts. per bushel. Candles—Tallow 20 cts. per lb., adamantine 49 cts., and Mitchell's best 55 cts. Cotton 9@10 cts. per lb., and none in the Richmond market; cotton yarn 28 cts., and cordage 25 cts. Coffee—None in the market. Flour—The stock of flour is light, and sales regulated by the following rates: super $7 per bbl., extra $7.50, family $8.50. Timothy Hay $2 25; clover $2. Baled Oats $1.75; oats, cargo sales, 75 cts. per bushel. Fish—None in the market. Guano—The various kinds of fertilizers command from $45 to $60 per ton. Iron—Pig Iron $45 per ton and stock on hand very light; bar iron $75; Swedish $120, and English $115 to $120.—Leather, but little in the market, and readily obtains 65 to 70 cts. per lb. Bar Lead, 8@8¾ cts. per lb. Virginia Lead, 24 cts. Lime, Mountain Virginia, $2.50. Molasses, none in the market. Potatoes, Irish, $1.20 per bushel. Peas, $2.50 per bag, and supply light. Rye, $1 per bushel. Rice, 4 cts. per lb., and salable. Shot, 9 and 10 cts., and dull. Salt, fine $18@21 Liverpool; ground alum, none in the market; Lynchburg in very small quantities at the rate of $3 per sack. Sugar, the relative stock of sugars is very light; New Orleans Cotton 13 cts.; refined do. 16¾; crushed 24, and coffee sugar 15 to 20 cts. Tobacco, the receipts of tobacco are light; good lugs sell for $3 75@4.50; inferior leaf $5@5 50; English $6 50@10.50; fancy wrappers 16 to 16 cts. Wheat, red $1.30@1 35; white $1.35 and $1.60, but none but the best quality commands these rates. Plaster, lump $6.

The President has recognized Carl Friedrich Adae, of Cincinnati, as Consul of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg Strelitz, for the Western United States of America.

The schooner General John Cropper, Captain Conkling, from Accomac county, Va., has arrived at New York, having 1,500 bushels oats, 600 bushels corn, a quantity of eggs, feathers, &c.

The Boston *Courier* states that Mr. C. H. Pitts, of Baltimore, has been released from Fort Warren, on his parole of honor, for thirty days, by order of the Secretary of State.

Sophie Cruvelli, like all successful *prime donne* who "retire from the stage," has decided to return to it, and will soon appear in London in "Ernani," "Fidelio" and "Nabuco."

The prize cargo of 3,000 bags of coffee, per bark Macao, was sold at Philadelphia on Wednesday, at 17⅝@18⅝ cents per lb. The Macao was captured while attempting to run the blockade.

The Portland Duck Company made a contract, during the present week, to furnish the Government 100,000 yards United States 12 oz. tent duck, at 34 cents per yard.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

A New Confederate Battery on the Potomac.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A new Confederate battery on the Potomac, opposite Run Point, consisting of three guns, one of which is a 64-pounder, opened fire last night. One of the shells carried away the corner of Mr. Clemens' house, and two fell into the camp of a New Jersey regiment, on the Maryland shore, neither of them exploding. The last shot was fired about 12 o'clock last night.

Returned to Duty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Twenty seven insubordinate members of the New York 13th regiment who for two months past have been confined in the central guard house, have been released and returned to their regiment in Virginia. They have all come to the decision to be hereafter faithful to their duty.

General Butler and Commodore Wilkes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Major-General Butler arrived here to night.

Commodore Wilkes visited Congress to-day and was cordially received by the members.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—As the subject of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia is now agitated, it may be of general interest to know that, according to the recent census, the number of slaves in Georgetown is 577, in Washington 1,744, and in the remainder of the District 834—total 3,185. Free blacks in Georgetown 2,989, in Washington 11,131. Total population of Washington 61,122.

The bill which passed the House to-day, for improving the efficiency of the Dead Letter Office, provides for twenty-five additional clerks, at $800 each, (salary in accordance with the recommendation of the Postmaster-General,) to return all dead letters to their writers, and not merely valuable letters alone, as now.

By the estimates of the Department, at the present postage rates the receipts in these returned letters would exceed the cost of the required clerks $13,000 a year, but the bill reported from the Post-office Committee increases the postage on returned money letters to treble, and on all other dead letters returned to double the ordinary rates, still further increasing the surplus.

The bill abolishing the franking privilege reported by Mr. Colfax from the Franking Committee, and which was postponed till the second Thursday of January, abolishes all laws authorizing letters or public documents to be sent free, but provides that all now entitled to the franking privilege may send them without pre-payment, as soldiers' letters are at present, the postage to be paid by the recipiant Speeches are to be carried for one cent, and public documents at 2 cents per pound within 2,000 miles, making the postage on an Agricultural Patent-office Report 5 cents, and on volumes the size of the Congressional Globe 10 cents. The estimated increase of the revenue by this measure is over $1,000,000.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Two Confederate Steamers Captured near Mobile.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 18.—The steam gunboat New London has just come in, having captured two steamers and two schooners near Mobile. Lieut. Reed commands the New London. The New Orleans *Delta* of 26th Nov. says: Eighteen hundred families were supplied at the free market yesterday—an increase of one hundred families during last week.—The *Delta* also says: The Federal troops are near to Little Rock, where they can fit out an expedition, descending the Arkansas river, will capture New Orleans, leaving Gens. Polk and Pillow behind them.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

The Flood Subsiding

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Sacramento is now mostly out of water. Influential parties of that city have advocated that the money already appropriated to pay of the interest on city debt be used for meeting the expenses of building a embankment to prevent another inundation. The proposition was defeated through the action of a public meeting, when the leading citizens subscribed $40,000. The January interest on the Sacramento bonds will be paid. The people of San Francisco will send $50,000 towards relieving the Sacramento sufferers.

The markets are excited on account of possible war with England. There have been large sales of rice, candles, whiskey and coffee, to arrive. Butter is dull at 28@30 cts. Drills have advanced; sales at 12½ cts. Sailed, ship Contest, for Hong Kong.

AFFAIRS IN ARKANSAS.

Persecution of Union Men--Ben. McCulloch Court-Martialled.

ROLLA, Mo, Dec. 18.—(Correspondence of the St. Louis *Democrat*.)—A Union refugee who has arrived here from Arkansas, says that Governor Hector, of that State, has issued a proclamation requiring all persons between the ages of sixteen and forty five to join the Confederate army.

The persecution of Union men was relentless, and they were being tortured and imprisoned wherever found. Ben. McCulloch had been summoned to Richmond to answer the charges which have been preferred against him of needlessly burning the property of Southern men, and of refusing to reinforce General Price, when the latter was pursued by the Federal troops McCulloch's forces were in winter quarters in Benton county, Arkansas. Six regiments of Indians were in his camp.

All the Union men in Rolla are being arrested on their arrival at Springfield, at the instance of Col. John H. Price, who was lately released from arrest at St. Louis.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 18.—The Georgeanna brought down from Baltimore this morning Charles J. Faulkner, released on parole from Fort Warren, *en route* for Richmond, where he is confident of being able to exchange himself for Hon. Mr. Ely, member of Congress from New York, who was taken prisoner at Bull Run. Mr. Faulkner was sent by a flag of truce to Craney Island at noon.

Captain Millward brought down on his return Captain J. B. Rickette, of the 1st Artillery, who was wounded and taken prisoner at Bull Run. He has been released on parole, and will be exchanged, if possible, for Captain J. A. De Lagnel.

The steamship S. R. Spaulding, Captain S. Howes, which left Port Royal on Sunday last, arrived here at an early hour this morning. She stopped at Hatteras Inlet, and left there yesterday, bringing the mail and some passengers. Everything is quiet at Hatteras, there being nothing to disturb the monotony except the usual storms.

The schooner Charity, Captain White, said to be owned by Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island, arrived at Hatteras on the 15th, with an assorted cargo, including a large proportion of whiskey. She also took a Collector to Hatteras, and on arriving he procured a boating from the Commissary which he proposed using as a Custom House. Captain White's papers were very irregular, however, and on the 17th, Captain Worden, of the Stars and Stripes, seized the schooner as a prize, and sent her to New York. The Collector, Captain, and crew of the Charity arrived here on the Spaulding to-day. They were very indignant at their treatment.

Among the other passengers from Hatteras was Commissary John Clark.

There is but little news of interest from Port Royal. The Federal troops have fully occupied the town of Beaufort, and large quantities of cotton continue to be gathered and brought to the coast for shipment.

The steamer Spaulding will return to Hatteras on Friday.

The steamer Illinois is reported to be leaking badly, and is expected to sail for New York this afternoon.

Captain Ricketts was serenaded by the band of the Second Artillery, on the Old Point wharf, before the boat started, and numbers availed themselves of the opportunity to get a look at the Captain. He is still very weak and suffering from the effects of his wounds.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

Movements of General Pope—Secession Guerrillas Defeated—Capture of their Baggage, Arms, etc., etc.

ST LOUIS, December 19.—Despatches received at headquarters from Gen. Pope, state that, after a forced march yesterday, he got between the enemy encamped some six miles from Chilhowee, Johnson county, 2,200 strong, and those in Clinton and Henry counties; but as soon as they heard of his approach they beat a rapid retreat towards Rose Hill, in Johnson county, leaving all their baggage, arms, munitions, papers, &c., in our possession.—Gen. Pope then threw forward ten companies of cavalry and a section of artillery in pursuit, following with the main body of his army. At Clinton, in Bates county, the Confederates, being so closely pursued, scattered in all directions, leaving behind them going towards the South. Gen. Pope then forced a strong cavalry reconnoissance to within 15 miles of Osceola, and intercepted and captured 150 fugitive Confederates, with all their baggage, horses, &c. Other parties of from ten to fifteen were also taken, making the aggregate number of prisoners about 300. No fighting is reported to have occurred. The whole country between Rose Hill on the west and Grand River on the south is now clear of Confederate troops.

Gen. Price has only 8,000 troops at Osceola.

SKIRMISH AT POINT OF ROCKS.

Attack of a Confederate Force on Colonel Geary's Camp at Point of Rocks—The Confederates are Repulsed and their Guns Silenced.

POINT OF ROCKS, Dec. 19.—At 10 o'clock this morning a Confederate battery of three guns, flanked with about two hundred infantry, suddenly commenced shelling the encampment of Colonel Geary's Pennsylvania regiment. About twenty shells, well aimed, fell amidst the encampment, the first within a few feet of Lieutenant-Colonel DeKerponay, commanding. The six companies in camp were well deployed and entrenched, and the 28th regiment battery immediately opened fire with two guns. Their first shot disabled one of the enemy's guns, and the second fell in their midst. Our battery then advanced and poured a continuous fire into them, silencing all their guns and driving back a fourth one, which came to reinforce them. The Confederates were driven from their position and soon in full retreat. At least fourteen were killed and many wounded. On our side we did not lose a man. The engagement lasted over half an hour. After the rout of the Confederates, we turned our guns on some houses near the old furnace on the Virginia side, where about one hundred and fifty Confederates were secreted, and drove them out, killing and wounding a number. Our guns were admirably served.

Meeting of Secretary Chase with the Bank Officers—Decisive Results of Army Speedily Anticipated.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—At the Bank meeting to-day all the pending questions of accounts with the Treasury Department were harmoniously adjusted. Secretary Chase stated that the present balances with the associated banks would be sufficient for the wants of the Government till about the middle of January, before which time he had confident expectations that our military and naval operations will give brilliant and decisive results; and he did not doubt that the questions of the Government with Great Britain would have a pacific solution. He made no proposition for further financial arrangements at this time.

Exchange on London was firm to-day at 110¾@111.

A Grand Military Review in Presence of the Governor and Legislature.

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 19.—A grand review of the troops in the neighborhood of the city took place this morning in honor of the Governor and members of the Legislature, on a beautiful field a mile or two from the city.

At nine o'clock the members of both Houses who had accepted the invitation to witness the review, met at the State House, and in a body proceeded to the ground, where they were soon joined by Gen. Foster and staff, accompanied by the Governor, Mr. Goldsborough, President of the Senate, and Mr. Berry, Speaker of the House. The party then passed down the lines of the different regiments, who were drawn up in parallel lines across the field, the bands as they passed playing appropriate airs and the officers saluting. After the party had passed around the entire line they took a position in front of the centre of the first regiment, and the whole force passed in review first at common time and then at double quick. They appeared in the following order; 25th, 23d and 27th Massachusetts, 10th Connecticut, 24th Massachusetts, 8th Connecticut, 51st New York, 51st Pennsylvania, 53d New York (Zouaves), 11th Pennsylvania, 21st Massachusetts and the Ira Harris Cavalry.

The Trent Affair—No Official Communication from Lord Lyons Yet.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—It is believed that Lord Lyons has not yet made any official communication to the Secretary of State on the affair of the Trent.

A number of private letters have been received here from England, representing the public excitement there as intense, but the speculations on the subject are similar to those indulged in by the press of that country. It is believed here in well informed circles, that whatever may be the demands or claims of Her Majesty's Government, the questions at issue may be adjusted honorably to both nations.

Arrival of a Prize Ship—The British Gunboat Racer.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The British prize ship Cheshire, captured off the mouth of the Savannah river, has arrived here. She has a cargo of coffee, salt and army blankets. The British gunboat Racer has arrived.

Later--The Trent Affair to be Amicably Settled.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—A rumor prevails that Secretary Chase has received a despatch from Washington that justifies his belief that the Trent affair will be amicably arranged.

Specie for Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The *Evening Post* says that about $300,000 will go forward by the steamer Africa to-morrow.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The Cotton market is quiet and prices unchanged—sales of 600 bales at 38 cts. Flour is $5.75@6 05. Wheat is steady—sales of 100,000 bushels; red $1.39@1.42; white $1.43@1.46. Corn—sales of 61,000 bushels, a decline of 1½@2 cts.; mixed 62@64 cts. Whiskey is dull at 20¾@21¾ cts. Rice—sales of 9,000 bags East India, on private terms. Sugar is firm at 7¾@8¾ cts.—Coffee is firm at 18¾@18¾ cts. Spirits Turpentine dull at $1.37½. Rosin is heavy at $5.50. Freights are firmer—Flour 2s. 6d.@2s. 9d.; Grain 9¾@10¾d.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS----FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Mr. SUMNER presented several memorials from citizens of different parts of Massachusetts, in favor of the emancipation of slaves, without compensation to rebels and with compensation to loyal citizens. He stated that one of them was signed by 2,061 persons, at the head of whom was John E. Ledge, one of the most distinguished merchants of Boston, whose cargoes and ships are on every sea, and whose early life was spent in the South. He also presented a petition from citizens of China, New York, in favor of donating the lands of rebels to their slaves, compensating them thus for their labors, providing for their education, &c. They were all referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, presented a petition from citizens of Ohio, expressing confidence in John C. Fremont, and asking that he be created Lieutenant-General of the United States army.

Mr. WILLEY, of Virginia, offered a resolution to the effect that the existing war on the part of the South is for the overthrow of republican government, as follows:

RESOLVED, That the existing war, forced upon the country by the States in rebellion without justifiable cause or provocation, was, and is, designed by them to destroy the Union and the Constitution; and their purpose, moreover, was at first, and is now, to disavow and repudiate the fundamental principles of republican government, on which our Fathers established the Union and the Constitution.

He asked and obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to discuss the resolution at this time, and proceeded at length to do so, urging the unjustifiableness of the rebellion, in the fact that all the rights of Government had been fully met under the Constitution and laws; that the prosperity of the country was unbounded at the time of its inauguration, and that the South had experienced and enjoyed its own share of it, as much as any. He said that the South had always enjoyed a paramount control in the Government, and he had had no just cause for taking the step that the seceded States did. He could not but deprecate the tone of some of the Northern press and pulpit on the subject of slavery, but went to show that the Government and Administration evinced a different tone and policy.

He never had believed that the Republican party, though he opposed it, intended to interfere with slavery in the States, and cited in proof of the Administration's policy on the subject the proclamation of Gen. McClellan, when he came into Western Virginia among his constituents, declaring that his army would not interfere with their rights in that regard; also that of Gen. Sherman, in South Carolina, and of Gen. Dix, in Maryland, all of which he heartily approved; and referred also to the fact that when General Fremont, in Missouri, proclaimed the opposite of those sentiments, the President immediately reversed it. He himself, however, opposed to the extension of slavery over another foot of our territory. He would permit slaveholders, as others, to emigrate into the territories with their property, but by voting them down exclude slavery from the new States, and insist upon a general acquiescence in the decision. Mr. W. devoted some time also to showing that the triumph of the Republican party and election of Mr. Lincoln was only a pretext on the part of the South for disolution; that the determination was preconcerted to be carried out for other reasons, and for purposes long cherished. The South sought now the sympathy and favor of foreign governments on ideas antagonistic to republican government, and for the promotion of selfish material interests. He rebutted at length, also, the doctrine of secession, going over the usual constitutional discussions rolled on in that regard, the utterances of Washington, Madison, and the other fathers, and then proceeded to the discussion of the antagonism between free and slave labor.

At about five minutes to two o'clock, without concluding, Mr.