CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE ST. VINCENT INFANT ASYLUM.—Among the many charities which are the pride of our city, there is none which commends itself to the favor of the community with greater force than the St. Vincent Infant Asylum, situated at the corner of Division and Townsend streets. It is a charity which has grown into existence on individual benevolence alone, never having received a penny from either State or City. It was established in 1856 and incorporated in 1857. The building which is occupied is a large four-story brick, containing twenty-five capacious rooms, located in an elevated and healthy position, and is most admirably adapted to the wants of the Institution. At present there are fifty-four inmates, none of whom are over six years of age, and some are babies of a few months and some only a few days old. The kindness, the care and the devotion which the good Sisters who have the Institution in charge, manifest in their work of mercy, is well calculated to endear them to the little ones, and also to the generous community which has fostered and warmed into existence the noble charity. All sects and creeds can take advantage of the benefits and blessings of the Institution. It is only necessary for the Sisters to know that the infant is fatherless and motherless or destitute, and the doors are opened for its admittance. Frequently some heartless mother places her offspring on the steps of the Institution, leaving it to the tender mercy of the noble women who have devoted their lives to this good work. Many have been taken in this manner, and are now happy and bright, and no doubt better for the change. During the past winter the health of the children has been excellent. With the exception of a few colds, no disease has existed. Dr. P. E. Chatard is the attending physician. He gives his services gratis, and through winter's cold and summer's heat, through storm and sunshine, at mid-day and at the noon of night, he waits upon the little sufferers, and tends them with the skill of a physician and the tenderness of a woman. The superior Sister, Arsenia, is completely wedded to the cause, and watches over her flock of little ones with a mother's devotion and a Christian's care. The exhibition of affection on the part of the children for this Sister is most marked, and is the fact for all the Sisters, proving conclusively that the means employed in their government tends to the creation of the strong as blood itself. Each child is provided with a crib, the bedclothing of which is snowy white. They are arranged side by side, and at half-past six o'clock [the little ones are put to bed; at five o'clock in the morning the Sisters awake them from their slumbers—dress them, give them religious instructions, and then they are allowed to play until the breakfast hour. After breakfast they are instructed in ordinary lessons. They have taught them a dozen or more hymns, which they sing with their lisping tongues with a sweetness that touches every sympathy and awakens a feeling which can only find a true expression in tears. During the past year the donations to the Institution have not been as liberal as previously, and consequently the Sisters are much restricted in their labors. For the purpose of raising means they have manufactured, and had presented to them, a large quantity of children's clothing, which they have for sale. Persons who desire to purchase clothing of this character should visit the Asylum in preference to other places, where they can be suited at the cheapest rates. The money thus expended will be devoted to one of the noblest charities that ever blessed a Christian community. There is a small house, two feet high, containing nine rooms, in the possession of the Sisters, which they desire to dispose of. It is a splendid toy, and any person who may have the means can make no better use of them than to purchase it. The benevolent of the community, and there is no city in which there are more, should make it a point to visit this Institution, feeling assured that they will return happier and with increased confidence in humanity. Among the many who have interested themselves in his success is Mr. John Manly, of the Eutaw House. From its organization he has been untiring in his efforts for its prosperity. It is the intention of the Sisters to give a Floral Exhibition and Festival as soon as arrangements can be made. Persons who may desire to contribute, to insure its success, either money, flowers, or any articles, can do so by leaving it or them at the Asylum. Certainly the charitable will not allow this occasion to pass without exhibiting that virtue without which all others are but "sounding brass and tinkling cymbals."

THE CONTRACTORS OF THE ALMSHOUSE.—On yesterday afternoon, in response to a resolution adopted by the First Branch, the City Comptroller sent the following communication, which was read and referred:

I would respectfully state that a settlement has been made in full with the contractor for the stone foundation work and materials. Amount paid $13,936 15. The contractor for the lumber, hardware, and carpenter's work, has been paid; and two requisitions from the building committee, one dated February 14, 1861, amounting to $2 441 33, less 21 per cent., was paid—$1,955 47. The other dated April 3d, 1861, for $1,525 00, less 20 per cent—amount paid $1,220. The amount paid on the above requisitions $3,175.47, leaving a balance due the contractor of $79 86. There has not been anything paid to any other contractor. The following will show the amount of the contracts for the different kinds of work, and the contractors to whom the work was awarded. The contract for lumber, hardware, iron work and carpenter work, was awarded to James R. Gill for $62,679. The brick work, lime, sand, &c., to George Rittenhouse for $37,350.84. The foundation, stone work and materials, was given to John T. Bishop at $4.70 per perch. The granite work and everything connected therewith was awarded to John B. Emory for $12,362 16. The slating and materials to Cyrus Gault & Bro., for $3,972 68. The plastering to Edwin T. Morris for $8,278. The contract for plumbing, including water closets and gutters to roof to Collins, Heath & Hutchinson for $3,456 00. The above contractors all bonded and the bonds are now in possession of the undersigned. The contractor for the painting, Solomon Marsh, failed to bond, and I have no doubt the Building Committee, who had entire control of the building, notified him that he had forfeited his contract.

The following shows the aggregate amount of the contracts:

James R Gill	$62,679 00
George R Rittenhouse	37,350 84
John T. Bishop	12,362 16
John B. Emory	13,936.15
Edwin S Morris	8,278.00
Cyrus Gault & Bro	3,972.68
Collins, Heath & Co	3,456.00
Total	$162,034 83

The City Register, in response to a resolution of a similar character, sent a communication stating that the following were the amounts expended:—For the grounds, $20,738.44; for work and material, $41,499.42; total, $62 237.86; due the Register for money advanced, $8 524 62; bills payable, $5,300; total, $13,824 63. This amount will be due on the 18th of June. There is in the hands of the Register, $50,000 Baltimore county bonds, to be appropriated for the erection of the buildings.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Yesterday morning, Mr. Wm. Nicholson, an attache of Adams & Company's Express, was accidentally killed on the Philadelphia and Wilmington Railroad, at a point eleven miles from the city. He was standing at the side of the baggage car, when in turning a curve he was thrown from the car, and fell to the ground with such violence as to be instantly killed. His remains were brought to the city and taken to his home on Central avenue near McElderry street, and will be interred to-day. He was connected with Adams' Express for ten years past, and was one of their trustworthy employes. He was universally beloved, and hosts of friends will regret his death. He was not married.

GOVERNMENT SALE OF HORSES.—Messrs. Adreon & Co., auctioneers, yesterday sold at the Cattle Show Grounds, Charles street avenue, a lot of one hundred and six horses, which had been condemned by inspectors as unfit for Government use. The sale was well attended and the bidding was quite animated. They were sold at prices ranging from $92 down to $20, as follows: Fourteen at from $20 to $29; thirty-six at from $30 to $39; twenty-eight at from $40 to $49; eleven at from $50 to $59; ten at from $60 to $69; six at from $70 to $77, and one at $92. The sales amounted in the aggregate to $4,782 50. Another lot will be sold to-day.

ACCIDENT AT LOCUST POINT.—On Monday afternoon last, a train of empty cars, which was standing on the main track of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Locust Point, forced some of the brakes, and rushing down the track with considerable rapidity ran into a shed used for storing freight, and seriously damaged it. Several laborers were on the train at the time, all of whom escaped with slight bruises, save William Turner, who was painfully injured about the head and breast. A physician was summoned to his aid, and he was removed to his residence at Locust Point.

PAINFULLY INJURED.—Mr. John Bell, a master stonecutter, had his right foot painfully crushed on Monday last by a block of marble falling upon it from the front of a house on Eutaw Place. His injury was dressed by Dr. Greentree. He was subsequently removed to his residence.

THE BALTIMORE GYMNASIUM.—The exhibition at the Baltimore Gymnasium last night was attended by an appreciative audience. The performance of the members exhibited great proficiency in the art of muscular development.

ARREST FOR UTTERING TREASONABLE LANGUAGE.—On Monday afternoon Capt. J. T. Gray was arrested on the charge of uttering treasonable language. He was confined in the Central police station, where he awaits an examination.

BEATING HIS WIFE.—John Eichelberger was yesterday before Justice Shwacre upon the charge of beating his wife. He was committed to jail in default of bail to answer.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

State of Maryland *vs.* the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike Company. Motion in arrest of judgment argued. Not concluded.

CITY CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE KREBS.

McKim *vs.* McKim. Before reported. Argument concluded.

U. S. CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* the sloop Velms. Libelled as a prize. Decree of condemnation and sale.

Same *vs.* sloop Wren. Libelled as a prize. Decree of condemnation and sale.

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND.

DECEMBER TERM, 1861.

ANNAPOLIS, May 6.—No. 30. Russell *vs.* Myers. Appeal from the Court of Common Pleas. Appeal dismissed per order filed.

No. 72. Malcolm & Brown *vs.* Wilkins *et al.* Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore city.—*Stetted* per agreement filed.

No. 10. (Social docket.) Goldsborough S. Griffith *vs.* Margaret C. Clarke *et al.* Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore city. This case was argued by John H. Thomas for the appellant and by Thomas B. Shipley and George H. Williams for the appellees.

AN HONEST CONFESSION.—The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*, a leading Republican paper, says:

"The tone of morality here is considerably lower than it ever has been before. This is admitted on all hands, and can be proved, or rather needs no proof, for the air is heavy with public and private guilt. A few years ago a high Austrian official, whose peculations were discovered, applied the lancet to his veins, and another similarly situated hanged himself. There is no such sense of shame now. Any coroner's jury in Washington would find a verdict of insanity for such conduct, and the verdict would be accepted in good faith. The community, as a class, had a very nice sense of honesty so far as the public treasury was concerned.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.----FIRST SESSION

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Petitions were presented asking the same privileges to Democratic papers through the mails as to other papers and in favor of a general bankrupt law.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, submitted a resolution calling on the Secretary of War to communicate the official reports of all the officers of the commands engaged in the battle at Pittsburg Landing on the 6th, 7th and 8th days of April.

Mr. WILKINSON, of Minnesota, introduced a bill to protect the property of Indians who have adopted the habits of civilized life. Referred.

The Homestead bill came up as the order for the morning hour.

The proposed amendment of Mr. Carlile for allowing soldiers to select 160 acres of land in lieu of $100 bounty, was rejected.

The bill was then passed—yeas 33, nays 7—the nays being Messrs. Bayard, Carlile, Davis, Powell, Saulsbury, Stark and Willey. Among those who voted for the bill were Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland, Messrs. Henderson and Wilson of Missouri, and Wright, of Indiana.

The bill to incorporate the Washington and Georgetown Street Railway Company next came up as a special order. [The bill had come from the House so altered as to be almost entirely a new bill, and with the addition of a number of corporators, mostly from abroad; and the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, to which it was referred, had reported it back with other amendments.]

Mr. HALE objected to the loose manner in which the names of corporators were presented, and thought that the bill needed modifying. He wanted to know who these corporators were, and thought the committee should furnish information on the subject.

Mr. CLARK thought the embodiment of names in the bill was a sort of endorsement of the character of the parties named. It was as much as saying to the people that they are such persons as you can trust, and, therefore, Congress should be particular as to the corporators.

Mr. MORRILL explained that the original Senate bill named only seven corporators, but the number of corporators were immaterial. They need not inquire much, perhaps, as to their character either, as in the bill it is provided that the company is to be managed by directors, to be elected after the stock is subscribed.

Mr. POMEROY suspected that some advantage must accrue to the corporators, from the fact that so much of concentration and button-holeing, and change of names, was in vogue. He did not see the necessity of going over the entire country to find corporators for a street railway of only the length between Washington and Georgetown.

Mr. SHERMAN hoped the Senate would adhere to its original bill, which was a very good one, and then if the House did not accept it, a committee of conference would result, and there would be a prospect for the early completion of the road.

The morning hour having expired, the Confiscation bill was in order.

A motion was made to postpone it, with a view of going on with the railway bill, but the motion was negatived—yeas 14, nays 23.

Mr. FESSENDEN, from the Committee on Finance, to which it had been referred, reported back the House bill to raise revenue for the expenses of the Government and pay the interest on the public debt. (known as the tax bill,) with sundry amendments.

Mr. MCDOUGALL, of California, said that the committee had not been unanimous on the subject, and made a minority report, embracing the principle of taxation adopted by the Boston and New York Chambers of Commerce.

The whole were ordered to be printed, and on motion of Mr. Sumner, three thousand extra copies of the majority bill were ordered to be printed.

Messrs. Clark, Anthony, Foster, Collamer, Fessenden and others advocated the reference, while Messrs. Trumbull and Ten Eyck opposed the reference.

Mr. TRUMBULL said that if the bill was to be diluted down to nothing, those even opposed to confiscation could vote for it. It was idle to talk about convictions in courts of justice where there are none. If the majority believe we can only confiscate through courts and juries, nothing would be done which will reach the property of rebels.

Mr. Wade defended himself from the charge made by Mr. Foster, of his having said that all who voted to refer were enemies of confiscation.

The Confiscation bill being up, Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, offered the amendment heretofore indicated by him, to the substitute bill of Mr. Collamer, the first section of which bill provides the death punishment, or imprisonment of not less than five years and the fine of not less than $10,000, for persons owing allegiance to the United States convicted in open court of levying war against the United States, or giving aid and comfort to its enemies. All after this first section Mr. Wilson proposes to strike out, and in a second section insert a provision that the act shall not be so construed as to prevent the prosecution of Rebels for treason; in the third section an authorization and requisition upon the President to seize property of certain classes, civil and military officers, ambassadors, &c., as leaders of the rebellion; also, in the fourth section, giving authority at the option of the President to include such other Rebels besides those the classes named in aid of the suppression of the rebellion; in the fifth section, a provision for taking the property of those absentees who cannot be brought to trial; in the sixth section, a requisition upon the Executive to make a proclamation, fixing upon a day not more than thirty days distant, when the slaves of all continuing in rebellion shall be declared free; and in the seventh section, a provision for voluntary colonization; and in the eighth section, an authorization of amnesty by the President.

Mr. WILSON advocated his amendment, and explained the provisions of the several bills, showing that the confiscation of slaves was as legitimate as the confiscation of other property, and the more necessary in order that the cause of rebellion may be removed, and not be an incentive hereafter to the same crime.

Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, thought the multiplicity of propositions was embarrassing, and moved to refer them all to a select committee of five, with instructions to report as speedily as possible.

Mr. HALE did not think this reference would be of any benefit, and went on to notice some remarks of Mr Wilson, declaring that he had no need to be reminded of the power of slavery, while on one occasion he had prepared resolutions here and sent them to his district in New Hampshire, where they were adopted by the Democracy, and his previous nomination repudiated. Like the negro, whose master never knew of a certain whipping before, he "knew it at the time." He did not desire to see the Republican party overthrown, as were the Democratic and Whig parties successively, by a desertion of its principles, prominent in which was fidelity to the Constitution.

Mr. HARRIS urged that the reference was very necessary.

Mr. WADE believed that a reference would result in emasculating the bill and destroying it. He should decline if any efficient confiscation if the motion prevailed.

Mr. FESSENDEN repelled the intimation of Mr. Trumbull, made the other day, that he and others who then voted to refer were opposed to confiscation. He did not think any one had the right to do such a thing. He had been engaged on the revenue bill, and had not had time yet to give his attention to this subject.

Mr. TRUMBULL briefly responded.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, moved to amend Mr. Clark's motion so as to increase the select committee to nine. Agreed to.

The resolution to refer the whole subject was then adopted as amended, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. COLFAX, of Indiana, introduced a bill to punish frauds on the Government of the United States. Referred.

Mr. ARNOLD, of Illinois, introduced a bill to establish a depot of arms on the Western lakes. Referred.

Mr. BINGHAM, of Ohio, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the following:

Resolved, That West H. Humphreys, Judge of the District Court of the United States, for the several districts of Tennessee, be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Kentucky, asked for information in regard to the subject.

The report was then read. The report sets forth that by the testimony of Honorable Horace Maynard, Mr. Trigg, Mr. Lellyett, all citizens of the State of Tennessee, who by order of the House were duly examined upon oath before said committee, it is made to appear to the committee that in the city of Nashville, on the 29th December, in direction from them and there held, declared in favor of secession, and refused, when interrogated, to declare South Carolina subject to the laws of the United States. The report says it further appears, upon said testimony, that said W. H. Humphreys has neglected his duty as United States District Judge within said State ever since the adoption of the ordinance of secession by the Legislature in May, 1861; that he refused to hold the court, because he considered the authority of the United States *obsolete* in Tennessee; and that since that time he has officiated as Judge for the Rebel Confederacy in that State, and has held citizens of the United States to answer before him, as such Rebel Judge, for disloyalty to said Rebel Confederacy; has advised a citizen so charged and brought before him to forswear his allegiance to the United States, by taking the oath of allegiance to the self-styled Southern Confederacy, and upon refusal to do so, said Judge has required of such citizen a bond in a large sum, conditioned that he would leave the State, the place of his residence, within 40 days, pursuant to an act known as an "alien act" passed by the Rebel Congress of said Confederacy.

The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the same committee, reported the following:

RESOLVED, That a committee of two be appointed to go to the Senate, and at the bar thereof, in the name of the House of Representatives and of the people of the United States, impeach W. H. Humphreys, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the several districts of Tennessee, of high crimes and misdemeanors; and acquaint the Senate that the House of Representatives will in due time exhibit particular articles of impeachment against him, and make good the same; and that the committee do demand that the Senate take order for the appearance of said W. H. Humphreys, to answer to said impeachment.

Adopted.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the Senate bill, which passed, for the relief of the owners, officers and crew of the Spanish bark Providencia. [The bill provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the order of the proper functionary of her Catholic Majesty's Government the sum of two thousand seven hundred and ninety-one dollars and ninety-one cents, as full compensation to the owners of the said Spanish bark, or their legal representatives, for damages occasioned by reason of the wrongful seizure and detention of said bark by a steamer of the United States blockading squadron, in the month of November last.]

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, called up the California election case, and submitted the following:

RESOLVED, That F. F. Lowe, of California, is not entitled to a seat in this House as a representative from that State.

Mr. SHERMAN, of California, moved to amend the resolution by striking out the word "not," so as to read, "F. F. Lowe is entitled to a seat in this House." Upon which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 49 yeas and 69 nays.

The resolution was then adopted.

The SPEAKER stated that the hour had arrived for taking a vote on the Pacific Railroad bill.

On motion of Mr. WICKLIFFE, the yeas and nays were ordered.

The bill then passed—yeas 79, nays 49.

The bill contains the names of seventy-five persons from different sections of the country, who, together with five commissioners to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and all persons who shall or may be associated with them and their successors, are created into a body corporate and politic, by the name and style and title of the "Union Pacific Railroad Company." They are empowered to lay out, construct, furnish, maintain and enjoy continuous railroads, with the appurtenances, from such points on the one hundred and second meridian of latitude west from Greenwich, to the western boundary of Nevada Territory. The capital stock to consist of one hundred thousand shares of one thousand dollars each. The right of way guaranteed for construction of railroad and telegraph line to the extent of two hundred feet in width each side, &c. Also, every alternate section of land to amount to five alternate sections. Provided all mineral lands be excepted, and whenever forty consecutive miles of the road are constructed—the rails and all their iron to be of American manufacture, of the best quality—patents shall issue for lands, as well as bonds of one thousand dollars each, payable thirty years after date, bearing six per centum per annum interest, payable semi-annually to the amount of sixteen of said bonds per mile for each section of forty miles. To secure payment each company to give a lien upon the road, of which the Government at all times is to have the preference for transportation of mails, troops and munitions of war, supplies and public stores, whenever required to do so, at a fair and reasonable rate of compensation, not to exceed the amounts paid by private parties for the same kind of service.

Mr. DAWES, of Massachusetts, called up the election case of Hon. Joseph Segar, of Virginia, and asked that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject.

Mr. NOELL, of Missouri, offered a resolution that the Hon. J. Segar is entitled to a seat in this House as a Representative from the First Congressional District of the State of Virginia.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of yeas 71, and nays 41. Mr. Segar was then sworn in.

Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, made an apology to the House for words used in debate the other day towards Mr. Conkling, of New York.

Mr. CONKLING replied, that if in the heat of discussion he had offended any one he was sorry for it.

Mr. FLOWERS, of Massachusetts, then called up the contested election case of Nebraska territory. The committee recommended the adoption of the following:

RESOLVED, That J. Sterling Morton is not entitled to a seat in this House as a delegate from the Territory of Nebraska, in the 37th Congress.

Resolved, That Samuel G. Daily is entitled to a seat in this House as a delegate from the Territory of Nebraska, in the 37th Congress.

Mr. VOORHEES, of Indiana, offered a resolution, that J. S. Morton, contestant, be allowed to occupy a seat in the House pending the discussion.—Adopted.

Mr. DAWES argued in favor of the sitting member, S. G. Daily.

Mr. VOORHEES, of Indiana, briefly reviewed the report of the committee, claiming that Mr. Morton was the legal Representative, and that Mr. Daily's certificate was not genuine.

Without coming to a vote the House adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(Regular Session.)

FIRST BRANCH.—Present—WM. S. CROWLEY, Esq., President, and all the members.

Mr. KIMBERLY presented a report with a resolution adverse to the petition to John S. Rinn.—Adopted.

Mr. HOOPER offered a resolution requesting the City Counsellor to inform the Branch what suits are now pending against the city, and the nature thereof. Adopted.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Branch a communication from the City Comptroller relative to the contracts for the erection of the new almshouse.

Also a communication from the City Register relative to the same subject. Both were laid on the table.

Mr. YOUNG presented a report from the Committee on the Fire Department with a resolution granting permission to J. W. Grafton to erect a frame shed on his premises corner of Eastern and Canton avenues. Adopted.

Mr. HOOPER presented a report from the Committee on Claims with a resolution adverse to the petition of James Gisse. Adopted.

Also a report adverse to the petition of Greenberry Galloway asking payment for service rendered as a policeman under the recent police commissioners.

Mr. KIRKWOOD presented a report with an ordinance changing the hours for holding the Lexington market. Laid on the table.

Mr. NORRIS called up the resolution appropriating $500 for repairs to the county wharf.—Adopted.

Also the resolution authorizing the Committee on Finance to lease certain lots belonging to the city at half the present rent. Laid on the table.

Mr. YOUNG called up the resolution appropriating $3,000 for a steam fire engine to take the place of engine No. 6.

Mr. DUCKHART moved to strike out $3,000 and insert $2,500, and also to make the manufacturer of the new engine take engine No. 6 in part pay.

Mr. DUCKHART presented an ordinance relative to the water tax, authorizing the Water Board to modify the water tax on buildings which have wide fronts but comparatively small depths. Laid on the table.

Adjourned.

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

Mr. RUN called up a resolution directing the attention of the Health Department to the condition of various pools of water on the suburbs of the city. Adopted.

Adjourned.

THE EFFECT OF THE SOUTHERN BLOCKADE *THUS FAR* IN ENGLAND AND ON THE CONTINENT.

From the London Evening Standard, April 15.

THE DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.—A correspondent of a contemporary writes:—"I am living in the centre of a vast district where there are many cotton mills, which, in ordinary times, all find employment to many thousands of 'hands' and food to many more thousands of mouths. With very rare exceptions, quietness reigns at all these mills.—The dense volumes of smoke which, rolling from the tops of the tall chimneys, were looked upon as being, in great part, the feeders of that leaden-hued canopy which we frequently all the sky we could see, are not rolling from the tops of the tall chimneys now. It may be that our material atmosphere is somewhat brighter than it was, but our social atmosphere is much darker and denser. Hard times have come, and we have had them sufficiently long to know what they mean. We have fathers sitting in the house at mid-day, silent and glum, while children look wistfully about, and sometimes whimper for bread, which they cannot have. We have the same fathers who, before these hard times came, were proud men, who would have thought 'beggar' the most opprobrious epithet you could hit them with, but who now are made humble by the sight of wife and children almost starving, and who go before 'relief committees,' and submit to be questioned about their wants with a patience and humility which it is painful—almost shocking—to witness. And some other of these fathers turn out in the morning with long lessons as street-sweepers; while others, again, go to breaking at new in the town yard, or on the open road-side, where they are unprotected from the piercing east winds, which add a little more to the burden of misery which they have to bear just now.

"But harder even than this, our factory women and girls have had to turn out, and, pleading a weary way from door to door, beg a bit of bread or a stray copper, that they may eke out the scanty supply at home. Only the other day, while taking a long stroll in the country lying about the town in which I live, I met a few of these factory girls, and was stopped by their not very beggar-like question of 'Can yo help us a bit?' They were just such others as their own sisters, and as I saw and heard them I was almost choked as I fancied my sisters come to such a pass as that. 'Can yo help us a bit?' asked these factory girls. Their words were only heard by me, and by the few others to whom they could address themselves as they went along. Surely others should hear that cry. I have heard of ladies whose whole lives seem to be but a changing from one kind of pleasure to another, who suffer chiefly from what they call *ennui*, a kind of disease from which my sisters are not likely to suffer at all), and to whom a new pleasure to enjoy would be something like what a new world to conquer would have been to Alexander. Why should they not hear our Lancashire girls' cry of 'Can yo help us a bit?'"

INCREASE OF DESTITUTION AT BLACKBURN.—Deep is the distress, and small the means to all-relate it, in the populous district of Blackburn. The town contains nine lines than 63,000 inhabitants, nearly one-fourth of whom are now suffering privation from the scarcity of food, clothing, bedding, and fuel.—The public relief fund is inadequate to meet the increasing destitution caused by the stoppage of many additional cotton mills and weavings sheds, which number 84, and contain 1,035,729 spindles and 20,487 looms. Of these 84 establishments about 10 are working full time, 23 or 25 are stopped altogether, 25 are running four and five days per week, and the rest three days. When in full operation, no less than 20,352 persons are employed in these mills; but at the present time upwards of one-third, or nearly 7,000, are wholly unemployed, at a loss to the workers alone of about £6,000 per week in wages. During the week ended on Saturday, the Relief Fund Committee distributed 9,993 lbs. of bread and 10,560 lbs. of oatmeal to the necessitous of the six respective wards, at a cost of about £130. In addition to this sum, the Poor Law Guardians relieved, through their agency, in the township of Blackburn alone, no less than 7,286 persons, at a cost of £384 14s., being little more than 1s. per head—poor sustenance for a week. In ordinary times the weekly expenditure of the Blackburn relieving officer is from £70 to £80. The total number of persons relieved last week in the Blackburn union was 8,974, at a cost of £467 17s. 6d., whilst in the corresponding week of last year 2,416 were relieved, at an expense to the union of £132 15s. 3d. The relief fund now amounts to nearly £2,400, of which about £1,600 has been already expended during the past nine weeks, leaving a sum of £800 to provide for the future wants of from 1,200 to 1,500 persons, including children.

TRAMPS AND CASUAL POOR.—On Saturday a deputation from St. George's, Hanover square, consisting of Major Lyon, Dr. Brewer, and Mr. E. Stanley, the eminent surgeon, guardians of the poor of that parish, and Mr. Chappell, the clerk to the guardians, waited on the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, the President of the Poor-Law Board, to draw his attention to the great increase which of late had taken place in the number of tramps and casual poor who applied for a night's lodging and a breakfast in the morning. The deputation informed the Right Hon. president that whereas the number of tramps and casual poor that heretofore were in the habit of applying for shelter in the workhouse did not exceed two or three each night, now more than fifty or sixty of this class of persons sought admission into the house nightly, and the number seemed to be increasing to an alarm long extent. These persons usually lived by begging all day, and at night they came, covered with filth and dirt, demanding admission into the house. The deputation were desirous of obtaining the advice of the Poor-law Board with the view of knowing what course they should pursue in the matter. They thought that some uniform course of action should be adopted by all the metropolitan parishes on the subject, and that the Poor-law Board should frame rules to carry out that uniformity. If the evil could not be abated, at least some principle should be acted on by which the expense of the class of persons referred to would be borne equally by all the parishes.

Mr. Villiers said there was no doubt that the evil referred to had greatly increased of late, and owing to the distress in the north of England, caused by the want of work, there was little doubt but that it would go on increasing, so long as the cause of the distress to which he had alluded existed. The International Exhibition would also, no doubt, induce a number of those persons who had no other occupation to come to the metropolis and take their chance for such success as they might achieve by drawing upon the sympathies of the public. It was, therefore, certainly desirable the subject should be looked into, in order that a remedy might be devised—if such a thing were possible—to meet the state of things complained of. He promised the deputation that the matter should be carefully considered by the Poor-Law Board with this view.

The deputation, having thanked the Right Hon. gentleman for his courteous reception of them, and for the promise he had made them, retired.

BELGIUM.—The Belgian Minister of War has addressed to the Generals commanding territorial divisions, Generals of Infantry and Cavalry, and to all the chiefs of corps, the following circular:—

"Brussels, April 8.

"Gentlemen—The war in America has produced an unfortunate crisis in the cotton manufactures of all countries. The town of Ghent has, in particular, suffered much from that crisis, and it is urgent to assist the numerous and brave workmen by demanding of public charity resources, which the deficiency of work has completely dried up. I have thought that the army would be disposed to lend its assistance to any measure that would tend to alleviate those sufferings, and, in order to enable each to bring his offering to the valiant army of labor, I have decided that in each garrison possessing a band of music, arrangements shall be made for organizing a concert, the product of which shall be applied to the assistance of the working population of Ghent. Have the goodness, gentlemen, to take, in that which concerns you, the necessary steps for the execution of this project.

"CHAZAL."

The secession sympathizers in Kentucky are getting wild over the continued flow of intelligence of Union victories. They are becoming so rampant and obnoxious that it has been found necessary in certain localities to reorganize the Home Guard for the protection of quiet Union citizens.

OUR LOSS AT SHILOH.—We have this morning a complete and probably accurate statement of the Federal loss at the Shiloh battles. The total in killed, wounded and missing, is nearly 14,000. This is equal in number to an English army, and exceeds nearly all previous estimates.—*Milwaukie News.*

BOARD OF TRADE.

Minutes of Proceedings for the month of April.

WILSON T. BRYANT,
HOOPER C. EATON,
JOS. A. BUCK.

C. MORTON STEWART,
J. HY. G ESE.

Mercantile and Commercial Articles.

BALTIMORE, May 6 1862

There was considerable activity in the Stock Board to-day. There were no transactions in Government or State securities, and for the former the rates remain about the same as last noted; for Maryland coupon 6's 1870 98 was bid, and for the inscribed 6's of 1870 and 1890 98¾ was bid, but there were no sellers at these rates. In City stocks we notice sales of $2,000 6's 1875 at 97; $5,000 do. at 97¾, and $3,000 do. do. 1890 at 99, at which rates the market closed very firm. There was considerable doing in Railway bonds, and we notice sales of $2,000 Baltimore and Ohio 6's 1885 at 87; $500 Northwestern Virginia 6's 1873, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, at 91; $3,500 Northern Central 6's 1885 at 76¾; $15,000 Western Maryland 6's 1890, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, at 92, and $2,000 do. do., not guaranteed, at 67; the sales to-day show an advance of 2 per cent. on the last named stock. The closing rates were for Baltimore and Ohio 6's 1862 67 bid, 69 asked; do. do. 1887 92 bid; do. do. 1875 89 bid; do. do. 1885 87 bid, 87¾ asked; for Northwestern Virginia 6's, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, 91 bid, 92 asked; do. do., second mortgage guaranteed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 86 bid; Northern Central 6's 1885 76¾ bid, 77 asked; Western Maryland 6's 1890, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, 92 bid, 92¾ asked. In Railroad shares we notice sales of 75 shares Baltimore and Ohio at 46⅞; and 50 do. at 46⅝, buyer's option 60 days; closing at 46⅞ bid, 46⅞ asked regular way; nothing doing in Northern Central. There was a sale of 71 shares Frederick Turnpike road at 42¾. For Canton Company 41¼ was bid, $15 asked, and for Baltimore Gas Company 41¼ was bid. The only sale of Mining shares was 200 shares Springfield at 42.50; for Baltimore and North Carolina 25 cts. was bid, 50 cts. asked; Cambridge 25 cts. asked; Deer River 10 cts. bid, 20 cts. asked; Gardner $1 bid, $1.25 asked; Guilford 50 cts. bid, 70 cts. asked; North State 30 cts. asked; Rudisell 80 cts bid, $1 asked; Silver Hill 20 cts. bid; Silver Valley 30 cts' asked, and Springfield $2.45 bid, $2.50 asked. In other stocks there is no change to notice.

The brokers generally are asking the following rates: New York exchange, par; Boston exchange, do.; Philadelphia exchange, do.; Pennsylvania currency, ⅝@¾ discount; Maryland currency, ¼@¾ do.; American gold, 2⅝@3⅝ premium; one year certificates, 100⅝@100, 7-3-10 Treasury notes, 103@104.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD

TUESDAY, May 6, 1862

$200 Baltimore city 6's	75	97
5,000 do.	75	97¼
3,000 do.	90	97
2,000 Balt. & Ohio Railroad bonds	85	87
500 Northwestern Virginia R. R. 1st m. bonds	90	91
3,500 Northern Central Railroad bonds	85	76¾
2,000 do. do.	85	76¾
15,500 Western Maryland bonds guaranteed		92
2,000 Western Maryland bds unendorsed		67
75 shares Balt. & Ohio Railroad stock		47¼
50 do. do. do.	60	46⅝
100 shares Springfield Mining Co.		2.50
100 do. do.		2.50
71 shares Frederick Turnpike		2¾

PRICES AND SALES OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Through WILLIAM FISHER & Co., Stock and Bill Brokers No. 22 South street.

	1st Board	2d Board
Virginia 6's	59	60
Missouri 6's	52¾	53
Tennessee bonds	61¾	61¾
North Carolina bonds	72	72
American gold	103¾	60
Canton Company	14¾	60
Erie Railroad	19¼	20¾
New York Central Railroad	88¾	88¾
Reading Railroad	48¾	48
Rock Island	60	60
	firm.	firm.

The Philadelphia *Press* of yesterday says:

The report of the sales at the stock board to-day shows extraordinary activity prevailing in the market. For was bid, without sales. Government certificates of debt sold freely at par. State fives advanced to 88⅝, a gain of ⅛. City sixes advanced to 102 for the new issue, 96½ for the old issue, and 99⅝ for the gas issue. Pennsylvania Railroad shares gained ⅜, selling at 47⅜. Elmira was steady at 8⅝.

The weekly statement of the Philadelphia banks presents the following aggregates as compared with those of the previous week:

	April 28.	May 5.	
Capital stock	$11,565,325	$11,565,125	Dec. $1,160
Loans	28,793,116	29,324,432	Inc. 531,316
Specie	6,052,827	6,049,635	Dec. 3,192
Due from other banks	3,128,160	3,823,6 9	Inc. 695,509
Due to other banks	4,470,671	4,571,837	Inc. 61,163
Deposits	20,223,556	21,316,614	Inc. 1,093,058
Circulation	3,613,991	3,759,494	Inc. 145,503

The following are the statements of the weekly averages of the New York city banks for the weeks ending on the dates named:

Week ending	May 3.	April 26.	Differences.
Loans	$133,476 418	$125,086 825	Inc $8,319 593
Specie	35,176 828	35,297,941	Dec. 122,116
Circulation	8,682,782	8,318,871	Inc. 361,211
Net deposits	109,034,535	101,897,435	Inc. 7,737,100
Av. exchanges	23,492,078	20,732,789	Inc. 2,759,289

The New York *Herald* of yesterday says:

This has been another day of intense excitement on the stock exchange. The amount of business at the first board was so large that the deliveries were not effected till long after the usual hour. At the first board United States sixes led off with an advance of 2⅜ per cent., selling freely at 102⅜ for the coupon stock. At this advance the supply was in excess of the demand, and the price fell off to 102, 101⅞, and finally closed at 101⅞ bid. Virginias ⅜, and Missouris 1⅜. There was an active demand, likewise, for Georgias, Michigan and Illinois bonds, which have not been much dealt in on our market of late. All good railway bonds were wanted at an advance. Michigan Southern sinking funds, which sold a few days ago at 90, were wanted at 92 ex interest,