THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 92. BALTIMORE TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS. TELEGRAMS.

IMPORTANT FROM CAIRO.

Confederate Submarine Batteries--The Federal Gunboat Fleet--The Rio Grande Blockaded--A Schooner Burned--Galveston to be Burned--Capture of Confederate Steamers.

CAIRO, Jan. 5.—Six hundred submarine batteries have been planted between Columbus and Memphis by the Confederates. A gentleman who witnessed the experiments with these batteries stated that they were entirely successful.

The crews of the Federal gunboats were mustered in on Saturday, and the whole fleet will probably be anchored in the stream on Monday.

The Memphis *Appeal* of the 18th ult. has the following from Texas:

The Galveston *Civilian* of the 18th says that last night's mail brought advices that one of Lincoln's steam propellers had arrived and was blockading the river. She had captured and burned a schooner. The fight was still progressing at Matamoros.

The Houston *Telegraph* of the 20th ult. says that the people of Galveston are in a considerable stew over the report that General Herbert has ordered the destruction of Galveston, if the city could not be defended.

The Federal fleet near New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain have captured several Confederate steamers.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Hostilities in Progress at Hancock--Movement of Gen. Banks' Division.

POINT OF ROCKS, December 5.—Six thousand Confederates attacked the 5th Connecticut regiment, near Hancock, yesterday, engaged in protecting the railroad. After a slight skirmish our men retired to this side of the Potomac to await reinforcements. Meanwhile the Confederates destroyed the railroad and telegraph lines, breaking our communication with Cumberland.

General Lander is marching to the relief of the 5th with a sufficient force. The loss on either side is not known, but is believed to be trifling. The Confederates have been shelling at intervals all day, and our artillery responding. The enemy's shells have done no mischief.

FREDERICK, January 6—Advices from Hancock show General Lander's arrival there; also, that General Jackson, with a large force of Confederate troops and one 24 and two 12-pounders, appeared opposite Hancock yesterday and threatened to shell out our troops unless they evacuated the place. General Lander gave them a fitting response, and the enemy commenced shelling, which continued up to the latest advices last night, doing but little injury to the town and none to our troops.

At an early hour this morning the 3d brigade left here for Hancock, leaving the 46th Pennsylvania regiment at Williamsport. The rest of General Banks' division are under orders, and preparations for a move are now complete. We are only awaiting marching orders.

There is nothing from Hancock this morning.

FREDERICK, January 6.—Reliable but unofficial information received here, says that Jackson commenced shelling Hancock on Saturday night. One ball went through Barton's tavern, and another burst close to the stable where Sinn's stage horses are kept. Travel, mails and freight transportation are intercepted. The stage teams had drawn back to Hagerstown, and notifications were sent to Frederick and Cumberland for the mails to be held back till further orders. The Confederates have torn up the track along the road opposite Hancock, and the railroad depot at Hancock has been burnt. The Union troops at Bath, and an Illinois regiment, have withdrawn to the Maryland side of the river.

It is reported and believed that the Confederates have burnt the new trestle-work bridge over the Cacapon creek, ten miles south of Hancock.

FREDERICK, Jan. 6.—There was considerable commotion yesterday in military circles, in consequence of intelligence from Hancock that Jackson had suddenly appeared opposite that place with an estimated force of 7,000 men, one 24-pounder and two 12-pounder rifled guns. He sent word to General Lander to evacuate that place, or he would shell us out. Lander responded that he should not evacuate, and if Jackson opened fire on the town he would hold him to a strict accountability. Jackson responded that he should assume the responsibility and carry out his threat. Consequently he commenced a steady fire, which was continued up to dark last night, the date of the latest despatches up to this time. The enemy's fire caused but slight damage to the buildings, and taking no effect upon our troops.

On receipt of the first despatch orders were sent to all our brigades and independent detachments to provide two days' rations and for the wagons to take four days' more, also that all should be ready to march on short notice. Late at night General Williams' 3d brigade, being the nearest to the point of action, took up the line of march. Some heavy and light artillery were also forwarded with despatch.

The Latest from the Upper Potomac—Capture of Contraband Goods.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—A despatch from Hancock this evening, states that nobody has been killed on our side in the shelling of that town by the Confederates.

Capt. Riehl, of the Reindeer, brought up this afternoon two Confederate prisoners from Gen. Hooker's Division, also twenty-two four bushel bags of India-rubber overcoats, besides several sacks of underskirts and a large quantity of quinine. The prisoners were captured while attempting to convey these stores from Maryland to the Virginia shore.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Communication from the War Department.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—An official communication, in response to a resolution of the House, was to-day transmitted to that body by the Secretary of War, covering reports from the Quartermaster's Department, by which it appears that George Ramsdell, of Pennsylvania, has been awarded a contract for feeding 525 disabled horses during the winter, and Charles Chonteau for 71. It appears that the contract system, thus far, has failed entirely. Advertisements for bids for almost everything required have been made, but not in a single instance have the lowest bidders come forward and closed their contracts. Of the horses placed on Chonteau's farm, at 35 cents a head per diem, only about 35 of them have become serviceable. The remainder are not considered worth keeping.

Proposed Coinage at the New York Assay Office—Memorial from the Citizens of Greytown.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Representative Ward to-day gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to establish a coinage department in the Assay Office, New York. He also presented the memorial of the citizens of Greytown, for the appointment of Commissioners to inquire into the jurisdiction of the authorities of Greytown over Punta Arenas, to ascertain the value of property destroyed by the bombardment of that town.

Homœopathic Practice in the Army--Arrangements for the Exchange of Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, January 6.—It is said that the introduction of homœopathic practice of medicine has raised something of a commotion among many of the regular surgeons of the army.

Commissioner Dale will soon leave for the West on business of importance with the Indian tribes.

It seems that a definitive, though informal, mode for the exchange of prisoners has been inaugurated. The prompt reciprocation by the Southern authorities will soon be followed by the Government in forwarding another large party for a similar corresponding return.

The Case of Col. Kerrigan.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Judge Hearne, one of the counsel of Colonel Kerrigan, emphatically contradicts the report that evidence has been elicited on the trial establishing, without doubt, the charge of his having given information to the enemy; and, further, that the evidence for the prosecution has not yet been closed. The paragraph transmitted yesterday was based on what was considered, at the time, reliable information.

Unfounded Rumor--Discovery of Important Treasonable Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The painful rumors circulating in regard to the arrest of a prominent military officer of the Government for treason, is without the shadow of foundation in fact. Some matters of importance, in the shape of correspondence, have been discovered, but in connection with parties entirely different from the officer named in the rumors now current. All the parties implicated are now under arrest. This city is full of Southern sympathizers or spies in high social position, and the time has arrived when they must be rigorously dealt with.

General Lane's Expedition.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—A typographical error in yesterday's despatch relative to the proposed military expedition from Fort Leavenworth, makes it appear that Gen. Lane is to hold a subordinate position therein. The reverse is the fact. The expedition, second to none, if equalled by any in numbers, character and purpose, is to be under the sole and exclusive command of Gen. Lane, who proposes to demonstrate, with his Western crusaders, the ways and means through which the rebellion can be crushed, and the Republic restored in all its integrity. To carry out this exalted purpose, Gen. Lane is supported by the active energies of the Administration in the various departments.

FROM MISSOURI.

Burning of Rose Hill.

SEDALIA, Jan. 5.—Three men arrived here to-day from Johnson county, who report that Jennison was at Rose Hill, Johnson county, a day or two since, which place they report that he has burned. This force is reported to be on the way to this place, and if it be true, it is hoped that he will capture the notorious Methodist preacher and brigand, Ward Corkerel, who is reported to be encamped with about 500 men near Columbus, in the northwestern part of the county.

Many of the most substantial and respectable citizens of Johnson county arrive here nearly every day, being driven from their homes by this noted bushwhacker and his gang. The report that secession is squelched in Johnson county is all bosh.—They are, if anything, worse than they have ever been. The son of Mrs. Heath, P. M. at Warrensburg, coming home from Kansas the other day, fell into the hands of Corkerel, and was nearly stripped of his clothing

Fragments of a Wreck at Gaspee Bay, Canada East.

GASPEE BAY, January 4.—On Monday last the shores of this bay were strewed with half barrels of butter, boxes of cheese and a small portion of the cabin of some wrecked ship. A number of boxes containing twenty pairs of Canadian boots, one cask of butter marked R. Tennant, Liverpool, a box-cover marked G. Smith, were found yesterday. The portion of the keel, with copper attached, and a portion of a wheel, came ashore. No bodies have as yet been found. It is supposed that these fragments are from some vessel wrecked on St. Paul's.

IMPORTANT FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

Arrival of the Steamer Vanderbilt with 3,607 Bales of Cotton from Port Royal--Advance of General Stevens' Brigade to the Mainland--Confederate Batteries Captured.

NEW YORK, January 6—The steamer Vanderbilt, from Port Royal on the 3d inst., has arrived She brings three thousand six hundred and ninety-seven bales of Sea Island cotton.

General Stevens' brigade advanced on the mainland on the 1st inst., and took possession of some Confederate batteries after a short resistance, assisted by the gunboats, and followed up to within six miles of the Charleston Railroad, when a flag of truce was sent from the Confederates, requesting permission to bury their dead.

One hour was granted for this purpose, when the Confederates fell back on their fortifications, said to be very extensive and defended by 12,000 troops under Gen. Pope. Their loss is unknown. Our force was but 4,500 strong. We had eight wounded, including Major Watson, of the 8th Michigan regiment, mortally.

Gen. Stevens holds possession of his position on the mainland, and awaits reinforcements from the North to proceed.

ADDITIONAL NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Magdalene at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 4.—The steamship Magdalene, from Southampton on Saturday, 21st of December, arrived at this port last Friday night.

The Magdalene has one thousand troops for Canada.

The Magdalene's news is anticipated by the Asia. It was reported on the London Stock Exchange that the legal authorities at Washington had pronounced against the capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and that they were on their way to England.

Statements from the Paris *Patrie* of the number of French men-of war off New York attracted attention, and was regarded with much satisfaction on the London 'Change.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE PER STEAMER BOHEMIAN.

HALIFAX, Jan. 6.—The steamer Bohemian, from Liverpool on the 26th, and Londonderry on the 27th, has arrived. Business was generally suspended in Liverpool, owing to the holidays. The sales of cotton on Tuesday amounted to 15,000 bales at an advance of ⅛d. There had been no breadstuffs or provision market transactions.

Consols closed at 90⅞@91¾.

Mr. Burlingame, United States Minister to China, had arrived at Canton, and was well received.

Placards had been posted in the streets of Hong Kong, threatening extirpation to all Europeans.

There was great excitement at Lisbon, and the body of the King was to be interred.

FROM KENTUCKY.

Movements of the Hostile Armies.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 4.—The bridge over Green river will be completed to-morrow. Union reconnoissances are made almost daily south of the river. The Confederates have retired before Colonel Garfield, in Eastern Kentucky. Colonel Garfield is advancing on Prestonburg. General Schoepff made several ineffectual attempts to draw Zollicoffer from his Somerset entrenchments. There is no prospect of an immediate general engagement there. All the Kentucky banks located where Confederate domination prevails have been consolidated, under Henry J. Lyons, formerly of Louisville, as President, who has authority to run them for the Southern Confederacy.

Union Success in Western Virginia.

HUTTONSVILLE, VA., January 5.—An expedition sent to Hunterville, Pocahontas county, yesterday, was completely successful. Four hundred Confederate cavalry and three hundred militia infantry were dispersed, and $80,000 worth of army stores, clothing, etc., was captured or destroyed.

SECOND DESPATCH.

HUTTONSVILLE, Jan. 6.—Huntersville was the depot for Confederate supplies in Western Virginia. Their cavalry were armed with Sharpe's carbines, and attacked us two miles from the town. We drove them from point to point, and finally they beat a hasty retreat out of town. As we charged through it, their supplies, consisting of 350 bbls. of flour, 300 salted beeves, 3,000 pounds of salt, large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice and bacon, and army clothing, worth from twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars, were entirely destroyed. We captured a large number of Sharpe's, carbines' sabres and pistols. The stars and stripes were left floating over the Court House, and our troops returned hither in fine spirits.

Fire at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6.—A destructive fire occurred here this afternoon, burning the drug warehouse of G. W. Lewis, No. 45 South Fourth street, and the stationery establishment of Wm. Mann, adjoining. Other property was deluged with water. The steam-fire engines were the only stay to a general conflagration. The loss is over $75,000, and the insurance about three-fourths of that amount.

The War in the Indian Country.

LEAVENWORTH, January 4.—Reports from the Indian country show that the war has fairly begun between the loyal Indians against the Texans and Confederate half-breeds. In a fight in the Cherokee country it is reported that Cooper, a Texan General, and McIntosh, leader of the Confederate half-breeds, were killed. The loss of the loyal Indians was fourteen.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.----REGULAR SESSION.

SENATE.

ANNAPOLIS, January 6.—The Senate met at 12 o'clock, and was called to order by the PRESIDENT. Rev. Mr. DAVENPORT opened the session with prayer. The proceedings of Saturday were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. GOLDSBOROUGH, leave was given the Judiciary Committee to amend the law relating to inspections.

Mr. EICHELBERGER, from a select committee, reported back the House bill extending the charter of the Pipe Creek Benevolent Society, and the bill was read the second time.

Mr. EICHELBERGER, from a select committee, reported back the House bill changing the name of Charles Louis Duroche McLaughlin, and it was read the second time.

The Senate took up the bill relating to fixing and taxing commissions of executors, which was read the third time and passed.

Mr. SMITH submitted a return message to the House in relation to the opening of returns of election to-morrow, which was agreed to.

Mr. BAYNE, from a select committee, reported a bill authorizing Charles Beall to act as magistrate and postmaster, which was read a first time.

The bill providing for holding elections in Frederick city was read a third time and passed.

The bill regulating the meetings of the Commissioners of Public Works, and authorizing them to employ counsel in certain cases, was read a second time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. EVERETT obtained leave for a joint select committee, composed of Messrs. Fiery, Everett and Townsend, to report a bill amending the charter of the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company.

The House bill to incorporate Rock Hill Academy was taken up for a third reading, but, on motion, it was laid over informally.

The House bill repealing certain sections of the Local Laws relating to the inspection and measurement of manures, was laid over.

The bill repealing certain sections of the laws relating to schools was read a second time.

Mr. EVERETT, from a special committee, reported a bill amending the charter of the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, which was read a first time.

On motion of Mr. BILLINGSLEA leave was given the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the relief of the securities on the bond of Thompson Abell, Collector of State tax.

The City Passenger Railway bill was laid over.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at 11 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. PATTERSON. The roll was called, and the proceedings of Saturday read and approved.

Captain HOOD presented the memorial of Jas. Frazier and others, asking the passage of an act to incorporate the Fells Point Bank, which was referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Several bills of a local nature were called up for a second reading, but were informally laid over.

Dr. PHELPS obtained leave for the Dorchester county delegation to report a bill repealing certain portions of the laws relating to the Almshouse of Dorchester county.

Mr. PRICE introduced a bill to prevent the accumulation of costs in appeal cases.

Also, a bill to add a section to the law relating to attachments, which were each read a first time and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. MAGRUDER, from a select committee, reported a bill relating to the stay of execution, which was read once and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Dr. THOMAS A. CARRICO, delegate from Charles county, appeared this morning and was qualified as a member.

Mr. CRESSWELL, from the Committee on Elections, reported back the bill prohibiting the sale of liquors near the polls on election days, with a recommendation "that it do not pass."

Mr. DONALDSON moved to lay the report of the committee on the table, which motion prevailed.

Mr. MAGRUDER offered an order fixing the hour of meeting at eleven o'clock.

Dr. PHELPS moved to amend the order by making the hour of meeting ten o'clock, daily, except on Monday, when it shall be eleven o'clock, and the hour of adjournment at half-past two o'clock—which motion was lost.

The order of Mr. Magruder was then adopted, and

On motion of Mr. GIVEN the House adjourned.

HOW THE PLANTERS KEEP BACK THEIR COTTON.—Some idea of the manner in which the cotton planters conform to the recommendation of the Confederate Government to keep their cotton on their plantations, may be formed from the fact, that the receipts at New Orleans, from Dec. 24 to Dec. 28, 1861, were eight bales. The receipts for the same period, in 1860, were 33,330 bales. The entire receipts since August, 1861, have been 2,593 bales, against 933,650 for the same time last year.

The learned blacksmith, Elihu Burritt, is out with another plan to heal the national difficulties. He suggests that we form a Nations-Union, consisting of a Northern Republic, the Confederate States, and Mexico, (also Canada whenever found expedient,) and all questions affecting foreign relations are to be decided by a national Diet, which will meet at stated periods.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(Regular Session.)

In accordance with the law, the members elect to the First Branch of the City Council met yesterday afternoon at three o'clock in their chamber, J. SHAFF STOCKETT, Esq., the chief clerk of the last Branch, called the body to order.

On motion, Mr. STREETER was made temporary Chairman, when Mr. DUKEHART stated that he had been informed by the Door-keeper that he had waited on the ex-officio Mayor, who declined to furnish the test-book, because three of the members elect had refused to appear before him and qualify.

The CHAIRMAN gave as his opinion that the body was competent to judge of the eligibility of its members.

The Branch coincided in this opinion, and then proceeded to elect a President.

JOHN LEE CHAPMAN was put in nomination and unanimously elected. On taking the chair, Mr. CHAPMAN returned his thanks for the honor, and pledged a faithful and earnest discharge of the duties of the position.

The Branch then proceeded to fix the salary of the Chief Clerk. Three sums were named as the *per diem*, viz:—$4, $5, and $6, and it was fixed at $5 Andrew J. Bandel, Esq., was then elected Chief Clerk. The salary of Reading Clerk was fixed at $4 per day. George W. Brooks was then elected Reading Clerk. The salary of the Door-keeper was fixed at $2. James Maddox was elected Door-keeper.

Mr. SULLIVAN moved that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. J. Shaff Stockett, the clerk of the former Branch, and also to John B. Ray, the door-keeper, for their kindness in attending on the Branch, and also instructing the Register to pay each one day's pay. Carried.

Mr. YOUNG moved that the President of the Branch now administer the oath to the three members of the Branch who did not qualify before the Mayor.

A discussion here arose in regard to the legality of such a proceeding, when the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. SAUERWEIN renewed it, and contended that the President of the Branch was the Mayor of the city.

Mr. CROWLEY opposed the motion on the ground that the Branch was not yet organized, and would not be until information to that effect had been conveyed to the Second Branch.

Mr. STREETER objected to the transaction of any further business until the credentials of the members had been examined, and moved the appointment of a Committee on Credentials.

Mr. SAUERWEIN differed with the last gentleman and considered the votes already taken in the Branch as an acknowledgment on the part of the members of the right of each to their seats.

Mr. STREETER withdrew his motion, when

Mr. SULLIVAN offered a resolution instructing the Chief Clerk to inform the Second Branch of the organization of the First Branch. Adopted.

Mr. SULLIVAN presented an ordinance repealing the ordinance entitled an "ordinance for the preservation of the peace of the city," passed April 29th, 1861.

On motion the rules were suspended.

Mr. SAUERWEIN called for the reading of the ordinance which it was the intention to repeal. It was the ordinance directing the Mayor to prohibit the raising of flags.

The same gentleman offered to amend the ordinance of 29th of April, 1861, by inserting the words except the "National flag."

Mr. DUKEHART objected on the ground that the object to be attained by the repeal of the ordinance was to wipe it from the books; to draw black lines over it.

Mr. SAUERWEIN withdrew his amendment.

The ordinance was then passed.

Mr. DUKE moved that a committee of three be appointed to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the Second Branch, to wait upon the Acting Mayor, and inquire if he has any communication to make to the Council.

Mr. SULLIVAN objected. The Acting Mayor of the city was not the Mayor of the city. Mr. Baker had been slow in recognizing the members of the Branch, and he could see no necessity for hurry now. He was in favor of waiting until the next day.

Mr. SAUERWEIN wanted to know who was Mayor. He believed that the President of this Branch was the Mayor, and if the resolution was passed, and he was appointed on the committee, he would wait on the President of the First Branch as the Mayor. The Acting Mayor was not the Mayor, and he moved to insert in the resolution, after the words, "Mayor of Baltimore," the name "John Lee Chapman."

Mr. DUKEHART said that he was sorry to see the course which some of the members were pursuing. If this was the harmony which was to prevail, there would be a sorry time of it. It had been determined in caucus that the Acting Mayor should be waited on, and his *expose* of the last year received by the Branch. He desired that such a message should be sent to the Council, and it was due the President of the Branch that it should be made, as it would be impossible for him to make such a statement.

Mr. SAUERWEIN opposed the resolution on the grounds that it was not legal for Mr. Baker to send a message to the Council, from the fact that the moment the First Branch was organized Mr. Baker ceased to be the Mayor. If Mr. Baker is allowed to act in this particular, he can continue exercising the functions of the office indefinitely. If he is acting as Mayor now, he is doing so contrary to law, and to the injury of the interests of the loyal men of the city.

Mr. HOOPES, of the 10th Ward, held opinions similar to Mr. Sauerwein, as did also Mr. Streeter.

Mr. KIMBERLY offered a resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Branch proceed in a body to the office of the Mayor of the City, and install John L. Chapman ex-officio Mayor of the City.

Applause in the lobby.

Mr. SULLIVAN offered an amendment, appointing a committee of three to escort Mr. Chapman to the office of the Mayor, where he may assume the duties of the position.

Mr. DUKEHART opposed the resolution. He had respect for the office, and did not wish to see such a demonstration as that proposed by the resolution. He had no desire to see the twenty members of this Branch go to the Mayor's office and take possession of it, perhaps by force of arms. There is no doubt if the President of the Branch would wait upon Mr. Baker, he would willingly resign his position. Mr. Baker had evidently showed a disposition to organize the Branch, and would certainly resign his position when the President of this Branch waited on him.

The amendment of Mr. Sullivan was decided out of order, and the vote was about to be taken on the resolution of Mr. Kimberly, when he accepted the amendment of Mr. Sullivan, and the vote was taken on the appointment of the committee, and carried by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs Williams, Schwartze, Crowley, Hoopes, Streeter, Sauerwein, Sullivan, Kirkwood and Kimberly—9.

Nays—Messrs. Lamden, Young, Evans, Dukehart, Norris, Duer, Cromer and Mules—8.

The President (Mr. CROWLEY) appointed the following committee:—Messrs. Streeter, Hoopes and Sullivan.

A message was received from the Second Branch proposing five o'clock of each afternoon as the hour for the meeting of the City Council. Concurred in.

The following committees were then announced:

Ways and Means.—Messrs. Dukehart, Norris and Sauerwein.

City Property.—Messrs. Norris, Hoopes and Lamden.

Commerce.—Messrs. Crowley, Sauerwein and Kimberly.

Water.—Messrs. Duer, Cromer and Dukehart.

Highways.—Messrs. Mules, Evans and Duer.

Education.—Messrs. Streeter, Schwartze and Crowley.

Internal Improvements—Messrs. Sauerwein, Cromer and Young.

Claims.—Messrs. Hoopes, Streeter and Sullivan.

Harbor.—Messrs. Sullivan, Lamden and Burke.

Police and Jail.—Messrs. Kimberly, Burke and Williams.

Health.—Messrs. Schwartze, Norris and Kirkwood.

Fire Department.—Messrs. Young, Dukehart and Barron.

Almshouse.—Messrs. Evans, Lamden and Mules.

Bridges.—Messrs. Williams, Kirkwood and Duer.

Markets.—Messrs. Kirkwood, Barron and Mules.

McDonogh Bequest.—Messrs. Cromer, Sullivan and Hoopes

House of Refuge.—Messrs. Barron, Streeter and Schwartze.

Enrolment.—Messrs. Burke and Williams.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES.

Register's Office Accounts.—Messrs. Sauerwein, Norris and Kimberly.

Comptroller's Accounts.—Messrs. Kimberly, Crowley and Cromer.

Commissioners of Finance Accounts.—Messrs. Duer, Evans and Mules.

City Commissioners and Port Warden's Accounts.—Messrs. Lamden, Williams and Sullivan.

Commissioners of Public Schools.—Messrs. Streeter, Crowley and Young.

Health Commissioner's Accounts--Schwartze, Barron and Evans.

Commissioners of Fire Department's Accounts.—Messrs. Young, Kirkwood and Hoopes.

On Elections—Messrs. Dukehart, Duer and Norris.

The committee to conduct Mr. Chapman to the Mayor's office returned and reported that they had performed their duty, introduced him to the Acting Mayor, who received him kindly. The committee was discharged. Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—The Branch met at 3 o'clock, P. M., in accordance with the provisions of the charter.

All of the members were present except CHARLES J. BAKER, Esq, President.

On motion of Mr. GEORGE, Mr. F. W. ALRICKS took the chair.

A message was received from the First Branch announcing the organization of that body.

Mr. MILLER offered a resolution, proposing, with the concurrence of the First Branch, that 5 o'clock be fixed as the hour for daily sessions of the Council. Adopted.

A message was received from the First Branch communicating an ordinance repealing an ordinance for the preservation of the peace of the city, passed April 29, 1861. Read and laid on the table.

After waiting for some time for any communication the First Branch might have to make, Mr. DEAN moved that the Branch adjourn.

Mr. MILLER would prefer to wait a while, as he had learned that a committee had gone from the First Branch upon some mission, and he would like to hear the result, if any was to be communicated.

Mr. ROSS feared that an adjournment just now might be construed into an act of discourtesy, and no matter what were the actions of others, he desired, as the entire Branch did, to be courteous to all persons. He thought it best to wait a while.

Mr. DEAN withdrew his motion, but in about 5 minutes the First Branch adjourned, and he renewed it. The Branch then adjourned till this afternoon, at 5 o'clock

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.----FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The Senate, on coming together, after the holidays, this morning, was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. EDDY, of Chicago, Illinois, which was chaste, kindly and patriotic in tone.

Mr. NESMITH, of Oregon, presented the credentials of Benjamin Starke, as Senator from that State, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Baker, under the appointment of the Governor of Oregon.

Mr. FESSENDEN moved that the administration of the oath be suspended for the present, and that the credentials of Mr. Starke, together with certain papers which he held in his hand, be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. He had papers well attested by many of the most respectable inhabitants of Portland, Oregon, stating that Mr. Starke was understood to be an open and avowed secessionist, defending the cause of the South, and that he had given utterance to sentiments at war with the Government, such as approving the attack on Fort Sumter, and declaring that in case of war he would sell his property and go South to fight for the rebels. He (Mr. Fessenden) had examined the papers with deliberation, and therefore made the motion.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, said that there was no precedent for such a motion as that of Mr. Fessenden's. He never knew a case where Senators were refused the oath. He well recollected the course in his own case, and, that of his colleague (Mr. Fitch). A like effort was made by loose charges to keep him out of his seat, and when he looked into the matter, he found here a paper purporting to come from 180 citizens of Jefferson county, Indiana, in which they declared that he was not legally elected, that he was an open secessionist, and did not live in the State. He had looked at the names on that petition and found the most of them fit for the State prison rather than for politicians.

There never was baser falsehoods uttered than those sent to the Senate about him. He had in his pocket a paper (the New York *Herald*) in which he found himself represented as a Brigadier General in the Southern army, and his friend from Oregon (Mr. Nesmith) was put down in some equally false position. He did not know that there was any analogy between his case and that of the new Senator from Oregon, so far as the petitions are concerned, but he knew well how things of this sort could be got up for a purpose, and his own case indicated the necessity of caution here in such matters. He urged, therefore, that the gentleman from Oregon be sworn in, as a matter of justice and propriety.

Mr. FESSENDEN responded, urging that he only wished investigation, and thought the times were such as to justify the making of precedents, as that by admitting Mr. Starke to be sworn in, the already overburdened treasury would be liable to a considerable draft upon it (in mileage, &c.) He had no doubt that Mr. Bright himself would vote against the admission should the charges against Mr. Starke prove correct.

Mr. POWELL, of Delaware, urged that the matter be laid over until to-morrow, in order that time be afforded to investigate the case. In times of like excitement such as the present, he urged that it was more than ever necessary to adhere to old forms as a matter of safety, and by which the injury of prejudice may be avoided. He spoke at some length in this view.

Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, controverted the idea that no claimant for the seat had appeared here and been refused the privilege of taking the oath prior to investigation. He cited the case of Mr. Langdon, from Connecticut, in Mr. Van Buren's time, and dwelt upon other circumstances in that connection.

Mr. BRIGHT interposed, saying that in the case cited there was a contest for a seat from Connecticut, between two gentlemen. It was not that of a vacancy as in this case.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, thought this was the time to establish precedents. Here was an extraordinary case, in which a person was charged with disloyalty. We had had no such other case. He said the Senate was now engaged in an examination as to the loyalty of other members, and it became them to act in such a case as this promptly, and in advance of any other step. He was opposed to permitting Mr. Starke to take the oath until he stood purged of the allegations and suspicions against him.

Mr. BAYARD responded, and mentioned that during the war of 1812 there were Senators upon this floor who opposed the action of the Government entirely in regard to that struggle, and even at the time of the conspiracy of Aaron Burr, it was believed—that is, reported—as it appears to be in this case, that those who sympathized with that conspiracy. He thought it no worse to be against the Government in the prosecution of a civil than in a foreign war.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana, was in favor of the investigation beforehand. He said that this was an extraordinary case—none such had ever come here before, with the testimony of citizens declared to be respectable to the effect that the applicant for a seat was in effect a traitor. Already investigations were pending in regard to the loyalty of other gentlemen here, who had been permitted to occupy their seats, but this was a worse case, and he wanted no more such ones. There was no patriot, no honest man, but that condemned the present rebellion.

Mr. BRIGHT said that he was in the category of the suspected parties whose case was being investigated, and he was impatiently and fearlessly awaiting the result. The proceeding against him here rested upon three lines in a letter he had *written*, styling Jefferson Davis President of the Southern Confederacy. That same title had been given to Mr. Davis time and again on the floor of the Senate by others, and he had never heard complaint of it. He himself had said nothing and done nothing which he would not say and do again, and therefore, to those who manifested concern about him, and expressed sympathy, he would say that he neither desired their interest nor wanted their sympathy.

The matter was then, on Mr. BAYARD's motion, postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. SUMNER presented petitions from citizens of Chester and Washington counties in Pennsylvania in favor of the abolition of slavery, with compensation to loyal citizens, but none to rebels. He presented like petitions from different towns in Massachusetts and other Eastern States.

Several other Senators presented like petitions, and one also praying that bond and free be called in to assist in sustaining the national Government. Various petitions from Illinois and Iowa were presented for a national foundery at Rock Island, and one was presented from citizens of Keokuck for a like establishment at Quincy, Ill.

Mr. CARLILE, of Virginia, presented a petition from citizens of Erie county, Pa., deprecating any further discussion on the subject of slavery in either branch of Congress, as unwise, unpatriotic, fanatical and highly incendiary.

Mr. WILSON presented a petition from citizens of Lexington, Mass., asking that General Fremont may be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General. Also, from citizens of Michigan, remonstrating against the longer imprisonment of General McKinstry without charge.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, presented petitions from citizens of Iowa in favor of the employment of homeopathic physicians in the army.

A message was read from the President of the United States, communicating to the Senate the late correspondence between the Secretary of State and the British Minister on the Trent affair.

Mr. SUMNER moved that the documents be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and made the special order for Thursday next, which was adopted. In this connection Mr. SUMNER said he would only remark now that while Great Britain had been well sustained in the course she had pursued in reference to the Trent affairs, it was not only by a disregard of her own previous actions and in violation of precedents of the past on that question, but the result was a triumph of the American doctrine of international law. The subject was an important one, and he should take occasion further to express himself thereon when it again come up.

A message was received from the President covering a communication from Jos. R. Partridge, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Commissioners to the World's Fair in London, which was laid on the table.

Mr. WILSON reported back, from the Committee on Military Affairs, the bill in relation to the arrest of alleged fugitive slaves by officers of the army and navy, with a substitute therefor, as follows:

That it shall be unlawful for any officer to cause any person claimed to be held to service or labor by reason of African descent, to be seized, held, detained, delivered up to or for any person claiming such service or labor, and any officer offending shall be discharged from service and be forever ineligible to any appointment in the military or naval service.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, the Secretary of War was directed to report to the Senate by whom and by what authority Silas Seymour was appointed Brigade Sutler of the brigade commanded by Gen. Daniel E. Sickles.

On motion of Mr. COLLAMER, of Vermont, the Committee on Postoffices was instructed to inquire into the expediency of collecting a tax on the conveyance of intelligence by telegraph.

On motion of Mr. GRIMES, the Secretary of War was requested to furnish the Senate all orders and instructions and correspondence relating to the purchase of extracts of coffee for the use of the troops.

Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, introduced a joint resolution, as follows:

RESOLVED, That the President be requested to procure an exchange of the prisoners captured on the privateer Jefferson Davis, belonging to the so-called Confederate States of America, or the prisoners taken from the army of the United States, and now held by said Confederate Government as hostages, for the safety of the prisoners taken on the Jefferson Davis aforesaid.

It was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. FESSENDEN introduced a joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to permit goods warehoused at the date of the passage of the act to increase the duties on tea, coffee and sugar, approved December 24, to be withdrawn on the payment of the duties imposed by the act of the 5th August, 1861, and also authorizes the refunding of such duties or excess as have been already paid under the new act. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Finance

Mr. POWELL, of Kentucky, introduced a bill repealing all laws granting fishing bounties, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. WILSON introduced a bill to define the pay for other purposes. Referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. FOSTER, of Connecticut, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to which was recommitted the report of that committe on the credentials of Frederick P. Stanton, claiming the seat now occupied by James H. Lane, of Kansas, again reported on the subject. Mr. F. observed that the committee saw no reason to change its original views, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following:

RESOLVED, That James H. Lane is not entitled to a seat in this body.

Resolved, That Frederick P. Stanton is entitled to a seat in this body.

The bill heretofore introduced by Mr. GRIMES for establishing a national armory at Rock Island, Illinois, was taken up. It appropriates $100,000 therefor.

Mr. TEN EYCK, of New Jersey, moved to lay the bill on the table, and the vote being taken, it was found there was no quorum voting.

Mr. TRUMBULL urged that Senators who were present should vote, and said that while the friends of the bill were willing to see it laid over to another day, they objected to its being thus finally disposed of without discussion or consideration.

Again there was no quorum voting when "a call" of the Senate was suggested, but Mr. BRIGHT interposed that there was no rule for such a proceeding, and it had never been done in the Senate. The only way when a quorum was not present, was to send the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring in the absentees.

In the midst of the "lock," Mr. BRIGHT moved to adjourn, and the yeas and nays being taken the motion was rejected by one majority, a bare quorum voting.

Mr. TEN EYCK then withdrew his motion to lay the pending bill on the table, and moved that it be postponed for two weeks, which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, the bill from the House making appropriation for pensions for 1863, was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, the bill to amend the act establishing judicial districts in the United States, was taken up. This bill had been introduced by Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and reported back with amendments.

Mr. TRUMBULL explained the purposes of the bill as designed to bring Kansas and other new States, within the circuits, and equalize them. The present fourth circuit consists of Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, and it is proposed to add North Carolina thereto.

Mr. SHERMAN objected to the amendments, especially as affecting the district of Ohio, which is made, thereby, with Kentucky, to constitute the seventh circuit, whereas his original bill put Ohio, Indiana and Michigan into the seventh circuit.

The question was taken on the committee's amendments, and they were adopted—yeas 28, nays 7.

The bill was then postponed until Monday next, and the Senate went into executive session, and shortly after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. DUELL, of New York, offered the following:

RESOLVED, That the Committee on the District of Columbia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill to organize a steam fire department in the city of Washington, similar to the one established in the city of Philadelphia, and for constructing a sufficient