GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

SPEECH OF REV. J. C. BACKUS, D. D., ON DR. BRECKINRIDGE'S RESOLUTION ON THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

At the session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, recently held at Columbus, Ohio, the Rev. Dr. Breckinridge, formerly a pastor in this city, offered a paper on the state of the country, which was adopted by a large majority. As it was mainly a political paper it was strongly opposed, especially by the delegates from the border State churches. But while many members from various sections of the country condemned the introduction of such a paper, yet such was the spirit of the Assembly that but few had the moral courage to vote against it. To vote for or against it was ingeniously made a kind of test of loyalty or disloyalty, and one of its supporters said "he would like to know who would dare to vote against it."

Among those who had the courage to oppose the introduction of politics into the Churches, was the Rev. Dr. Backus, of this city. As his speech has been published very inaccurately in some of our city papers, we now place it in our columns, as deserving of general perusal.

SPEECH OF REV. J. C. BACKUS, D. D.

Dr. Backus then obtained the floor, and spoke as follows:

I do not desire to enter upon any argument upon the principles involved in the paper now before the Assembly, but simply to appeal, not to the generosity of the body (although I was much disappointed that this thing so failed with my friend Dr. Breckinridge), but to its good sense and Christian judgment, by a simple statement of facts, which may aid us to intelligent deliverance. I have no "poor mouth," as the brother from Oxford has said, to make, but simply to inform this Assembly what is the state of a most important part of the Presbyterian Church. I claim to know something of the churches which, with my brethren, I have been carefully selected to represent. I have been more than a quarter of a century a pastor of one of those churches, and three-fourths of the churches around us have been formed during that time; and being formed to a great extent of colonies from the church with which I am connected, I have been brought into peculiarly intimate relations with those churches. I may say, then, that those churches present as fair a type of Presbyterianism—they exhibit as good evidence of Christian character—as can be found anywhere. They are active in all modes of extending the Redeemer's kingdom. The Presbytery of Baltimore contributed the last year to some of our benevolent Boards, perhaps, full as much as the whole Synod of Philadelphia.

Now Baltimore and Maryland, the territory covered by our churches, are intimately associated with the southern part of our country. Maryland is a slave State, and although Baltimore has only 3,000 slaves out of a population of 26,000 colored persons, and although the number of slaves in the State is decreasing, yet we are closely bound to the South by this institution. We are also connected by other domestic relations—many are from the South—many have married there, and many sustain various other social relations—so our business relations are principally with the South, and not a few men in our city have all they are worth shut up there in the shape of debts and merchandise. At this time, also, it is claimed that there are 5,000 Marylanders, and 3,000 of them Baltimoreans, now in the Southern army—many of them from our best families. I minister weekly to the families of three prominent commanders in the Southern navy—two of them gentlemen who have enjoyed the religious training of my venerable friend, Dr. Breckinridge. All our congregations are similarly situated. From one to two thirds of these various congregations sympathize with the South. Nor is this strange according to the ordinary workings of poor human nature. It is to be expected and to be dealt kindly with. At any rate such is the fact.

Now, all these people—many of them being among our very best and most useful Christian people, adorning the doctrine of the Gospel—are very sensitive on the subject of the interference of the Church with the political relations of their friends. They hold the doctrine which I have supposed to be the doctrine of Presbyterians, that the Church has no right to decide mere political questions. They do not hold that religion has nothing to do with politics; they do not hold that we are not to obey magistrates, nor pray for them. They receive all that the Confession of Faith teaches respecting the duty of fidelity to civil government. But they hold that the Church and the civil government, while both are divine institutions, have different spheres; and that while the State is to protect the Church, it is not to intrude into its spiritual sphere; and while the Church is to obey the powers that be as ordained of God, to pay tribute, and to pray for magis rates, it is not to meddle with questions purely political. And as many of our duties are mixed, both religious and civil, the Church is only to treat so much of these as is moral and comes thus under its province.

To this I am sorry to add, that there is an impression that there is a disposition and an endeavor among some in our border States to separate the churches in those States from this General Assembly, and erect an independent Synod, for the present, on this principle. And I doubt not that very many whose sympathies are with the South are not disinclined to co-operate with such a movement. In this state of things, injudicious, questionable, or harsh action on the part of this body will throw the whole weight of its influence on the side of any so disposed. It will irritate, alienate and excite those sympathizing with the South, and prepare them for such a step. I do not say that even in this event I would despair of their maintaining their present relations, but no man knows—notwithstanding Dr. Breckinridge's positive assertions, which I have so often found not verified by results, that I have less confidence in them—no man knows what will be the consequence. We all believe that the adoption of this paper will hazard the peace and unity of our churches. If such should be the result and these churches should separate from this Assembly, there is reason to believe that on the restoration of the country, they could not remain independent, but would unite with the Southern General Assembly. On the other hand, if their connection with this body is preserved, they will prove in my opinion the most hopeful instruments in the restoration of our whole Church—a result most desirable for the sake of the harmony of a restored country. As Dr. Rice has said, when a country is torn, we need bandages to hold together the broken parts till they can knit.

What better bandages can the country have than our united Christian churches? The Synod of Baltimore consists of the Presbytery of Carlisle in the State of Pennsylvania, the Presbyteries of Baltimore and Lewis in Maryland, the Presbytery of the Potomac in the District of Columbia, and the Presbytery of Winchester in Virginia. Winchester and a part of the Potomac have gone to the Southern Assembly. But they have been affectionately united with us. Their whole region is commercially united with Baltimore, and I doubt not that on a restoration of the country they might come back to us, when they would not be willing to come back to a purely Northern Synod—and thus all through the border States. So that the preservation of these churches in the border States affords the best promise of the restoration of the whole Church, which I regard as pre-eminently desirable for the North and South, ecclesiastically and civilly. On the other hand, if, by any indiscreet action you now run the plough-share through these churches, you may do incalculable injury to all the interests concerned. Dr. Breckinridge incidentally informed me the other day, that but a small portion of the churches in the Synod of Kentucky are self-sustaining. The same is true in Maryland, and I doubt not in Missouri. If, then, you divide these feeble churches, who can tell what injury may ensue? Indeed, how little can they bear agitations, distractions, alienation in these troublous times?

Now, in my humble opinion, the question before this venerable Assembly is simply this—"Is it so necessary to pass this or any similar paper, that it ought to do it with the risk of distracting and dividing all the churches in the border States—of casting them off for years, if not forever, and losing all their influence in restoring the whole Church, on the re-union of the country?" We are told that there is no danger of any such result. The great majority of those who represent the border States on this floor think there is danger. In the last Assembly it was urged that there was no danger of any portion of the Church withdrawing by the action contemplated by that body. But the action then taken, which Dr. B. himself held in the Synod of Kentucky that a spiritual court was not competent to take, has driven off nearly one-third of our Church, which might have been retained and which we believe would promote the usefulness and influence of the Church, North and South.

Will you, then, now risk by an objectionable deliverance the driving off of another large and important portion of our Church? The deliverance is not needed to stimulate the loyalty of the churches North—it is not desired by the Union men in the churches in the border States—and it will only irritate and alienate those in these States whose sympathies are with the South. It is thought, however, that such a solemn deliverance by this venerable Court of Christ will bind the consciences and awe into submission those who are opposed to such action. But it will have no more influence with them than is "derived from its own justice, the approbation of an impartial public, and the countenance and blessing of the Great Head of the Church universal." And if they suppose this paper is the result of a mere personal and local feeling, availing itself of the excitement in the North to secure the indorsement of the Church in a mere private controversy, it will have no more influence than an article in the Danville *Review* or the *True Presbyterian*. Further, such a deliverance is not necessary, inasmuch as our Confession of Faith contains all the teaching that is needed on this subject in the present emergency.

Some have said that they disapproved of the introduction of this or any similar paper at this time, but if pressed to a vote, they must vote in favor of it or it would be thought at the North that the *Presbyterian* was not loyal to the Church. Now we do not desire to force them into this position—we do not wish to treat that paper with any disrespect. But we ask whether it is necessary to retain its objectionable parts, when by omitting all that arises from peculiar personal local position of the mover, we can frame a paper that will be generally acceptable. Is it not wise in this Assembly to forbear in love with brethren from whom you differ—to have something of the "long suffering" we all so much need, in order "to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace?" This is the policy of the General Government under which we live. It does many things, and it abstains from many things, in order not to widen the breach, and not to make the restoration of the country in form and spirit more difficult. Prisoners of war are recognized, when but for this aim of the Government, they could not in strict construction so recognize them. If then the civil government acts in this spirit, ought not the Church *a fortiori* act in this conciliatory and loving spirit?

Having endeavored, by the indulgence of the House, to make this representation, I desire to suggest a modification of this paper, which, I hope, will meet the views of all. I have selected more than half of Dr. Breckinridge's paper, to which—and I am sure he will regard it no dishonor—I would append the xxiii. chapter of the Confession of Faith. I will, with the leave of the House, read the paper:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, now in session at Columbus, in the State of Ohio, consider with unspeakable sorrow the unhappy condition of the country in the midst of a bloody civil war, and of the Church agitated everywhere, divided in sentiment in many places, and openly assulted by schism in a large section of its considering, also, the duty which this Chief Tribunal, met in the name and by the authority of the glorified Saviour of sinners, who is also the Sovereign Ruler of all things, owes to Him our Head and Lord, and to His flock committed to our charge, and to the people whom we are commissioned to evangelize, and to the civil authorities who exist by His appointment—do hereby, in this deliverance, give utterance to our solemn convictions and our deliberate judgment, touching the matters herein set forth, that they may serve for the guidance of all over whom the Lord Christ has given us any office of instruction, or any power of government.

1. Peace is amongst the very highest temporal blessings of the Church, as well as of all mankind; and public order is one of the first necessities of the spiritual as well as of the civil commonwealth.—The Church of Christ has no authority from Him to make rebellion, or to counsel treason, or to favor anarchy in any case whatever.

On the contrary, every follower of Christ has the personal liberty bestowed on him by Christ, to submit, for the sake of Christ, according to his own conscious sense of duty, to whatever government, however bad, under which his lot may be cast. But while patient suffering for Christ's sake can never be sinful, treason, rebellion and anarchy may be sinful—most generally, perhaps, are sinful. We fear, and we record it with great grief, that the Church of God, and the Christian people, to a great extent and throughout all the revolted States, have done many things that ought not to have been done, and have left undone much that ought to have been done, in this time of trial, rebuke and blasphemy; but concerning the wide schism which is reported to have occurred in many Southern Synods, this Assembly will take no action at this time. It declares, however, its fixed purpose, under all possible circumstances, to labor for the extension and the permanent maintenance of the Church under its care, in every part of the United States. Schism, so far as it may exist, we hope to see healed. If that cannot be, it will be disregarded.

II. We record our gratitude to God for the prevailing unity of sentiment, and general internal peace, which have characterized the Church in the States that have not revolted, embracing a great majority of the ministers, congregations and people under our care. It may still be called, with emphasis, a loyal, orthodox and pious Church; and all its acts and works indicate its right to a title so noble. Let it strive for Divine grace to maintain that good report. In some respects the interests of the Church of God are very different from those of all civil institutions. Whatever may befall this, or any other nation, the Church of Christ must abide on earth, triumphant even over the gates of hell. It is, therefore, of supreme importance that the Church should guard itself from internal alienations and divisions, founded upon questions and interests that are external as to her, and which ought not by their necessary workings to cause her fate to depend on the fate of things less important and less enduring than herself. Let a spirit of quietness, of mutual forbearance, and of ready obedience to authority, both civil and ecclesiastical, illustrate the loyalty, the orthodoxy, and the piety of the Church. Nor should any to whom this deliverance may come fail to bear in mind that it is not only their outward conduct concerning which they ought to take heed; but it is also, and especially, their heart, their temper, and their motives, in the sight of God, and toward the free and beneficent civil government which He has blessed us withal, and toward the spiritual commonwealth to which they are subject in the Lord.

We do, therefore, call upon our ministers and elders, and private members, to ponder well the following teaching of the Church, in the xxiii. chapter of the Confession of Faith, respecting duty and fidelity to the Government under which we live:

"God the Supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates to be under Him over the people, for His own glory and the public good, and to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defence and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers. * * * * * It is the duty of the people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute and other dues, to obey their lawful commands, not for fear only, but for conscience sake."

In view of this plain teaching and the resolutions of the last Assembly, this General Assembly deems it sufficient in the present circumstances of the Church to make this deliverance.

From the New York World, May 29.

ANOTHER SIGN OF THE TIMES.

A most striking indication of the changing attitude of the conservative classes of this country is to be found in the action of the Old School Presbyterian Assembly just closing its sittings at Columbus. Everybody knows that no church in past years has, in its ecclesiastical capacity, more studiously avoided all matters of political controversy, or practised greater forbearance toward slavery. To that prudence was due the fact that this church alone of all others, save the Episcopal, preserved its national organization up to the very time of the Confederate secession. In the General Assembly last year even, though held six weeks after the combardment of Sumter, there was still an earnest effort to maintain the old policy; and a resolution introduced by the venerable Dr. Spring of our city, declaring it to be the duty of ministers and churches to "strengthen, uphold, and encourage the Federal Government in the just exercise of its functions under our noble Constitution," was opposed, on the score of inexpedience, by a very large and powerful minority, though the resolution contained not the remotest allusion to slavery or to any party issue.

But this year we find a notable change. Rev. Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, submits a paper on the state of the country, which is as outspoken and decided on the subjects of slavery and party vassalage as human speech can make it. It declares that "the system that makes or proposes to make the relation of master and slave hereditary, perpetual and absolute, must be wrong, and is a negation of the principles and precepts of the Gospel and of the very ideas of civil liberty and inalienable rights." It says that at the time of the adoption of the Constitution slavery was regarded as "an institution of superior importance, but yet as a temporary evil, which must be perpetuated, but concerning which the Government was assured by the Fathers that it was the entire frame-work of Government on the single principle of hereditary servitude," and that "the power and patronage of the General Government have to a great extent been wielded in aiding and abetting this effort." It bears testimony against professional politicians by whom the present rebellion has been "hatched and nourished and matured"—"a class infinitely meaner, more guilty, and more dangerous than mere rebels or traitors;" and indignantly declares that "to this class our citizens—yes, our church members—have bowed the knee and the neck, by thousands and tens of thousands, and submitted, while they have locked around their manhood the collar of party, and bound them with chains a thousand-fold more degrading than any ever proposed by the mother country." The whole tenor of the manifesto was in this emphatic vein. Nothing could have been more unsatisfactory to the champions of slavery and to sympathizers with the rebellion. It was opposed by some of the delegates from the border States, and Judge Gamble, of Missouri, presented a resolution declaring it inexpedient to take any action on the subject. This resolution failed entirely, and the original paper was adopted by a vote of one hundred and ninety-nine to twenty.

The other—New School—organization of the Presbyterian Church, which has just adjourned at Cincinnati, was as emphatic on the same points—its resolutions declaring that "African slavery and the desire to perpetuate it is the cause of the war," and that while they "have been utterly shocked at the deep depravity of the authors of the rebellion, they yet entertain a deep detestation of those men in the loyal States who never utter a manly thought or opinion in favor of the Government, but apologize for Southern insurrectionists." So much importance, however, is not to be attached to this utterance as to the other, inasmuch as this branch of the Church long ago broke with slavery and its friends, the rupture having been consummated in 1857. But that the cautious, peace-craving, long-suffering Old School should take this resolute stand, under the lead too of a Southern man, is certainly an important sign of the times. The plain truth is that it is fast becoming the universal conviction among all thoughtful people, that the policy of our Government in the just exercise of its functions under our noble Constitution, was opposed, on the score of inexpedience, by a very large and powerful minority, though the resolution contained not the remotest allusion to slavery or to any party issue.

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

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 30.—The VICE PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, in answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 19th instant, for information relative to persons who have been arrested in the Southern District of New York from May 1, 1852, to May 1, 1862, charged with being engaged in the slave trade, with the names and number of vessels arrested and bonded, charged with being engaged in that traffic. Forty-one persons are named, none of whom were convicted, or their bonds forfeited, which ranged from $250 to $20,000. In some cases they were tried and acquitted, one or two escaped, but most cases are marked "bond not forfeited, complaint dismissed." The number of vessels is forty six.

Mr. WILSON presented a petition from Maria Diggs, of this city, which alleges she is a slave belonging to a man by the name of Robert S. Brook, he having hired her out in the State of Maryland. The petition states that Mr. Brook has not filed a petition before the Emancipation Commissioners for her freedom. Referred.

Mr. TEN EYCK offered a resolution that the Secretary of War be requested to communicate to the Senate copies of the official reports of Gen. Hooker of the battle of Williamsburg. Adopted.

Mr. TEN EYCK offered a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Interior for copies of the correspondence between that Department and the War Department, together with the opinion of the Attorney General, relative to the imprisonment of soldiers, who have been convicted by court martial, in the penitentiary for the District of Columbia. Adopted.

Mr. CLARK presented a memorial from J. F. Simmons, praying compensation for the illegal seizure of a vessel and cargo by Commodore Worden, of the "Stars and Stripes," and the subsequent wreck and loss of the same on Long Island.

Mr. KENNEDY presented the memorial from G. L. Stockett, praying compensation for a negro slave taken beyond the limits of the State about the 3d of April last by the troops of the United States.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, reported, from the Committee on Military Affairs, a bill for the better organization of the Adjutant General's department.

Mr. COWAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the bill to prevent and punish frauds on the part of officers entrusted with making contracts, with the House amendments, and recommended concurrence. Concurred in.

Mr. FESSENDEN introduced a bill to amend an act approved March 3, 1804. Referred.

[The bill provides that the destruction of any vessel belonging to a citizen of the United States, on the high seas, shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding ten years; with a provision that if any person destroy any vessel with intent to prejudice the insurance policy, he should suffer similarly, by fine or imprisonment.]

Mr. WADE called up the Senate bill donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Mr. LANE, of Kansas, opposed the bill on a constitutional ground. He said under the English bill the people of Kansas were offered a large quantity of land by the Democrats if they would make Kansas a slave State, which proposition they refused, and now certainly the Republicans ought to give double.

Mr. CLARK desired to know if the people of Kansas made it a free State for that purpose.

Mr. WRIGHT, of Indiana, said the passage of this bill would result in no practical good.

The morning hour having expired, the subject was laid over, and the Senate resumed the consideration of the tax bill.

Mr. SIMMONS moved to strike out 20 cents on whiskey, and insert 25 cents, until the first of January, 1863, and then make it 35 cents.

It was debated by Messrs. Simmons, Fessenden, Sherman, Harris and McDougal.

The amendment of Mr. SIMMONS was rejected—yeas 15, nays 21.

Adjourned.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

RELIEF OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE FIRST MARYLAND REGIMENT.—A meeting was held last night, in the Union Reading Rooms, for the purpose of taking measures for the relief of the survivors of the 1st Maryland regiment, when the following organization was made:

President—Benjamin Deford.

Vice Presidents—Wm. Kennedy, Wm. Heald, Columbus O'Donnell, Archibald Sterling, Enoch Pratt, Wm. Chesnut, Hazlitt McKim, Capt. James Frazier, Thos. M. Smith and Wm. West.

Secretaries—Isaac Coles and George Gildersleve.

Treasurer—Wm. Hanna.

Finance Committee—Wm. E. Woodyear, William Hopkins, Capt. Jacob Hugg, C. H. Poumairat, Dr. A. Hartman, George L. Gildersleve, Wm. C. Robinson, C. Sidney Norris, Wm. H. Steuart, Benj. Crane.

Distributing Committee—Benjamin Deford, Wm. H. Steuart, Wm. E. Woodyear, A. D. Evans, Thos. H. Gardner, Wm. Hanna, Fred'k Fickey.

OUT OF PLACE.—On Thursday evening, one of the clerks in the store of Messrs. Drakeley & Fenton, southwest corner of Baltimore and Paca streets, was proceeding to close the store for the day, when he discovered that one of the doors, which had been previously locked, was unlocked, and the key sticking on the inside. He suspected something wrong, and summoned policemen Elliott, Hissey and Lee, of the Western district, who at once instituted a search, and found an individual about fifty years of age, known by the name of St. Thomas, secreted between some casks of meal. A skeleton key, a dark lantern, and other articles peculiar to the profession of a burglar, were found with him. He was taken before Justice Jones, who committed him to jail in default of bail, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

A FIGHT IN A LAGER BEER SALOON.—On Thursday night two men, named John Ford and Alexander Baker, entered a lager beer saloon, No. 174 Central avenue, kept by a man named Michael Shaiffer, where a difficulty occurred and they were driven from the room. The two men alleged that they ordered drinks and proposed a toast the "Stars and Stripes," and on doing so, Shaiffer assaulted them with a billet of wood. On the contrary, Mr. Shaiffer asserts that the two men became disorderly and he found it necessary to eject them from the house. Two men, named Anthony Werp and John G. Boehler, assisted Shaiffer, and during the fight policeman Hardwicke and bystander came up and arrested Shaiffer, Werp and Boehler, and took them to the Central police station. Justice Hiss committed Shaiffer to jail for Court, and the other two for peace.

THE REMAINS OF GENERAL VAN NESS.—The remains of Gen. Eugene Van Ness, Deputy Paymaster of the United States Army, who died at his residence in this city on Garden street, near Dolphin, on Wednesday evening last, were yesterday afternoon sent to New York for interment. The pall bearers were escorted to the President street depot by the Third New York regiment, Col. Alford, Major-Gen. Dix and staff, and other officers of the army now in this city. The funeral services took place at Emmanuel Church, previous to the departure.

NEW COUNTERFEIT.—A new counterfeit, which is well calculated to deceive the most cautious, has recently made its appearance in this city, and a number of storekeepers have been imposed upon to their loss. It is of the denomination of five dollars, and purports to be issued by the Bank of America, New York, and signed by J. Punnett, President, and W. L. Jenkins, Cashier. It is printed in red and blue colors, with a large figure V on the left-hand end, and a large number 5 on the right hand side. The paper is very good, and the note a most dangerous counterfeit.

AN INSANE MAN.—About twelve o'clock on Thursday night a policeman discovered a man wandering through the streets, who was evidently insane. He was taken to the police station, where he stated that his name was Elisha Lovell, from Hospital, Baltimore county. He had $105 in gold in his pocket-book. It was deemed prudent to send him to the Hospital, which was done, and his funds were handed to Dr. Fonerden, the physician to the institution.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—At a meeting of the Everett Institute, held on Thursday evening last, the following officers were elected: James Whitehouse, President; B. W. Turner, Vice-President; Thomas C. Norris, Editor; Messrs. Turner, L. C. Dietsch and H. N. Piper, Board of Critics; Messrs. Whitehouse, Turner, Wm. S. Quigley, Piper and Sullivan, Board of Curators.

SEVERE CUT.—A German named Peters appeared at the office of Dr. Blitzell, on Thursday night about ten o'clock, having a very severe wound in the back of his head, which he stated was caused by a party striking him with a four-pound weight. He refused to make known the name of his assailant. After the Doctor had dressed his wound he returned to his home on the corner of Montgomery street and China alley.

ROBBERY.—The house of Mr. John T. Gosnell, No. 29 Chatsworth street, near Saratoga street, was forcibly entered on Thursday afternoon during the temporary absence of Mrs. Gosnell, and robbed of about four hundred dollars in money, which was in a bureau drawer. The detective police are on the lookout for the robber.

RETURNED TO HIS REGIMENT.—Captain Charles D. Gilmore, of the Seventh Maine regiment, has recovered from the wounds he received at Yorktown, and left to join his command. The Seventh Maine built "Fort Marshall," at Canton: It is now in the advance toward Richmond.

SENT TO FORT MCHENRY.—Mr. Joseph T. Pierson, the proprietor of a restaurant on the corner of Holliday and Fayette streets, was yesterday sent to Fort McHenry on a charge of having used treasonable language.

THEFT.—Sarah Barnes, negress, was yesterday before Justice Logan, upon the charge of stealing a gold thimble and two skirts, the property of Henrietta Brashears, negress. She was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury.

CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN.—On yesterday a man named George Pickering was arrested on the charge of assaulting policeman Everett and threatening to cut him with a hatchet. He was held for court by Justice Welsh.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CRIMINAL COURT—JUDGE BOND.

Archibald Sterling, Jr., State's Attorney, prosecuting.

The Court was yesterday engaged with the following business.

Henry Drexell, indicted for an outrageous assault upon Mary Demms, eight years of age. Verdict of not guilty.

Mary Johnson, negress, indicted for larceny.—Under *curia*.

The Court then adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

Patrick H. Kelly *vs.* Francis A. Gibbons. Before reported. Verdict for plaintiff for $524.38 damages.

Francis A. Gibbons *vs.* Patrick H. Kelly. Before reported. Verdict for defendant.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE GILES.

United States *vs.* schooner Reform and cargo.—Before reported. Argument concluded. Under *curia*.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE KING.

John Eberly *vs.* Philip Nagle.. Appeal from Welsh. Judgment affirmed.

W. E. Edmonds *vs.* Edward N. Carr and Sophia Carr, his wife. Appeal from Griffin. Judgment reversed.

Leon R. Gawronski and Henrietta M. Gawronski *vs.* John Norbeck. Appeal from Hayward. Judgment reversed and judgment for appellant for $68.08, with interest from May 30th until paid.

George Gates *vs.* R. N. Baer. Appeal from Peters. Under *curia*.

Reported for the Maryland News Sheet.

BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT—JUDGE PRICE.

TOWSONTOWN, May 30.—Richard J. Gitting, Esq., Attorney for the State.

The following business engaged the attention of the Court to day:

The examination of witnesses in the case of State *vs.* Conrad Turnbaugh, reported yesterday, occupied the attention of the Court all day. Submitted to the jury without argument. Jury out. B. Carter, Esq., for defendant.

The jury not empannelled was discharged until Tuesday morning, and the Court adjourned until to-morrow morning, when it will sit in Equity.

HARD FARE.—A number of soldiers from Pennsylvania, who had been wounded in battle, were last week sent all the way to New York by mistake, and of course must be returned to Philadelphia, if so fortunate as to survive. On finally reaching the goal of their hopes, we may suppose their troubles were over. But no. The Government hospitals in the city were all crowded to excess. Though taken from one place to another, entrance was found impossible; and as a last resort, the refreshment rooms and engine houses of the city were occupied by them. This is the second time within a week that sick soldiers have been sent to Philadelphia without quarters being provided for them, and as stated, without any notice having been sent to the surgeon there that they were to arrive.—This is not as it should be. One disabled soldiers deserve better of their country.—*New York Express.*

The total amount raised in New York for the relief of the sufferers by the late great fire in Troy is $13,397.

FROM GEN. WOOL'S DIVISION.

THE JAMES RIVER EXPEDITION.

Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 28, 4 P. M.,
Via Baltimore, May 29.

IMPORTANT FROM CITY POINT.

Our fleet in the James river has been increased by the addition of the gunboats Cœur de Lion, Captain Alexander Hamilton; Stepping Stones and Island Belle, so that we may expect lively news from that quarter at any moment.

RECONNOISSANCE TO PETERSBURG, VA.

These gunboats passed up the James river without meeting any obstacle, the shores being lined with numerous white flags to show that no enemy was near. Yesterday, the Cœur de Lion and Stepping Stones were ordered to proceed up the Appomattox river towards the city of Petersburg, which is built on its banks. They proceeded up this stream for a distance of ten miles above its mouth, without molestation, but just at this point there is what is called the "Seven Mile Reach." On one side, the ground was low and marshy, but on the other (northern bank) side there was a sort of bluff, upon which there appeared to be an earthwork, but, on close examination, it was observed that no guns were mounted upon its parapet.

Moving up a little further, the enemy's troops were discovered, composed of infantry and cavalry, in some force. They were skulking around under cover of houses and clumps of trees. Our gunboats moved up close under shore, when they were saluted with a heavy volley of musketry. Captain Hamilton, of the Cœur de Lion, ordered his crew to man the broadside howitzer and rifled gun, and sent a dozen or more loads of shrapnel and shell into the body of the enemy, accompanied by a steady volley from his relief black crew, armed with rifles. A shell from the Stepping Stones burst in a large house, about a mile from shore, creating great havoc among a company of Confederate infantry in the house, setting fire to the latter.

The fire from the gunboats was kept up for about thirty minutes, but was not returned by the Confederates, who, having no artillery, got out of the way as fast as they could. The gunboats then proceeded up a little further, until within sight of Port Walthall, meeting no batteries, or signs of any being constructed. There was plenty of water in the Appomattox for light-draught vessels, and the reconnoissance was one of the most successful and important that have been made during the war.

Port Walthall may be called the port of Petersburg and Richmond for large vessels, and is connected by railroad to both cities. It is therefore an important strategic point, and is directly in the rear of the Confederate army before Richmond. Petersburg, five miles above Port Walthall, is one of the most important commercial and manufacturing cities in the South, and five important Southern railroads radiate from it to different points north and south. It contains a population of over 20,000 souls, and is built mostly of brick and stone.

A REMEDY FOR SMALL-POX.—Dr. Frederick W. Morris, resident physician of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary, N. S., has written a letter to the *American Medical Times*, in which he states that the *Sarracenia Purpurea*, or Indian cup, a native plant of Nova Scotia, is the remedy for small-pox in all its forms in twelve hours after the patient has taken the medicine. That "however alarming and numerous the eruptions, or confluent and frightful they may be, the peculiar action of the medicine is such that very seldom is a scar left to tell the story of the disease." If either vaccine or variolous matter is washed with the infusion of the *sarracenia*, they are deprived of their contagious properties. So mild is the medicine to the taste that it may be largely mixed with tea and coffee and given to connoisseurs in these beverages to drink, without their being aware of the admixture. The medicine has been successfully tried in the hospitals of Nova Scotia, and its use will be continued.

Monetary and Commercial Review,

BALTIMORE, May 30, 1862.

There was considerable activity at the Stock Board today, particularly in City securities. Government and State stocks remain very dull, there being no demand whatever for them. There was a bid of 57 for Tennessee 6's, but there were no sellers at that figure. The sales of City stock footed up some $11,000, as follows, viz: $3,000 6's 1890 at 100¾, an advance of ¼ per cent. on yesterday's rates; $2,850 do. do. at 100; $2,200 do. do. 1875 at 100, an advance; $2,000 do. do. at 99¾; $200 do. do. 1870 at 98¾, and $700 do. do. 1886 at 103; the closing rates were for those of 1875 99¾ bid, 100 asked, and for the old issue of 1890 100¼ was bid, 100¾ asked; for City 5's 94 was asked. The only sale of Railway bonds was $500 Northern Central 6's 1885 at 79¾; closing at 79 bid, 79¾ asked; for Baltimore and Ohio 6's 1862 65 was asked; do. do. 1885 86¼ bid, 87¾ asked; for Northwestern Virginia 6's 1873, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, 93 was bid, 94 asked; do. do. second mortgage, guaranteed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 91 was asked; for Western Maryland 6's 1890, first mortgage guaranteed by the city, 94¾ was bid, without finding sellers; do. do. not guaranteed, 70 asked. In other stocks we have no change to notice. We notice a sale of 300 shares Springfield Mining at $2.50, buyer's option 60 days; for Baltimore and North Carolina 30 was asked; Consolidated 29 asked; Gardner $1 bid, $1.25 asked; Guilford 45 bid, 60 asked; Maryland $1.10 bid, and Springfield $2.25 bid, $2.50 asked. For Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock 60 was bid, and for Northern Central 22¾ was bid, 23 asked, both in the regular way.

The brokers are paying 3¾ per cent premium for American gold. Maryland country bank notes are purchased at ¾@1 per cent; Pennsylvania bank notes ¾ per cent; Wheeling do. 2, other Virginia and Southern do. 30@50 per cent. discount. Eastern exchange is at par. The United States demand notes of the old issue are bought at ¾ per cent. premium, and the 7.50 notes at 1½ per cent premium. Money matters continue remarkably easy, although business is rather dull.

The Eutaw Savings Bank has declared an extra dividend of three per cent. on sums of money that shall have been on deposit three years at the close of the ensuing month (two per cent. on those of one year). These dividends are in addition to the established interest of four per cent., and will be carried to the credit of the depositors on the books of the bank.

The Baltimore Gas Light Company has declared a dividend of three and a half per cent., payable at the Union Bank of Maryland on and after Monday next.

At the first board in New York to-day, as compared with the same board yesterday, Virginia 6's declined 3¾ per cent; Tennessee ¾; Erie ¼; whilst Missouri 6's advanced ½; North Carolina ½; Reading ¾; New York Central was the same as yesterday; the rate for American gold declined ¼ per cent. The market closed very dull. At the second board Missouri 6's advanced ½ per cent. on the rate obtained at the same board yesterday; Tennessee advanced ¼ per cent, and New York Central ¼; other descriptions remained about the same, the market closing firm.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

FRIDAY, May 30, 1862.

$2,850 Baltimore city 6's	'90	100
3,000 do.	'90	100¼
2,200 do.	'75	100
150 do.	'75	99¾
1,600 do.	'75	99¾
200 do.	'70	99¾
700 do.	'85	99¾
500 Northern Central Railroad bonds	'85	79¼
300 shares Springfield Mining Co		2½

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

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

	1st Board	2d Board
Virginia 6's	56¾	00
Missouri 6's	50¾	51¾
Tennessee bonds	57¾	58¾
North Carolina bonds	71¾	00
American gold	103¾	00
Canton Company	00	00
Erie Railroad	35¾	36¾
New York Central Railroad	86¾	87
Reading Railroad	48	47¾
Rock Island	00	00
	dull.	firm.

The *Herald* of yesterday says:

The stock market was not very active this morning, but prices were firm, and in some cases better. The greatest advance was in Pacific Mail, which has been gradually depressed; it r