THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.....FIRST SESSION

SENATE

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The VICE-PRESIDENT submitted a message of the President transmitting a copy of correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Danish Charge de Affaire's and the Secretary of the Navy, concerning the case of the bark Jorgen Sorentzen, seized on her voyage from Rio de Janeiro to Havana, by the United State ship Morning Light, and subsequently released. He recommends an award for damages of $1,850. The bark had a cargo of coffee, and on the 26th Dec., 1861, she met the Morning Light, Lieut. Moore commanding, who boarded her, took possession of her papers, made no examination of the papers showing her nationality, took from the vessel the six best men of the crew, and placed Lieut. Gerand in command to take her to New York, treating the remonstrances of Capt. Reimer with rudeness. Lieut. Moore denies the statement of harsh or ungentlemanly treatment. The claim was for between $2,000 and $3,000 damages, for detention, etc. and the reason of seizure was suspicion of intention.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, of Maine, the bill for the opening of Sixth street, west in Washington, across the canal, was reconsidered.

Mr. SUMNER, of Massachusetts, presented a petition from women of Pennsylvania in favor of all persons, bond and free, uniting to put down the rebellion.

Mr. Sumner also introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Postal Committee:

BE IT ENACTED, That from and after the passage of this act, no person, by reason of color, shall be disqualified from employment in carrying the mails; and all acts establishing such disqualification, especially in the 7th section of the act of March 3, 1825, are hereby repealed.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Committee of Finance, reported the Indian appropriation bill from the House, without amendment.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN, a resolution was adopted instructing the Secretary of the Navy to communicate to the Senate a statement of all contracts made or moneys paid to Mr. Stevens on account of the construction of his floating battery.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, from the Military Committee, reported back the resolution authorizing the President to assign the command of troops in the same field or department, with an amendment striking out the clause authorizing the President to dismiss from the army any officer, at his discretion, for the good of the public service.

The amendment was agreed to, and the resolution passed.

On motion of Mr. TRUMBULL, of Illinois, the House bill to facilitate judicial proceedings and adjudications on captured property, and for the better administration of the law of prize, was taken up, amended, and passed.

Mr. HOWE, of Wisconsin, moved to take up the resolution offered by Mr. Starke, of Oregon, the day after his admission to his seat, referring the charges against his loyalty to the Judiciary Committee for investigation.

Mr. HALE said he thought the matter had been settled by the adoption of the resolution for Mr. Starke's admission.

Mr. HOWE urged that while he had voted to admit the Senator from Oregon, because he believed in his right to come in before investigation, he thought it due to the purity of the body that they now look into the matter in a proper manner.

Mr. HOWARD, of Michigan, said if the gentleman from Oregon desired it, on his own account, he was willing to let the subject occupy further the time of the Senate.

Mr. STARKE said the charges of disloyalty had been made against him, and he wished to show that he did not shrink from investigation, though it was not necessary for him to become his own prosecutor.

The subject was further discussed by Messrs. Hale, Browning, Trumbull, Harlan and others, principally as to the point whether the reasons on which the Senate had declined to prevent Mr. Starke from coming in ought to be sufficient to keep him out—all, except Mr. Hale, opposing this view.

Finally, Mr. WILKINSON, of Minnesota, moved to lay the subject on the table, which was negatived—yeas 3, nays 37—the yeas being Messrs. Howe, Hale, and Saulsbury, of Delaware.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved that the subject be referred to a special committee, instead of the Judiciary Committee, which was adopted—yeas 37, nays 3.

The Chair being so authorized, appointed the committee as follows: Messrs. Clark, Howard, Wright, Willey and Howe.

On motion of Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, an appropriation was made to furnish clothing and supplies to the sailors and men who were on board the sloop-of-war Cumberland in the late action with the Merrimac, and met with loss in the sinking of their ship.

The bill for the "release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," came up as the special order.

The pending question was on the amendment proposed by Mr. DAVIS, of Kentucky, requiring the colonization of the freed slaves outside the limits of the United States, and appropriating $100,000 therefor, to be expended by the President.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, of Wisconsin, moved to amend by making the provision apply only to those who should voluntarily wish to colonize in Liberia, etc.

Mr. HALE had the floor. He noticed the remarks of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) on this subject the other day, in regard to what would be the consequences of this Act, and declared the habit was too common to decide questions of this sort without reference to the principles of right, but rather basing action on grounds of expediency, and predictions often not realized. He read from Mr. Davis' remarks predicting that the slaves liberated in the District would become a sore, a pest, and, as paupers and criminals, a burden upon the white population, and produced a number of statistics [illegible] and productions of the British West Indies, since [illegible] not necessarily follow. He contended that the alleged depreciation in the industry and products of those Islands commenced long before emancipation, and gave figures in illustration, adding also, that more than one hundred of the estates had been abandoned before that time. He hoped the gentleman from Kentucky would find in these things an appeal to his benevolent nature in behalf of human rights, and cited the example in Russia of the Emperor upon his throne lifting the shackles from the serfs, and the other despotisms of Europe moving in the same liberal direction, as worthy of imitation here.

Mr. H. passed to the consideration of the constitutional question, and declared that for years it was admitted that Congress had power to legislate on slavery in this District. Latterly, however, a cliff-rest doctrine had been set up, and while the subject was dividing the churches, and rending the country, the Supreme Court, in its puny effort, had undertaken to say that Congress had no power to legislate upon slavery in the territories. The Court would find out yet how futile was its effort in that regard. But apart from this, he believed that the Supreme Court had said nothing as to the power of Congress over the subject in the District of Columbia. They did not think of it, perhaps, else they would have done so. We can, therefore, make the experiment of emancipation in the narrow limits of this District—at least what is left of it.

Mr. H. spoke still further, touching upon the usual points of abolition, philanthropy, and capacity of the negro if proper opportunities be afforded him, and finally cited certain passages of Scripture against the sins of nations, the duty to let the bond go free, and the good results which prophecy hath in store in that behalf. This nation, he said, had now the opportunity to put the test to the Almighty for the fulfilment of His Word. He said not this irreverently, but had confidence that the Word would be fulfilled.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, the subject was postponed, and the Senate went into Executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BLAIR, of Missouri, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the Senate bill with a substitute to increase the efficiency of the medical department of the army. The substitute proposes that ten surgeons and ten assistant surgeons be added to the present force, and further provides that Surgeon-Generals shall be equal in rank and emolument to Brigadier Generals. Pending the previous question on the passage of the bill, Mr. STEVENS moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, and take up the Tax bill. Agreed to.

The committee, after spending three or four hours over this dull and dry proceeding, rose without coming to any action thereon.

The House then adjourned.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Charlotte Levy vs. William W. Taylor, &c. Motion to amend writ and proceedings by adding name of Samson Levy as co-plaintiff and striking out names of B. F. Gardner and J. N. Sinchcomb. Allowed by the Court.

Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore vs. Thomas T. Hutchins. Judgment by confession for plaintiff.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

Hugh Downer vs. Thomas Davis. Action on promissory note. Verdict for plaintiff for $284 86.

Jacob Beaver vs. Daniel Mitten. Appeal from Shipley. Judgment reversed and judgment for appellant for $5.80 and costs.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT.—JUDGE PARSONS, TOWSONTOWN, March 18.

Richard J. Gittings, Esq., Attorney for the State.

State vs. Hackett Quinn, jointly indicted with some twenty others for rioting in Baltimore on the 19th of April last, upon the passage of Massachusetts troops through the city to Washington.

The only evidence in this case, upon the part of the State, was that the accused was seen in a crowd of some four or five thousand persons, who at the time were stoning the soldiers; but that the accused did not participate in the riot. Messrs. Wm. Pinkney Whyte and John T. Ensor, counsel for Quinn, asked the State's Attorney to abandon the case, this being the only evidence against him; but Mr. Gittings refused, upon the grounds that it had already been proven that a riot had taken place, and that the accused was identified as one of the parties in that riot.

The defence then called Messrs. Sank, Burroughs, Wilmer and others, who testified to the riot; also saw the accused there, but that he did not participate, in any way, in the tumultuous proceedings.

The case was submitted to the jury without argument, and the jury, without leaving their box, rendered a verdict of not guilty.

State vs. Peter Woolf, a private in the 2d Maryland regiment, indicted for assaulting with intent to kill his wife Elizabeth, alleged to have been committed on the 8th of January last.

The testimony in this case, on the part of the State, excels that of all others bearing on cases of this kind. The accused, being a man of powerful muscular strength, frequently took his wife up stairs, and then beat, kicked her, and tore her hair; would take her by the feet, and with all the power within him, barbarously beat her head and shoulders upon the floor. He frequently asserted that he would take her life, and on the above day, after kicking her in the breast, attempted to tear her uterus and entrails from her, when she was liberated by Constable Ewing, of the 1st district, who saved her life. There was no evidence adduced in behalf of the prisoner, and the jury, at adjournment, were out. Messrs. Bearman and Stump for the defence.

Adjourned for the day.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1861.

ANNAPOLIS, March 17.—No. 34. Nathaniel Williams and others vs. Daniel H. Banks and others.—Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore city. The argument in this case was continued by James Malcolm and St. George W. Teackle for the appellees, and by Robert J. Brent for the appellants.

ANNAPOLIS, March 18.—No. 34. Nathaniel Williams and others vs. Daniel H. Banks and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore city. The argument in this case was concluded by Robert J. Brent for the appellants.

No. 35. Horatio McPherson and others vs. Charles A. Snowden and others. Appeal from the equity side of the Superior Court of Baltimore city. The argument in this case was commenced by Robert J. Brent, for the appellants.

CITY INTELLIGENCE

THE INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH MOVEMENT.—There was quite a large attendance last night at the New Assembly Rooms, of former members of the various Methodist Episcopal church s, favorable to the organization of an Independent Methodist Church, independent of the jurisdiction of the Bishops of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After the singing of the 228th hymn, and prayer by Rev. Thomas E. Carson, Mr. J. M. Buck was requested to act as secretary. Rev. Alpheus W. Wilson said that the object of the meeting was to organize a new congregation—not a new Church, for they were unchanged in doctrine and in discipline. The position taken by the Baltimore Conference in 1861—its last session, excluding everything of a secular character from the church, and occupying a purely religious ground, was the position of those engaged in this movement. They were tired of strife and contention about matters not properly appertaining to the church. He did not deem it necessary to say anything more by way of explaining the ground they occupied, as it would be more fully stated and published to the world. A committee, composed of the following named laymen, was appointed to prepare for publication a statement of the objects had in view by the present movement: Charles J. Baker, J. M. Buck, William McConkey, J. W. Bruff, James Whiting, J. Robert Israel, Charles Towson, John R. Blake, R. W. Gale, W. O. Linthicum, S. G. Miles, J. B. Ray, William Dulaney, Leonard Passano, Dr. Dulin. The time at which the committee will report will be announced on Sunday next. Rev. E. F. Busey then announced that certificates would be received from those persons desiring to unite with the proposed new congregation. A goodly number handed in certificates, and others gave their names. The most convenient points for holding the various "classes" were then called for, and will be hereafter announced. The meeting closed with singing and prayer.

In connection with this it is proper to say that the congregation of Chatsworth church refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the Conference recently in session in Light street Methodist Episcopal church, and have organized themselves into an independent congregation, and have retained as their pastor Rev. John A. Williams, who was appointed to that charge by the Baltimore Conference, in session at Staunton, Virginia, in March, 1861. A meeting will be held to-night at the rooms of the Northwestern Young Men's Christian Association, on Biddle street, for the purpose of organizing another Independent Methodist congregation.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—Shortly before 12 o'clock on Monday night fire was discovered in the four-story brick buildings in the rear of Nos. 90 and 92 North Howard street, fronting on Lerew's alley, owned and occupied as workshops by Mr. Robert Renwick. An alarm was immediately sounded, and in a short time steam engine No. 1 was on the spot and at work; but, in consequence of the combustible nature of the contents of the buildings, the flames rapidly spread through the four stories, and the entire Fire Department was called out. Before the flames were subdued, a loss of several thousand dollars had been sustained on buildings, material, etc. A stable attached was also burned, and three horses, valued at $250 each, were lost—one of them being burned to death, and the other two suffocated. The losses on the workshops and stock is estimated at $6,000, upon which Mr. Renwick holds a policy of insurance for $4,300 in the Lynchburg (Va.) office. The front house, No. 92 Howard street, was damaged to the extent of $100, which is covered by a policy of insurance in the Firemen's office in this city. House No. 90, Howard street, was also slightly damaged. This house is insured in the Equitable office. The origin of the fire is in doubt. Mr. Renwick attributes it to an incendiary, while Col. Byrd, Fire Inspector, supposes it to have been accidental.

Between three and four o'clock yesterday morning another fire broke out in the four-story brick house No. 480 West Franklin street. The house was unoccupied, and was entirely destroyed. It was owned by Wm. L. Torbert, and was insured in the Baltimore Insurance office for $1,500. The flames from this house communicated to the four-story brick dwelling adjoining, No. 482, owned by Ernest Cook. The damage to this building is estimated at $500, which is believed to be covered by insurance. The Fire Inspector attributes this fire to incendiarism.

COURTS GOT OUT.—Thomas Joice, a private in the 5th Light Infantry regiment, Colonel George W. Wagner, was yesterday before Judge Giles, of the United States District Court, in chambers, on a writ of *habeas corpus* issued upon the petition of his mother, Mary Joice, who alleged that he was a minor at the time of his enlistment in the regiment, and that he enlisted without her consent or approval. After hearing the evidence in the case of Colonel Wagner, as the allegations in the petition, and considering the evidence before the Court.

THEFT OF A WATCH.—On Monday night a man named Henry Bevans was arrested on the charge of stealing a silver watch, the property of a man named William Stone. Both the parties named were boarding at the house of Mr. John Leonard, No. 33 Centre Market Space, and during the evening Bevans entered the room occupied by Stone and took the watch, together with some wearing apparel. He was committed to jail for Court.

POLICE COMMISSIONERS.—The Board of Police Commissioners, consisting of Ex-officio Mayor Chapman, Nicholas L. Woods and Samuel Hindes, Esqs., are actively engaged in preparing the details of the police system under the law passed by the Legislature at its recent session. On Thursday next they will take charge of the present police force, but it will not be continued as a permanent organization.

A FIGHT IN A STATION HOUSE.—Joseph Graham and John Scott, while confined in the Southern police station on Monday night, got to fighting about politics, when Graham cut one of the eyes of Scott in a horrible manner. The injured man was attended by Dr. J. C. Carter, the physician of the Southern Dispensary. Graham was arraigned before Justices Showacre, who sent him to jill in default of bail to answer the charge at Court.

ROBBERY AT A FIRE.—During the progress of the fire on Monday night in the workshops of Mr. Renwick, on Lerew's alley, the front building, on Howard street, occupied as a dwelling, was entered by a thief who stole from a chamber the gold watch and chain of Robert Renwick, Jr. An overcoat, a pair of boots and other articles were taken from the counting-room. On account of the confusion which prevailed at the time, the thief was enabled to escape.

A DESERTED CHILD.—A little boy apparently about five years of age, who gave his name as John Connolly, was yesterday arrested by a policeman in the Western district, who observed him begging. The little fellow stated that his mother had for some time past been confined in jail for drunkenness, and that his father, who is a fisherman, and also dissipated, had gone off from home and left him to beg his bread. Justice Logan sent the boy to the Almshouse.

THEFT.—Yesterday evening a negro boy named William H. Smith, a servant in Guy's Hotel, was arrested on the charge of stealing $120, the property of a gentleman named Low, who is boarding there. The money was in a trunk, the lock of which was forced, and it abstracted. Justice Nails committed the boy for Court.

RESIGNATION.—Rev. R. S. Vinton, on account of ill health, resigned the pastorship of the Jefferson Street M. E. Church, to which he was assigned at the meeting of the East Baltimore Conference, and Rev. George Cooper has been appointed to fill the position.

Amusements.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—The performances of Dan. Rice's Circus at the Holliday Street Theatre for the past two nights have been witnessed by crowded and delighted audiences. The performances of the Rolland Brothers are extraordinary, and the riding of Miss Zyara intrepid and wonderful in the extreme. The trained horses and educated mules are an attractive feature in the entertainment. Of the wit and humor of the well known Rice it is needless for us to speak. There is to be a performance at half-past two o'clock this afternoon, to which the attention of ladies and children is particularly called.

FRONT STREET THEATRE.—The excellent combination which is now performing at Front Street Theatre, is attracting large and appreciative audiences. To-night *Hamlet* will be given with a cast which has not been equalled in this city for years. Mr Davenport's Hamlet is a creation of which he may well be proud, and to which a discriminating public has given its seal of approbation.

BALTIMORE MUSEUM.—Kunkel's excellent troupe of Nightingales appear this evening in a new and diversified entertainment, one teeming with fun and wit, and rich with the rarest musical gems. On Saturday afternoon next the Company will give a monster concert at the Maryland Institute, one much more amusing than that of last Saturday. Children will be admitted for the nominal sum of ten cents.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH.—The Branch met at 5 o'clock.—Present WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President *pro tem.*, and all the members.

Mr. KIMBERLY presented a report from the Committee on Police and Jail, with a resolution granting permission to Thomas W. Griffin to extend a sign three feet in front of his premises, No. 170 Broadway. Adopted.

Mr. SULLIVAN offered a resolution appropriating $120 to pay the expenses of the committee of the Council who visited Annapolis relative to amendments to the Code. Adopted.

Mr. YOUNG called up the resolution granting permission to Charles Shipley to continue in use certain flues.

Mr. CROMER opposed the adoption of the resolution. He stated that Mr. Shipley asserted in his petition to the Council, that he was a "law-abiding citizen," which was a lie, as he was the Great Mogul of rebels.

Mr. SAUERWEIN moved to lay the subject on the table. Carried.

Mr. EVANS called up the resolution appropriating $50 for pruning the trees in Madison Square. Adopted.

Mr. BURNS called up the resolution authorising the City Comptroller to have gas mains laid on Harford avenue, between Biddle street and Point Lane. Referred to the City Comptroller.

Mr. SAUERWEIN presented the report of the joint select committee on the Register's accounts. Laid on the table.

Mr. BURNS offered a resolution relative to improving the condition of the foot walks on Greenmount avenue.

Mr. DUERHART called up the ordinance fixing the salary of the Mayor for the ensuing year at $2,500. Passed.

Mr. BARNON offered a resolution inquiring of the Health Commissioner whether the condition of Chatsworth Run is detrimental to health. Adopted.

Adjourned.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met. Chas J. Baker, Esq., President, in the chair, and all the members present.

A resolution adverse to the petition of John Swang and others, asking a reduction of the license on bagatelle tables, was received from the First Branch and concurred in.

Also, a resolution appropriating $12,000 to the House of Refuge.

Also, a resolution authorizing the payment of $500 to I. Nevitt Steele for past services as counsel for the city, in the Holliday street opening case, in the Superior Court; and retaining him as counsel in the same matter, in the Court of Appeals, at a fee of $500.

Mr. ROBB called up the resolution to pay W. T. Marshall, architect of the new City Hall, $5,500 for his services in full. Adopted.

Mr. DEAN, from the Committee on Police and Jail, presented a report with a resolution allowing S. Ayres to extend a sign in front of his premises on Block street. Adopted.

Mr. MAUREN presented a resolution requesting the City Commissioners to inform this Branch whether they are having, or have had, repairs made on certain paved streets or highways, sewers or flag stones; and if so, by whose authority, and what prices have they contracted to pay for said work. Adopted.

Mr. ROBB called up the ordinance granting certain privileges to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in connection with their track on Howard street. After some amendment it was adopted.

Mr. Robb called up the ordinance providing for the re organization of the Water Board. After some amendment it was adopted.

The Branch then adjourned till this afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

[*Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.*]

MEETING OF THE 34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

FOURTH DAY.

CHESTERTOWN, March 15th, 1862.

The anniversary of the Home Missionary Society was held last evening at 7½ o'clock, the Rev. Wm. T. Wright in the chair. The Rev. H. P. Jordan presented a constitution and by-laws for the government of said society, in accordance with the charter. The society proceeded to elect a President, twelve Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a board of eight Managers, after which Rev. Dr. Swentzel (the Speaker for the evening) made an impressive speech on the nature, importance and success of missionary operations. The Rev. P. L. Wilson delivered a personal appeal to the liberality of the congregation, and several life members were made, and a collection was taken up, amounting in the aggregate to over two hundred dollars.

This morning the Conference met at the usual hour, when religious services were conducted by Dr. A. S. Eversole.

The minutes of the preceding day were read and adopted.

The different committees then made their reports, which were received and taken up in order.

The Rev. Dr. P. Waters, Chairman of the Committee on Book Concern and Colleges, made a very able and fine report respecting the Book Concern and Methodist paper at Baltimore. The committee sympathized very deeply in the death of the late *able, talented and energetic editor* of said paper, expressing their kind obligations to the book directory for their efficient gratuitous services, and highly approving the conservative character of the paper, under the management of the editorial committee, confining itself to its legitimate sphere in disseminating a true religious literature and theology. They recommend as much retrenchment in the expense of said paper as possible, and that some definite plan be adopted by this Conference to extend the circulation of the paper, and awaken a true interest in the same by the membership and community.

The Rev. Dr. H. F. Zollikoffer, a committee on the constitution of the Superannuated Fund Society, made a report recommending several important changes in the original constitution of said society. The Conference is progressing very finely; there is but one voice and feeling among its members, viz: to attend to the legitimate duties of the Conference and let the nation settle its own affairs; the community is beginning to appreciate the conservatism of this intelligent body. A resolution offered by Dr. Zollikoffer for looking to the more efficient distribution of superannuated fund moneys, was referred to a special committee of three.

Dr. Zollikoffer made a report as Treasurer of the Superannuated Fund Society. The report referred to the derangement of the country as affecting the monied interests of said society, its inability to collect ground rents, and the fact that the railroad companies have made no dividends, and the funds of the society have suffered in consequence. On motion the report of the Missionary Committee was taken up, and said report recommends the continuance of Rev. Washington as a mission; adopted. 2. That Broadway be continued; adopted. 3. That West Baltimore be continued; adopted. 4. That three appointments be taken from Warwick circuit and be made a mission, as a mission. 7. Frederick was continued. The appropriation to the above missions was one thousand dollars.

On motion, Carlisle was continued as a mission. The report of the Committee on Boundaries of Circuits was resumed, and several changes were made, and Conference at 12½ o'clock adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2½ P. M. Conference was opened with religious services by Rev. Dr. A. S. Eversole.

Rev. D. H. Sherman, Chairman of the Committee on Unfinished Business, made a report which was received and adopted.

Rev. John R. Nickols, Chairman of the Committee on Orders, made a report, which was received and adopted, as follows: Rev. W. E. Hyson, Joseph R. Mills, Henry Nice, Robert Whuing, J. W. Charlton, G. W. Barns, and J. B. Jones, were all voted to Deacon's orders. Rev. C. T. Cotchel and Webster M. Strayer were voted to Elder's orders.

The plan of the committee on the examination of the young men for orders was ordered to be printed in the minutes, so as to govern and control their action in the future.

Rev. D. E. Reese, Chairman of the Superannuated Fund Committee, made their report, and Rev. E. Hinkle, Rev. J. Vanden, Rev. R. T. Boyd and Rev. T. M. Wilson, were severally recognized as superannuated ministers, with an appropriation from the fund for their support. The widows of several deceased ministers were all recognized as beneficiaries on the superannuated fund.

Rev. T. L. McLean was recognized as a superannuated minister, but no appropriation, according to his own request.

On motion, resolved, that the ordination of Elders be in Christ Church at 11 o'clock, A. M., and the Deacons at 7½ P. M.

Conference adjourned.

THE CONFEDERATE PLANS FOR A SPRING CAMPAIGN.

The Baltimore correspondent of the New York *Herald*, under date of March 16, says:—

I have been put in possession to-day of the following additional facts in regard to the present position and probable movements of the late Confederate army of the Potomac. If true, as I have every reason to believe, they show that that army, nearly 175,000 strong, has been withdrawn to a line that can be defended, for two weeks at least, with half its force, while the other half is to be used for active and immediate offensive operations. It is stated here, on good authority, that a week before the evacuation proper had commenced, Gen. Jos. E. Johnston had detached twenty five thousand of his best troops by railroad to Suffolk and Weldon, in order to co-operate with another Confederate army, near the latter place, in an attack on Gen. Burnside; and that after the evacuation, and after seeing his troops in the proper position on the new defensive line, Gen. Johnston went down to Weldon to take command of this movement, leaving the command of the army on the Rapidan to Gen. Gustavus Smith. It is also said here that, while the Merrimac is the largest, she is by no means the only vessel of the kind, or the most effective one, that [illegible] that they have no less than eight of these impenetrable sea-monsters nearly ready, and that in a few days they will set sail in company, and inflict a blow upon the North which will entirely change the present aspect of the war. It is asserted positively that the Merrimac is not at all injured, but that she is being fitted with additional apparatus, which will enable her to carry off the Monitor as a prize.

In spite of all that has been said to the contrary, the Confederates are amply able to maintain their second line of defence along the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers, against the advance of the Union army. They have 100,000 troops distributed along this line, as follows:—5,000 at the upper ford of the Rapidan, where the road from Front Royal and Manassas Gap to the town of Orange (through Madison) crosses that stream; 20,000 at the junction of the same stream with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and at the second ford, immediately below; 5,000 at the town of Orange; 5,000 at Gordonsville; 10,000 at a point on the Rapidan, seven miles northeast of the railroad bridge at the junction just named, where the road from Warrenton to Louisa (through Culpeper) crosses the stream on a wooden bridge; 5,000 at Germania, where the road from Rappahannock to Bowling Green crosses the Rapidan; 5,000 at Ely's ford, four miles from the mouth of the north branch of the Rappahannock; 5,000 at Falmouth; 20,000 at Fredericksburg; 10,000 in front of Newport, and 10,000 at Port Royal. All these compose part of the late army of the Potomac.

The principal fortifications along the rivers are at the points named above. The most extensive are those at Fredericksburg. On these works the labor of a thousand blacks and five thousand soldiers was expended from the middle of May till the 25th of July last. They are now mounted with part of the guns brought from the Potomac river batteries, and it is said that the gunners are sheltered by casemates. The right bank of the river, between Fredericksburg and Port Royal consists of high bluffs, averaging from fifteen to thirty feet high, and for the most part with nearly precipitous sides. The river is five or six hundred feet wide and sixteen to twenty feet deep. It is, therefore, not to be supposed that the Union army could cross between those two points, particularly as the engineers of the Confederate army have crowned these bluffs with several strong batteries.

For miles around Bowling Green, too, and between that place and Port Royal, the nature of the ground is such (being filled with deep swamps and morasses) that no army could move there. Higher up the river, between Germania and Fredericksburg, there is a series of deep ravines, running at right angles with the stream, the intervening ridges being covered with stunted pines. Among or along these ravines artillery cannot operate, and without artillery the Union army cannot move. From Germania to the head waters of the Rapidan, and for a distance of from three to five miles south of the stream, the country is an exact counterpart of that just southwest of Washington, namely, ranges of high hills, thickly wooded, and with ravines or passes between.

The natural defences of the line above indicated have been improved to the utmost by the Confederate generals, who, for months past, have contemplated the moment when they would be compelled to abandon Manassas.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Committee of Arbitration for the month of March.

WM. J. ALBERT, SAM'L BEVAN,
CHAS. A. GAMBRILL, CHAS. J. BAKER,
G. OLIVER O'DONNELL.

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, March 18, 1862.

There is nothing whatever to report in State securities to-day. There were no bids for any stocks under this head. City stocks were pretty much in the same state; there were no sales reported; for 6's, 1875, 97¾ was bid, 98 asked, and for 1890, old issue, 97 was bid, 97¾ asked. In Railway Bonds there were no transactions; for Baltimore and Ohio 6's, inscribed, 1862, 68 was asked, but there were no bidders; do. do., 1885, 87 was bid, 90 asked; for Northwestern Virginia, first mortgage, guaranteed by the city, 89 was asked, without bidders; do., second mortgage, guaranteed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, 78 was bid, without finding sellers; for Northern Central 6's, 1885, 73¾ was bid, 74 asked; for Central Ohio 7's, 1901, first mortgage on Western Division, 72 was bid; do. do. second mortgage, 60 was bid, 65 asked; for Western Maryland 6's, 1890, guaranteed by the city, 90 was asked; do. do., not guaranteed, 60 bid 63 asked. In Railway Shares we notice the sale of 8 shares Baltimore and Ohio at $66, a decline of $1 on yesterday's rates; 25 shares Northern Central, seller's option 30 days, at $21¾, and 50 do., regular way, at $22; the closing rates were, for Baltimore and Ohio, regular way, $65 bid, $67 asked, at seller's option 60 days, the same rates were bid and asked. There was a sale of 50 shares Canton Company at $14¾; closing at $14¾ bid, $15 asked. We notice a sale of 10 shares Farmers and Merchants' Bank stock at $30. In Mining stocks there is but little change to notice. There was a sale of 100 shares Rudisell at 85 cts, closing at 10 cts. more asked; and 500 shares Gardner Hill at $1 25, and 500 shares Springfield at $2.25, the latter closing at 10 cts. more asked. In Bank and Insurance stocks we have no change to notice.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

TUESDAY, March 18, 1862.

10 shares Farmers and Merchants' Bank.....36
8 shares Balt. & Ohio Railroad stock.....60
50 shares Northern Central Railroad.....22
25 do. do. do. do. s60.....21¾
50 shares Canton Co.....14¾
500 shares Springfield Mining Co.....2.25
500 shares Gardner Hill Mining Co.....1.25
100 shares Rudisell Mining Co.....85

The following are the rates at which the Baltimore Brokers are buying and selling Gold and Treasury notes:

	BUYING.	SELLING.
Gold	1 per ct prem.	1¼ per ct. prem.
Treasury notes.1-16 " " dis.		par.

PRICES AND SALES OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK, BY TELEGRAPH,

Through WILLIAM FISHER & SON, Stock and Bill Brokers, No. 27 South street,

	1st Board.	2d Board.
Virginia 6's.....	00	60
Missouri 6's.....	53¾	53¾
Tennessee bonds.....	60¾	60¾
North Carolina bonds.....	70	70
American gold.....	101¾	00
Canton Company.....	14	00
Erie Railroad.....	37	37¾
New York Central Railroad.....	83¾	83¾
Reading Railroad.....	42¾	42¾
Rock Island.....	00	00
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents..	00	00

steady. firm.

The New York *Herald* of yesterday says:

The stock market was dull to day, without much change in prices. United States 6's, coupons, jumped up this morning to 94, but were offered afterwards, without buyers, at 93¾. Every fresh advance brings out some bonds from the banks for sale, and the rise from 86 to 93¾, in the face of this steady supply, shows how much capital there is in the country seeking investment, and how perfect the confidence is in the securities of the government. Virginias declined 2 per cent. to day, Tennessees ¼, and Missouris ⅛. The leading railway shares were about the same as on Saturday evening; but the Western shares, like those of the Michigan roads, Galena and Toledo, were ¼@½ lower. There are indications that a bear party is being formed to operate in these securities, especially Toledo, Galena and Rock Island. The earnings of the roads continue handsome. The market closed dull.

The following is a comparative statement of the condition of the banks of New York city from March 8 to March 15:

	March 8.	March 15.	
Loans.....	$153,095,148	$153,022,776	Dec. 2,472,372
Specie.....	31,436,411	31,723,350	Inc. 326,406
Circulation.....	5,809,206	5,804,868	Inc. 35,063
Deposits.....	103,715,728	130,334,034	Dec. 3,385,690

The Philadelphia *Press* of yesterday says:

Stocks were inactive to-day, without any marked falling off in prices. Philadelphia and Erie 6's fell off ¼, selling at 93¾; City 6's were dull, the new selling to a limited amount, at 97, and the old issue at 91½. United States Twenty 7 3-10 notes sold at par and at 99⅞, and the coupon 6's at 93¾; American gold brought 1¼ per cent. premium.

The following is the weekly statement of the Philadelphia banks for the week ending March 17, as compared with the previous week:

	March 17.	March 10.	
Capital stock.....	$11,970,190	$11,970,190	
Loans.....	28,725,855	28,083,720	Inc. 640,036
Specie in other banks..	9,842,898	8,828,870	Inc. 17,161
Deposits.....	17,253,461	17,075,771	Dec. 122,310
Circulation.....	2,632,672	2,575,863	Inc. 57,109

BALTIMORE MARKETS

TUESDAY, March 18,

COFFEE.—The market has been very quiet to day, and we are unable to hear of transactions. We quote common to prime Rio at 19@21 cts; Laguayra at 22@23 cts; Java at 26@27 cts., and Ceylon at 24 cts. The stock on hand is about 26,000 bags Rio. Of other descriptions the stock is very light.

FLOUR.—There is no improvement whatever in the Flour market, and prices remain unchanged. Holders of Howard Street and Ohio Super are still asking $5.37½ per bbl; standard City Mills Super may be quoted at $5.25; shipping brands of Ohio and Howard Street at $5.75@5.87½, and standard City Mills do. at $6.25. The stock in first hands is very light.

FAMILY FLOUR.—Family Flour continues to sell by the dray load to the trade at $8.25 for the best brands Baltimore, and $6.25@6.50 per bbl for Ohio and Howard Street. Baltimore high grade Extra is bringing $7.75 per bbl by the dray load.

RYE FLOUR AND CORN MEAL.—Rye Flour is still quoted at $3.87½, and Corn Meal at $3.62½@3.12½ per bbl, for both Baltimore and Brandywine, the market for both being very dull.

GRAIN.—There was but little animation in the Grain market to-day, and prices remain about the same. The entire offerings at the two marts footed up only 20,163 bushels. Of this amount 8,103 bushels were offered at the Baltimore Corn Exchange, viz: 1,920 bushels Wheat, 5,283 bushels Corn, 600 bushels Oats, and 300 bushels Rye. There was nothing done in Wheat. In Corn we notice sales of 2,200 bushels white at 57 cts; 1,400 bushels do. at 56 cts; 150 bushels do. at 54 cts; 300 bushels do. at 55 cts; 500 bushels yellow do. at 57 cts; 1,300 bushels do. do. at 56 cts, and 100 bushels do. do. at 54 cts. In Rye and Oats there were no transactions, and prices remain about the same as yesterday. At the Maryland Exchange the offerings were 12,010 bushels, viz: 2,255 bushels Wheat; 8,155 bushels Corn, 1,170 bushels Oats, and 540 bushels Rye. The sales of Wheat embraced only 100 bushels at 144 cts., and 120 bushels do. do. at 140 cts. There was nothing done in white Corn. In yellow we notice the sale of 1,500 bushels at 56 cts, and 215 bushels at 55 cts. There were sales of 100 bushels Maryland Oats at 36 cts; 200 do. at 25 cts., and 270 bushels do. do inferior at 33 cts. There were no sales of Rye, and we quote as before, viz: 74@76 cts. for Pennsylvania, and 69@71 cts. for Maryland.

MOLASSES.—There is but little doing in Molasses. We quote Cuba Muscovado at 22@26 cts; do. clayed, sour and sweet, 20@24 cts.; Porto Rico 29@35 cts; and New Orleans at 50@52 cts.

PROVISIONS.—There is some little inquiry for Provisions to day, but so far as we can hear there have been no transactions. We continue to quote Mess Pork at $13.50 @14 per bbl. for heavy; Prime Mess at $12.50@13; Prime at $10.50@11, and Rump at $9.50 per bbl. There are lines to be a good demand for Bacon in jobbing lots: we quote it at 6⅝@6¾ cts. for shoulders, 6¾ cts. for Sides, and 7@9 cts. for Hams. Beef is firm at $12.50 per bbl. for Baltimore No 1; $15@16 for Mess do., and $17 per bbl. for Extra Mess. The market is steady for Bulk Meats at 4¾@4¾ cts. for Shoulders, 5⅜ cts. for Sides, and Hams 5¾@5¾ cts. per lb. Western Lard in bbls. and tierces may be quoted at 8¾@8¾ cts; do in kegs, regular packages, 9@9¼ cts; City rendered Leaf at 8¾ cts., and refined at 9¾@10 cts per lb.

RICE.—The market is entirely bare of Rice. We quote nominally at 7@7¾ cts. for fair to prime Carolina.

SALT.—Liverpool Salt is still selling at the following rates, viz: 120