THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 86. BALTIMORE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Committee of Arbitration for month of December.

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

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, December 30, 1861.

Stocks were very quiet again to-day, but the feeling in the market was firm, and for some of the leading securities quotations were higher than on Saturday. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was ¼ to 1 per cent. better, the market for it closing at $43¾ bid, $51 asked, but Northern Central left off at the same figures as on Saturday, viz: $17 bid, $17¼ asked regular way. There was however nothing done in either of these stocks. For Northern Central bonds there was some inquiry and sales were made of $2,000 1885's at 61, this figure being an advance 1 per cent. on the price bid for them on Saturday, and they closed at 60¾ bid, 61¼ asked. In other Railroad bonds there was no movement, but Baltimore and Ohio 1867's closed at 81 bid for the opening; 1862's (the extra dividend bonds) at 49¼ bid, 50 asked; Northwestern Virginia first mortgage at 75 bid; and Western Maryland bonds at 77 bid, 81 asked for endorsed; and 40 bid, 50 asked for unendorsed. Maryland 6's closed as on Saturday at 91 bid for coupons, and 90 bid for inscribed, and Baltimore City 6's left off at 86 bid for both 1875's and 1890's, but nothing was done in either of these stocks. We notice a further improvement to-day in Springfield Mining, a sale of 100 shares being made at $1.65, and it closed at $1.65 bid, $1.70 asked. Bank stocks were, as they have been for some time past, quiet but firm. For Canton Co. $93¾ was bid to-day, and for Baltimore Gas Co. $101 was bid.

The Union Bank of Maryland has declared a dividend of three per cent. for the last six months, payable 9th January, and the Farmers and Planters' Bank has declared a dividend of four per cent. for the last six months, payable 6th January. The Franklin Bank of Baltimor has declared a dividend of two and-a-half per cent. for the last six months, payable 8th January.

The New York, Philadelphia and Boston Banks all suspended specie payment to-day.

In New York to-day all the stocks on the list, with one or two exceptions, improved materially, and the market closed firm at both boards. Virginia 6's advanced 1 per cent.; Missouris 1¾; Tennessees 1¾; Canton Co. ¾; Erie and New York Central $2 each; and Reading $1. North Carolina 6's left off as on Saturday at 59¾, and Treasury notes at 99¾.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

MONDAY, December 30, 1861.

$2,000 Northern Central Railroad bonds '85.....61
100 shares Springfield Mining Co.....1.65

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	49	00
Missouri 6's	42¾	42¾
Tennessee bonds	42	42
North Carolina bonds	59¾	00
Canton Company	10	00
Erie Railroad	32¼	32¾
New York Central Railroad	80¾	80¾
Reading Railroad	35	35
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents	99¾	00
	firm.	firm.

The following is the table of exports and imports at New York for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week of the two previous years:

IMPORTS.

For the week.	1859.	1860.	1861.
Dry goods	$2,490,408	$1,609,897	$494,688
General merchandise.	2,488,946	2 223,354	1,605,325
Total for the week	$4,979,354	3,833,251	2,100,013
Previously reported.	232,435,346	221,665,672	121,541,483
Since January 1	$237,414,700	225,498,923	123,641,496

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MERCHANDISE.

	1859.	1860.	1861.
For the week	$1,098 057	2,658,385	4,295,653
Previously reported.	65,692,555	98,247,581	131,648,523
Since January 1	$66,790,612	100,905,966	135,944,176

EXPORTS OF SPECIE.

	1859.	1860.	1861.
For the week	$152 512	none.	312,025
Previously reported.	64,131,665	42,576,737	3,860,499
Since January 1	$64,284,277	42,576,737	4,133,464

The *Herald* says:

The tables of the trade of the port for the past week are remarkable for the large amount of produce exports and the revival of specie shipments. The export of produce is the heaviest on record; export of coin one of the heaviest of the year. It is not likely that we shall continue to export much coin; but the active movement of produce our railways justifies the belief that our shipments of food will continue to be large throughout the winter. It is evident that Europe will need all the produce that we can send across the water. The imports show a considerable falling off from those of the corresponding weeks of last year and the year before. The heaviest items are guns, sugar and coffee.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

MONDAY, December 30.

COFFEE.—We have no transactions to note to-day in Coffee, 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.

FLOUR.—There has been very little done to day in Flour, the only sale we have heard of being one of 100 bbls. Ohio Super at $5.50 per bbl. There is however an inquiry for Flour, and the market is steady and tolerably firm for all descriptions. Howard Street Super is held quite firmly at $5.62½, and we quote Ohio do. steady at $5.50, and City Mills do. at $5.25 per bbl. Extra Flour goes pretty firm at the following rates, viz: $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 now selling at $4.25 and we quote Corn Meal steady $3.20@3.25 per bbl. for both Baltimore and Brandywine.

GRAIN.—There was a better supply of Grain at market to-day than on Saturday but the receipts were nevertheless light. Of Wheat there were about 5,000 bushels offered, and sold at 130@133 cts. for good to prime red, 115@120 cts for ordinary white, 125@135 cts. for medium to fair do., and 140@150 cts. for good to prime do. Corn, of which there were about 11,000 bushels received, was firmer than on Saturday, white selling at 60@65 cts., and yellow at 62@63 cts. for new. There were some 350 bushels Rye offered but none was sold. We quote it however at 63@65 cts. for Maryland, and 75 cts. for Pennsylvania. Of Oats there were about 3,500 bushels at market, and we quote them at 38@40 cts. for Maryland and 41@42 cts. for Pennsylvania.

MOLASSES.—We hear of no sales of Molasses, but we still quote as follows, viz: Cuba at 23@25 cts. for fair 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 is very little doing in Provisions, and for almost everything under this head quotations are nominal. For Bacon the quotations are as follows, viz: 4¾@5¼ 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. We quote Lard at 8¾@9 cts. for City and Western; Mess Pork 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 7@7¼ 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.—There is very little doing in Grass Seeds. We quote Clover as ranging from $4.27½ to $4.75, the latter figure being however only obtainable for small lots, and Timothy at $2@2.25 per bushel. Flaxseed is still bringing $1.60@1.75 per bushel.

SUGARS.—There has been no movement to day in Sugars so far as we have heard, but there is a fair inquiry for them and the market continues very firm in tone. We 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 $8 50@9.75; and Manilla and Pernambuco at $8@8.25.

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

WHISKEY.—Whiskey is dull and rather heavy. We hear of no sales to day, but we quote it at 21¾ cts. for City and 21¾@22 cts. for Ohio.

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28.—Flour dull—sales 1,000 bbls. superfine at $5 31¼. Wheat firm—sales 6,000 bushels at $1.30@1.31. Corn firm—sales 5,000 bushels new yellow at 45@60 cts. Provisions dull. Lard 8¾ cts. Whiskey steady at 20 cts.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Flour dull. Wheat dull and heavy at 69 cts. for No. 1, and 63¾@64 cts. for No. 2, in store. Corn dull and ¼ ct. lower; mixed 22@22¾ cts., in store. Oats dull. Mess Pork dull. Dressed Hogs active and firm at $3@3.20; Live Hogs firm and 5 cts. higher, at $2.42@2.75. Receipts—4,100 bbls. flour, 7,300 bushels wheat, 11,000 bushels corn.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, December 30.—Cotton is firm at 36 cts. Flour has advanced 5@10 cts—sales of 37,000 bbls: State $5.35@5.50; Ohio $5 90@6; Southern $5.6'@5 95. Wheat has advanced 1 ct.—sales of 50,000 bushels: Milwaukie club $1 30@1.33; red Western $1.39@1 41. Corn has advanced 1 ct—sales 41,000 bushels: mixed 65 cts. Beef is firm. Pork is quiet—sales of 1,400 bbls., at $12@12 50. Lard is steady—sales of 1,500 bbls., at 7¾@8¾ cts. Whiskey closed firm at 19 cts. Sugar is firm. Coffee is quiet. Spirits Turpentine closed firm. Rosin is firm. Freights are firmer.

IMPORTS INTO BALTIMORE.

FOREIGN.

DEMERARA—*Br. brig Caroline.*—123 hhds. sugar, 220 bbls. sugar, R. & H. R Tucker.

COASTWISE.

NEW YORK—*Schr. Hamilton.*—900 sacks salt, 180 bbls. molasses, Woods, Bridges & Co.; 75 bales tobacco stems, Gall & Az; 50 bbls. cement, James H. Johnson; 200 bales hay, order.

Shipping Intelligence

PORT OF BALTIMORE, DEC 30.

Arrived.

Steamer Adelaide, Cannon, from Old Point Comfort, Va—M N Falls.

Steamer Octorara, McLaughlin, from New York—mdse to J A Shriver.

Steamer Richard Willing, Claypole, Philadelphia—Jas A Shriver.

Bark Empress Theresa, Walter, from Youghal, Ireland, Nov 3d—ballast to John M Bandel. Towed up by the Vigilant.

Brig Caroline, (Br) Byrne, from Demerara—Kirkland, Chase & Co; sugar to R & H R Tucker.

Schr Jas H Hoyt, Lewis, from Boston—mdse to Rose & Lyon.

Schr Isreal A Day, Chase, from New York—mdse to S Phillips & Co.

Schr Geo Henry, Smith, from Philadelphia—oats and hay to W E Woodyear.

Schr Hamilton, Ogden, from New York—mdse to Rose & Lyon.

Barge Union, Clark, from Havre de Grace—ice to W H Otter.

Cleared.

Steamer Adelaide, Edgar, Old Point Comfort, Va—M N Falls.

Steamer John S Shriver, Dennis, Philadelphia, Jas A Shriver.

Brig Chesapeake, (Br) Gwynn, Demerara—W H Perot.

Schr N M Tannor, Paty, West Indies—R & H R Tucker

Schr Astrea, Pine, Portsmouth, N H—Kelsey & Gray

Schr Horizon, Jarvis, Philadelphia—Wm Applegarth & Son.

Schr Mahlon Betts, Endicott, New York via Choptank river—W Rhoads & Son.

Schr Canton, Milburn, Old Point Comfort, Va—master

Schr Jasper, Marsh, Smith's Is

Schr Foaming Wave, Mulligan, Somerset Co

Schr T H Hooper, Creighton, Dorchester Co

Schr American, Cox, do

Schr John Thomas, Gravener, do

Schr F Hyus, Applegarth, do

Schr Fly, Jones, Cherrystone

Schr Advocate, Crouch, Somerset Co

Sailed.

Brig Chesapeake, (Br), Gwynn, Demerara.

Schr E Closson, Coombs, Trinidad.

Schr N M Tannor, Paty, Dominica.

Bark Industrie, (Brem) Hilcken, Amsterdam, in tow of Ajax.

Bark Snapdragon, Kissam, New York, in tow of steamtug Vigilant.

Arrivals from Baltimore.

Steamship Baltimore, Denkin, Havana, 19th inst.

Steamer F W Brune, Foster, New York, 27th inst.

Schr S M Sherman, Sherman, Providence, 27th.

Schr Ocean Bird, Hall, Providence, 27th.

Clearances for Baltimore

Schr R A Wood, Cranmer, New York, 28th inst.

Schr Golden Eagle, Kelsey, New York, 28th.

Schr Messenger, Pratt, Portland, 27th.

Schr Belle Conway, DeJaney, Philadelphia, 28th.

Schr Rebecca, Magee, New York, 27th.

Memoranda.

Bark W H Newman, hence for Cork, was seen 15th inst at 3 P M off Seven Head.

Brig Lantine, Ellingwood, for New York same day, remasted at Palermo, 7th inst.

Brig Wm Wilson, Plummer, from New York, (reported under the British flag) was seeking freight at Palermo, 28th ult.

Schr Harper, Gamage, from Duckport for Baltimore, arr at Newport, 26th inst.

Ship Ernestine, (Brem) Frerichs, for Bremen, and brig Chanticleer, Matson, for Pernambuco, both hence, went to sea 26th inst—Per pilot boat Invincible.

Ships Ann E Hooper, Hooper, and Virginia Dare, Cole, were at Havre, 11th inst.

Disasters.

Wexford, Dec 11th.—The American bark Gen Stricker, (of Baltimore) Leonard, from Cobik, Aug 23d, for Liverpool, ran ashore yesterday at 3 30 A M; cargo, (saltpetre and hides), all lost, with the exception of a few hides; ship a total wreck. The master, Capt John Leonard, and three of the crew, whose names were John Gores and Adam Johnson, both of New York, and Henry Gwynne, of Key West, were drowned. The rest of the crew were saved. The bodies of the master and one of the crew was washed ashore.

[The G. S. was built at Baltimore in 1857, rated A1½, 899 tons.]

Schr Three Sisters, of Baltimore, loaded with wood, was sunk by the Confederates in the Potomac river on Sunday, 22d inst, at a place known at Boyd's Hole.

Eastern Ports.

NEW YORK, December 28—Noon.—Arr'd steamship Karnak, Havana; ship Atalanta, Havre; bark Magdalena, Aspinwall; brigs R. A. Fisher, Para; Flight, Miragoane; schr Ann E Glover, Ragged Island.——Cld ships Belle of the Sea, San Francisco; Tropic, Havre; barks Pathfinder, London; Hedwig, Queenstown; Mary, Trinidad; brig S Killam, Cork.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec 28.—Cl'd bark Conrad, Bahia; brig D W Eldridge, St Barts; schr J D McCartney, Ship Island.

BOSTON, December 28.—Cl'd ship Elizabeth Kimball, Liverpool.

PORTLAND, Dec 27.—Arr'd steamship Nova Scotian, Liverpool.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS

FOR THE UNITED STATES

Names	Leave	For	Days
Etna	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 18
Norwegian	Liverpool	Quebec	Dec. 19
John Bell	Glasgow	New York	Dec. 21
Asia	Liverpool	New York	Dec. 21
Canada	Liverpool	Boston	Dec. 23
Bohemian	Liverpool	Portland	Dec. 26
North American	Liverpool	Portland	Jan. 2

FOR EUROPE.

Names	Leaves	For	Days
City of Washington	New York	Liverpool	Dec. 28
Nova Scotian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 1
City of New York	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 4
St. Andrew	New York	Glasgow	Jan. 4
Karnak	New York	Nassau	Jan. 7
Niagara	Boston	Liverpool	Jan. 7
Etna	New York	Liverpool	Jan 13
Norwegian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan. 15
Asia	New York	Liverpool	Jan. 11
Bohemian	Portland	Liverpool	Jan 11
John Bell	New York	Glasgow	Jan 23
Canada	Boston	Liverpool	Jan 23

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The Rev. Dr. SUNDERLAND, the chaplain, in his opening prayer in the Senate this morning, besought the favor of the Deity in these days of blows at the national heart and of foreign arrogance toward the nation, to which we had to defer under the forms of soft diplomacy—and in the course of his invocation quoted from Byron's poem of Mazeppa, where reference is made to "Time at last setting all things even," the lines:

"The patient search and vigil long,
Of him who treasures up a wrong,"

as pertinent to our position on this occasion. Some, however, might think the quotation of doubtful Christian spirit.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, presented petitions from citizens of Manchester, Pa., and several points in Massachusetts, for the abolition of slavery under the war power; and one from citizens of Steuben county, N. Y., praying the abolition of slavery immediately in the seceded States, unconditionally.

Mr. FOSTER, of Connecticut, also presented a petition from citizens of Connecticut, for the abolition of slavery by the war power.

Mr. HARLAN, of Iowa, presented a similar petition, and also one for the establishment of a national foundry at Rock Island, Ill.

Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, presented a petition from citizens of Astoria, against the removal of the custom-house from that place.

A communication was received in reply to the resolution of the Senate, of the 16th instant, from the Adjutant General, stating that it would not be compatible with the public interest to furnish copies of the orders from the Commanding General to General Patterson, while in command on the Upper Potomac.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, introduced a bill to quiet titles in the District of Columbia, which makes valid deeds heretofore executed by *femes covert* and by attorneys in fact, in which the forms prescribed by law have not been followed, etc. It was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, presented the bill of which he had previously given notice, declaring certain persons to be alien enemies, forfeiting their property to the United States, and creating a lien on such property in favor of loyal persons, to indemnify them for such damages as they may have sustained by the existing war of the rebellion. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, a resolution was adopted, requesting the Secretary of War to communicate to the Senate the charges existing against Captain Thos. Jordan, of the Quartermaster's Department of the army, at the time of his resignation; also the amount, if any, due by him to the Government at that time; also the amount of his bonds to the United States as Assistant Quartermaster, the names and residences of the bondsmen, and the reasons for accepting the resignation of the said Captain Jordan.

The Senate, on motion of Mr. Sumner, adjourned, and, under the resolution adopted last Friday, stands adjourned until Thursday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of War, in answer to the resolution of the 19th of December, relative to the transportation of troops.

Mr. POTTER, of Wisconsin, chairman of the Investigating Committee on disloyal persons now in the employment of the Government, reported a resolution calling upon the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior to furnish this House, without any unnecessary delay, to the Committee of Investigation as to the disloyal persons employed by the Government, the information asked for by a letter dated 3d December, 1861, addressed to them by the chairman of said committee.

Mr. WICKLIFFE would like for the gentleman to have read the letter upon which the resolution was passed.

Mr. POTTER, of Wisconsin, accordingly had the letter read.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, opposed the resolution. He said the House had usurped too much power in military and judicial affairs; that our province was legislative, not judicial or executive. We had better remove the heads of these subordinates, if they are incapable. He was opposed to a resolution passed through both Houses of Congress—a resolution appointing a committee to superintend the war now waging against this Government. We have the Executive and Cabinet, with their war officers of the army; why not trust them with the management of the laws and the government of the Constitution?

Mr. POTTER replied, saying there were now over five hundred men employed in the departments, disloyal persons, and hundreds who had never expressed one word of sympathy with the United States Government in its efforts to suppress the rebellion. The committee had never dictated the removal of any clerks. They were simply a committee of inquiry, and could only lay the result of their investigation before the heads of the departments. But those officers had not done their duty.

Mr. WICKLIFFE asked the gentleman if he (Wickliffe) had understood him to say that the heads of departments had not done their duty.

Mr. POTTER said he would not charge them with wilful neglect of duty, as there were a great many cases almost impossible to decide as to the merits of those whose loyalty was doubted. Persons had appeared before the committee and called upon God to witness their oath as to their loyalty to the government, and had presented vouchers from Senators in their case; but when they found their assertions and protestations were of no avail in retaining them in office, they had left this city and were now to be found in the ranks of the rebels fighting against this government. Before some of the departments evidence would have to be strong enough to hang a man before they would take notice of his disloyalty.

Mr. MALLORY, of Ky., objected to the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS, of Penn., introduced a bill to repeal certain laws creating ports of entry.

Mr. SPAULDING introduced a bill authorizing the payment of Treasury notes on demand.

On motion the House adjourned until Thursday.

The debt of Alleghany county, Pa., including Pittsburg and Alleghany City, is nearly seven million seven hundred thousand dollars, and the value of the taxable property is but twenty-eight millions.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM GEN. BANKS' DIVISION.

FREDERICK, December 30.—The commission for examining into the character, ability and qualifications of officers of this division of the army still continues its sittings in this city. Many cases of the lower grades of commissioned officers have been examined into and reported upon to the Commander in Chief. Others, including some of higher grades, are now before the Board. The final action in all the cases will not be divulged until the rising of the Board.

The general court-martial to day takes up the case of the murder by a private of the Fifth Connecticut, perpetrated while that regiment was on a march last fall from Pleasant Hill to Williamsport. After disposing of this, other desertion cases will be brought up. It is believed that several of this class will be made examples of by the process laid down in the Articles of War.

John S. Clark, late Colonel of the Nineteenth New York, has been appointed aid de-camp to General Banks, with the rank of Colonel, and reported this morning for duty.

Last week a fire broke out in a dwelling near General Banks' Headquarters, affording his body guard, the Zouaves d'Afrique, a rare opportunity of instilling some new tactics in the fire department. Before the alarm had hardly sounded these agile fellows had emptied the engine houses of their "machines," attached hose, scaled the walls and extinguished the fire in an incredibly short space of time; saving the valuable property from any great loss.

Mrs. General Banks and the ladies of many of the other officers of this division are at present sojourning here, giving a metropolitan tone to society, and an increased air of refinement and elegance to the city. On Saturday General Banks, First Assistant Postmaster-General Kasson and S. E. Middleton, Esq., Cashier of the United States Treasury, dined at the mansion of Frederick Schley, Esq., editor of the *Examiner*.

The Fifth Connecticut has been ordered hither from Hancock, and will probably be here by Thursday. The first section of Captain Best's (Regular) Battery is now on its way here from the same place.

A man named James McGraw, (heretofore mentioned in this correspondence,) from Harper's Ferry, was arrested here on the 27th. It is charged that he had voluntarily furnished a large quantity of salt to the enemy, some say 150 to 200 sacks.

On Christmas Day, General Banks, through the Judge Advocate, Captain Collis, discharged from custody a number of prisoners under sentence by a former court-martial.

A very useful institution is the ordnance department of this division, under charge of Lieutenant W. Thompson, of Company I, Massachusetts Twelfth. A force under him is employed in repairing and issuing arms, which would otherwise be condemned and returned to Washington. The same officer has charge of the magazine and trophies captured from the secessionists.

Official Report of the Stone-Fleet Expedition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The official report of Commodore Dupont in relation to the sinking of the stone fleet has been received at the Navy Department. The substantial part of the document consists in the report of Captain Charles Henry Davis, who had command of the fleet. In this report Captain Davis says:—

"In all this work I have been ably assisted by Commanders Gordon and Goldsborough and by Lieutenants Commanding Stevens and Balch, and have derived much valuable information and important aid from the skill, local knowledge and zeal of Acting Master G. H. Bradbury and Mr. Godfrey, who acted as pilot, both of whom are worthy of your highest confidence. In regard to the active part of the expedition Captain Davis says: On the night of my arrival off Charleston the light house was blown up by which the purpose of my visit was essentially promoted. After the bar had been sounded out, two ships were sunk, one on the Eastern and one on the Western limits of the channel, which served to limit the field of operations.

After all the ships which were to be sunk—sixteen in number—had been brought here and placed in a position to be easily moved, they were towed in by the smaller steamers and placed upon and inside the bar, in a checkered or indented form, lying as much as possible across the direction of the channel in several lines some distance apart, and they are made so nearly to overlie each other that it would be difficult to draw a line through them in the direction of the channel, which would not be intercepted by one of the vessels.

Commander Davis states that he was guided by several principles in chosing the place and manner for sinking the vessels, viz:

First—The bar was selected because it is the principal and culminating point of the natural deposit on this line. By adding the material contained in the hulks to those already placed there by nature, it may be expected that the natural forces which aggregate the latter will tend to keep the former in their assigned position.

Second—By putting down the vessels in an indented line, to create a material obstruction to the channel, without seriously impeding the progress of the water.

If it was possible to build a wall across the channel the river which must flow to the sea would undoubtedly take another and similar path. But if, on the contrary, the blocking up of the national channel be only partial, the water may retain a part of its old course and require the addition of only a new channel of small capacity.

Third—The mode of sinking the vessels is intended to establish a combination of artificial interruptions and irregularities, resembling, on a small scale, those of Hell Gate or Holes' Hole, and producing, like them, eddies, whirlpools and counter currents, such as render the navigation of an otherwise difficult channel hazardous and uncertain.

From Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, December 28.—The legal condition of the negroes discharged yesterday by order of the Provost Marshal-General is in nowise changed.—They are only set free from confinement, imprisonment and sale. The presumption that they are the slaves of Confederate masters, General Halleck wishes it understood that this order will not debar any one from enforcing his legal rights to the services of these negroes.

Such rights, if any exist, can be enforced through the legal civil tribunals of the State, whose mandates will always be duly respected. The military authorities of this Department, as military officers, cannot decide upon the rights of property or claims to service, except as far as they may be authorized by the laws of war or acts of Congress. When not so authorized they will avoid all interference with such questions.

From Boston.

BOSTON, December 28.—Appleton Oaksmith, an alleged accomplice of Skinner, who was recently convicted of fitting out the ship Margaret Scott, in New Bedford, for a slaver, was before Judge Sprague to-day charged with such complicity.—He pleaded not guilty, and was required to find bail in five thousand dollars to appear for trial in March.

Oaksmith was recently lodged in Fort Lafayette charged with fitting out the steamer Augusta, and a week since was transferred to Fort Warren.

The yacht Wild Pigeon, at this port, has been seized on suspicion of fitting out for a slaver. It is probable she will be released on her owners giving bonds not to engage in the slave trade.

Suspension of Specie Payments.

NEW YORK, December 30.—The New York Banks suspended specie payments to-day.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—The Philadelphia Banks have suspended specie payments in consequence of the suspension by the Banks of New York.

BOSTON, December 30.—The Banks of Boston suspended specie payments to-day.

ALBANY, December 30.—The Banks here suspended specie payment on learning the action of the New York city banks.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 30.—The old "Bank of Pittsburg" continues to pay specie on all its liabilities, as it has done through the past general suspensions.

Mason and Slidell to be Sent to England in the British Mail Steamer Niagara.

BOSTON, December 30.—By instructions from Lord Lyons, the British mail steamer Niagara will leave here direct for Liverpool to-morrow, taking out Messrs. Mason and Slidell. The steamer Persia, now in the St. Lawrence, will take the place of the Niagara, which was announced to sail hence on the 8th of January.

Later.

BOSTON, Dec. 30.—The agents of the Cunard line have ordered the Niagara to be in readiness for sailing by Tuesday noon. No orders from Lord Lyons about Mason and Slidell have yet been received. They probably expect orders to that effect by mail to-morrow.

The Mason and Slidell Affair in Boston.

BOSTON, December 28.—The public have received the announcement of the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell to the British Government very philosophically, having generally anticipated such a finale. The street talk is that Mason and Slidell were not worth their board here or elsewhere.

The steamer Niagara arrived this afternoon.—Her advices have been received via Halifax.

FROM KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 30.—A slight skirmish in Adair county is reported, in which the Confederate loss was five killed. The Federals met with no loss.

Humphrey Marshall, at the head of 6,500 troops, is fortifying Prestonburg, and is expected soon to march towards Maysville.

Gen. Buell has ordered the Brigade under Col. Garfield, forward, and a battle may be expected very shortly.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The weekly statements of the City Banks show the following results:—Loans—decrease, $1,027.000; Specie—decrease, $7,455.-000; Circulation—decrease, $119,000; Deposits—decrease, $8,425 000.

On Saturday evening the Banks did not hold much over $23,000 000 in specie. Many Banks are paying specie as usual, while others are paying out small sums to customers. There is however little demand for it.

From Nassau, N. P.

NEW YORK, December 28.—The British steamer Karnak, from Havana on the 21st, via Nassau, N. P., on the 23d, arrived at this port this evening.

The Confederate steamers Isabel and Gordon were at Nassau, and closely watched by the United States steamer Flambeau.

The British steamer Gladiator was also there, and would soon sail for England.

More Bridge-Burning.

QUINCY, Ill., December 28.—The bridge over the Fabrius and North rivers, on the Palmyra railroad, were set on fire by the Confederates last night, and destroyed.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

MEETING OF THE BENCH AND BAR.—A large number of the members of the legal profession in this city assembled yesterday morning, at half-past ten o'clock, in the Superior Court Room, for the purpose of giving expression to their feelings in relation to the death of Hon. John C. Legrand. The meeting was called to order by Wm. Schley, Esq., who proposed Judge Martin, of the Superior Court, for Chairman, and Mr. G. L. L. Davis for Secretary. Upon motion of Mr. Chas. F. Mayer, the Chair appointed a committee of seven, to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The following gentlemen composed the committee: Judges Bartol and Krebs, and Messrs. C. F. Mayer, Schley, Steele, Spencer and Brune. The committee retired for consultation, and in about half-an-hour reported the following through their chairman, Mr. Mayer:

RESOLVED, That we mourn the death of John Carroll Legrand, late Chief Justice of Maryland, as the departure of one whose mind and culture have ennobled his name in the judicial ministry of his native State.

Resolved, That lost though he now is to our cordial converse, and to the light of jurisprudence, there is consolation in offering to his memory the expression of our admiration for his commanding and philosophic intellect, his ample and well-digested learning, and for his judicial independence, impartiality and efficiency, which ever had truth and justice for their end, and that have secured for him the fame that shall brightly live in the records of our highest judicature.

Resolved, That not less than for his intellectual and official honors is he in remembrance endeared to us for his soul of kindness and his unpretending manner, and for the impulses of a good and tender heart, always and practically swayed by the claims of right and of suffering.

Resolved, That in testimony of our respect for him as a judge, and of our affection for him, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, and will attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to furnish a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the family of the deceased, with the assurance of our sympathy and condolence, and that a copy be furnished to be placed upon the minutes of the Courts of this city.

After reading the resolutions, Mr. Mayer delivered an eloquent eulogy upon the life and character of the deceased. Mr. Mayer was followed by Messrs. Jervis Spencer, William P. Preston and John P. Poe, each of whom paid a fitting tribute to the memory of their departed friend and brother.

Before taking the vote upon the resolutions, Judge Martin made the following remarks:

Before submitting for the consideration of this meeting the resolutions which have just been read, expressive of profound regret and sorrow for the death of the Honorable John C. Legrand, late Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, and of admiration of his judicial abilities, integrity and fidelity, I desire to remark that I cordially concur in all that has been said in commendation of his services as an able, energetic, impartial and faithful judge.

I unite with the Bar in sincerely deploring his demise, and upon the adoption of the resolutions I shall take the melancholy pleasure in directing them to be placed upon the minutes of the Court as a testimonial of our respect for his memory.

On the conclusion of the remarks of the Judge the vote was taken, resulting in the unanimous adoption of the resolutions, after which the meeting adjourned to attend the funeral of the deceased.

FUNERAL OF JUDGE LEGRAND.—The funeral of the late Chief Justice Legrand took place yesterday shortly after twelve o'clock, from his late residence, No. 76 St. Paul street, and was largely attended. The religious exercises were conducted by Rev. G. D. Cummins, D.D., of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal church. Previous to the removal of the remains a large number of the friends and acquaintances of the deceased passed into the house and took a last view of his familiar face. The coffin was then placed in the hearse and the procession moved to Greenmount Cemetery. The following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers:—Hon. Judge Grier, Hon. Judge Frick, Hon. Judge Bartol, Hon. Judge Krebs, Hon. Judge Martin, Hon. B. Crane, Hon. Solomon Hillen, and Charles H. Pitts, Wm P. Preston, Wm. H. Emory, Benjamin C. Presstman and Jervis Spencer, Esqs. Arriving at the Cemetery the religious exercises were continued and the remains deposited in a vault.

FIRE.—Yesterday morning, about six o'clock, quite a destructive fire took place at the corner of Canton avenue and Eden streets. Messrs. A. & W. J. Hamill had recently commenced the manufacture of coal oil on the premises, and yesterday morning the fires were kindled at an early hour and the employees were engaged at work, when a terrific explosion took place, destroying one of the stills and scattering the oil in every direction. The oil ignited, and in a moment the entire room was in a blaze. Fortunately, the workmen escaped injury, and the alarm was given. Engines Nos. 3, 4 and 5 were promptly on the spot, and the contest between the flames and the Fire Department was really exciting. The three engines found a bountiful supply of water and poured it to their utmost capacity. Sheets of flame floated down the street, and in some instances when it was thought the fire could not reach the oil which was floating in the water in the streets, the firemen had taken positions in the midst of it to enable them more successfully to battle with the fire. By the falling of a burning brand the oil would be ignited, and in an instant the firemen were surrounded by flames and were compelled to fly for their lives. After an hour or more hard work, it was finally conquered. The Messrs. Hamill had no insurance, and their loss will amount to about $7,000. The fire was communicated to an adjoining building occupied by Mr. Sebastian Miller, which was slightly damaged. Loss $25. Insured.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.—An affair that occurs "but once in a life-time" took place a few evenings since at the residence of Dr. G. W. Miltenberger, Lombard street, between Sharp and Hanover. It was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Gen. Anthony Miltenberger to Miss Warner, daughter of the late Gen. Warner, which transpired in 1811. Since that time, this now venerable couple have enjoyed remarkably good health; and in the course of their long life have witnessed many changes in the city of Baltimore as well as much of its growth and improvement. General Miltenberger is a well known citizen and has always taken great interest in the celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of North Point, by the Old Defenders, of which body he is a prominent member.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock Coroner Sparklin was called on to hold an inquest over the body of a boy about ten years of age, who was run over by a freight car on Central avenue, near Bank street, and killed. The cars were passing the point named when the boy attempted to jump up between two of them, then his hands slipped from the bumpers and he fell across the track. The cars passed over his body, killing him almost instantly. No one knew the lad, and up to eight o'clock last night the body was not identified. The jury rendered a verdict of "accidental death." Coroner Sparklin had the body taken to his residence, Eden, near Gough street, to await recognition. The boy wore a blue military cap, and was well dressed.

CAPTURE OF A SCHOONER.—On Wednesday of last week a Federal gunboat observed a suspicious-looking schooner in the Patuxent river, at a point near Hayden's house, and a canoe containing five of the 1st Massachusetts infantry was dispatched to visit her. On the approach of the boat those on board the schooner