THE NEW YORK SUN.
PUBLISHED DAILY—SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.
Office corner of Nassau and Fulton streets.
Single Copies—TWO CENTS.
Twelve Cents per week—Six Dollars per year.
WEEKLY SUN,
Ready on Thursday of each week; is sent by mail at One Dollar per year—single copies three cents.
MOSES S. BEACH, Proprietor of
The Sun Establishment.

THE SUN.

Thirty-Fifth Year. NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1867. Price Two Cents

RATES OF ADVERTISING.
PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.
For every insertion of four lines or less.....50 cts
For every extra line or part of line.....10 cts
☞ Advertisements will be inserted in open or displayed style, or in leaded type, also as special advertisements or special notices at proportionate rates, to be ascertained on application at the office.
☞ Twenty-six words are counted as four lines and seven words for each line more than four.

WASHINGTON.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.

Recommendations of the Committee.

The Sheridan and Stanton Removals.

Communication on the Subject from Gen. Grant.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

CLOSE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

Bill for Funding the National Debt.

The Cotton Tax.

Stevens' New Reconstruction Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.

Secretary Seward to-day presented to President Johnson, Chamberlain Carstensen, the Danish Commissioner, and Captain Hoerman, of the Danish navy, both of whom the Secretary dined last Saturday. There was also present at the interview, Rev. Mr. Hawley, the Commissioner on the part of the United States, connected with the acquisition of the Danish West India Islands, and Commodore Boggs, who brought the parties to this country in the U. S. steamer De Soto.

A delegation of citizens waited on the President this morning, to urge him to veto the bill making colored men eligible to office, and as jurors in this district. The President intimated that he regarded the bill as unconstitutional and objectionable.

The Speaker to-day laid before the House a communication from Gen. Grant, enclosing the correspondence relative to the removal of Secretary Stanton, and also the removal of Generals Sheridan and Sickles. General Grant's letter concerning Stanton is dated August 11, 1867, and reminds the President that it was the intention of the Congress to place a Cabinet Minister beyond the power of the Executive. In regard to General Sheridan, General Grant advises the President to consider the effect his removal would produce upon the people. Few men, says Gen. Grant, have done as much in war and peace, as Sheridan, and his removal would be more than the loyal people of the country would approve. Among the papers is a letter from Gen. Sheridan to Gen. Grant on the condition of the South. Another letter from Gen. Grant, dated January 29th, 1867, refers to the duty of protecting freedmen and others by military force, and approves it while regretting the necessity that calls for such measures.

The closing correspondence on the subject of the Alabama claims is made public. Mr. Adams writes to Mr. Seward that nothing more can be expected from the negotiation. Mr. Seward replies that the government adheres to its original proposition concerning arbitrament, and instructs Mr Adams to decline Lord Stanley's proposition to that end.

It is desired by the President that all communications intended for the executive department shall be transmitted in the first instance to the head of the department to which the subject matter of the communication properly belongs

The Senate Committee on Finance, in today's report, recommend Congress to adopt a comprehensive policy that will restore public confidence, instead of merely obeying existing laws. Financial matters, they say, ought not to be made in any sense partisan, but are in danger of becoming so. The five-twenty bonds they hold to be redeemable, at the end of the years from their date, in legal tender, notwithstanding the opposite construction which has been put upon the stipulation in the loan. But the Senate believes the bonds payable in coin has become so general, here and abroad, that the committee recommend the substitution of new bonds, clear and explicit in their terms, for the five-twenties. The exchange should be made optional with the bondholder. This, it is believed, would restore public confidence, and prove a remedy for the government uncertainty. This plan is similar to that adopted by Great Britain during the long period when specie payments were suspended, from 1797 to 1823. The committee are of opinion that before long it will become the duty of Congress to repeal so much of existing laws as makes United States notes a legal tender in payment of public and private debts.

Fortieth Congress.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Mr. Sherman reported from the Committee on Finance a bill to fund the national debt, and for the conversion of United States notes; which was laid over and ordered to be printed.

The bill provides for the issue of a six per cent. stock redeemable in not less than ten or more than forty years, one per cent. to be reserved in lieu of all taxation, and of that, one-half to be distributed *pro rata* among the States, and the other half to remain in the Treasury. There is also to be a four-and-a-half per cent. sterling stock, the interest payable in Frankfort or London. Another provision makes $400,000,000 convertible from bonds into greenbacks, or from greenbacks into bonds at any time. The bill also provides that the sterling 4½ per cents authorized are payable twenty years after date, or redeemable after forty years; interest and principal payable in coin; limit of loans, $500,000,000. The Twenty-six per cents are also principal and interest payable in coin; limit of loans an amount sufficient to cover the whole outstanding debt.

PENSIONS.

Mr. Patterson (of Tenn.) presented the resolutions of the Tennessee Legislature recommending the giving of pensions to all soldiers of 1812; which were referred and ordered to be printed.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. Howard, from the Committee on the Pacific Railroad, reported a joint resolution to change the time of holding the annual meeting of stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with an amendment that the term of office of the former occupants shall cease after the election of new officers; which was adopted.

THE COTTON TAX QUESTION.

The Senate then took up the pending bill for the repeal of the cotton tax.

Mr. Conkling took the floor, and repudiated the idea that a tax of 2½ cents per pound on cotton would give India and Brazil an advantage over the United States, in the production. He took up and combatted the argument, that slave labor was cheaper than free. It had been said that this tax was unconstitutional; that was to be decided by another tribunal. Referring to recent whiskey frauds, he said, but for them they could afford to resist not only the cotton tax, but many others. He was in favor of postponing the bill until the whole subject of revenue was before them. If that course should not be taken, he thought the amendment suggested by him last night should be adopted, confining the operation of the bill to 1868. He closed by moving to postpone the bill until the third Tuesday in February.

Mr. Morton reiterated his views expressed yesterday, that although the present tax is too high, cotton should not be entirely exempted from the burdens of the government, which other industries were borne down by those burdens. A tax of three-quarters of one per cent. could be easily borne by cotton, and he hoped hasty action would not be had.

Mr. Davis supported the view that the tax was unconstitutional. Referring to the remark by Mr. Morrill yesterday, likening Kentucky to a goose, he said that acute Senator was more goosish than any goose he knew, in trying to kill the goose that lays the golden egg—namely, cotton. (Laughter.) Travelling on to political subjects, he characterized Mr. Stanton as the Hayman of America, for repudiating what he (Mr. Davis) called the magnanimous terms of surrender accorded by Grant. The rebels, he said, were greater enemies of his than even you are, addressing Senator Wilson, in that by the evil they did they had given him and other Senators a pretext to do greater evil. (Laughter.) He proceeded to denounce the Republican party for mal-administration at some length.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, said that he would not reply to the Senator from Kentucky, for the reason advanced by the gentleman, who, after giving a beggar half a dollar, turned round and gave him a kick. When asked why he did so he said: If he had not the fellow would have been under eternal obligations to him. (Laughter.)

Mr. Stewart continued the debate in opposition to the bill, claiming that whenever it was legitimate, the South should bear a share of the burdens of the government, and that it was because of their endeavors to overthrow the government that they were now coming to Congress for relief, after spurning the most magnanimous terms ever offered to any conquered people. He favored postponing the bill, and letting other projects be heard before action shall be taken.

Mr. Hendricks said it would have been for the benefit of all if the southern Republicans had been admitted when they came, offering a willing obedience, asking admission to the 39th Congress. He proceeded to advocate the immediate passage of the bill.

Mr. Yates was in favor of equal and impartial legislation. He averred that the West was universally in favor of the passage of the bill. He deprecated the introduction of politics into the discussion. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. Ingersoll, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to provide for juries in the District, which was recommitted and ordered printed.

The bill provides that in all criminal cases in the Supreme Court of the District the jury, who are entitled by law that an impartial jury cannot be obtained in the district, issue a special venire for such number of disinterested men as may be deemed necessary, being citizens of the United States and having the qualifications of electors of the state or of the district of their residence.

DISTILLERIES.

Mr. Koontz introduced a joint resolution for furnishing meters to small distilleries. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

A RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, then asked unanimous consent to report from the Reconstruction Committee a bill relating to the reconstruction of southern territory. The first section modifies the Reconstruction act, so that a simple majority of votes cast for or against the Convention may affirm or reject such Constitution. The third section assigns the number of representatives as follows: To South Carolina shall be entitled five of whom shall be elected by general ticket. To North Carolina eight; one to be elected on general ticket. To Georgia 8; one to be elected on general ticket. To Florida one. To Alabama 5; two to be elected on general ticket. To Mississippi six; one on general ticket. To Arkansas three. To Virginia—the number is not filled in. The bill was opposed by Messrs Chanler, Rose and others objected to the introduction of the bill, and it was not received.

MARYLAND.

Mr. Thomas reported a resolution authorizing the Judiciary Committee to continue the inquiry concerning public affairs in Maryland with all the powers and authority given to the committee on that subject by the orders and resolutions which have been adopted by the House.

Mr. Phelps moved as an amendment that the representatives from the State of Maryland be privileged to attend at the examination and cross-examination of witnesses. Mr. Phelps spoke of this examination as going on since last December, and characterized it as a secret *ex parte* inquisition, carried on with the representatives of the State of Maryland excluded from its secret meetings; an investigation carried on not only to intercept the representatives of that State, but to keep it out of full fellowship with the three Houses, put the State itself on trial for its life, its independence, its sovereignty and its integrity.

Mr. Thomas would say, however, that the Judiciary Committee some time ago had thrown open its doors and allowed every member from Maryland to read, in confidence, the testimony taken, and suggest the name of witnesses. With such a latitude as that, he thought, given to his colleague, he did not think there was any room for complaint.

Mr. Phelps repeated that the investigation was monstrous, and a gross indignity to the State of Maryland.

The amendment was then agreed to, and the resolution as amended adopted.

STOLEN GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

Mr. Garfield, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made an adverse report on the petition of an officer to be allowed credit for public funds stolen from him while in the service. He said that this was intended to cover this whole class of cases. The report was laid on the table.

CASHIERED ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. Garfield, from the same committee, reported back the bill relating to officers of the army discharged or cashiered by sentence of general court-martial. The bill declares that no officer of the army, cashiered or dismissed from the army, by sentence of a general court-martial, approved by the proper reviewing authority, shall ever be restored to the military service, except by a reappointment, confirmed by the Senate. The bill was passed by yeas 116; nays 34, and the bill amended so as to make it declaratory of the law.

BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE.

The House proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table, and disposed thereof in part, as follows:

Senate amendment to House bill in reference to additional bounties. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

Senate amendment to House joint resolution changing the time of holding the annual meetings of the stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad. The amendment provides that in the election of directors in March, 1868, the terms of all the present directors shall cease. The amendment was concurred in and the joint resolution goes to the President for his signature.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The House then at half-past two went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Dawes in the chair, for general debate on the President's annual message.

Mr. Pike addressed the committee in support of a resolution offered by him some days since, to tax United States bonds. In his judgment this question had been already decided two long. The property in bonds of the United States was equal to one-eighth of the whole property of the country, and the question was whether that one-eighth should continue to be exempt from taxation. Congress had reserved to itself that right and had already exercised it in the matter of income tax. The tax paid at present for national, state and town purposes, amounted to 3 per cent. on the entire property of the country, and he was at a loss to know on what principle the exemption of bonds from their fair share of taxation could be maintained. He proposed that the bonds should pay an annual tax of one per cent. Only one-eighth of the debt was held abroad, and if seven-eighths of this property were made to pay tax, that would be a larger proportion than in any other article of taxation. The committee then rose.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM GEN. GRANT.

The Speaker presented a communication from Gen. Grant in relation to the removal of Secretary Stanton and General Sheridan. On motion of Mr. Dawes the letter was read to the House, with the endorsement by Gen. Grant of Gen. Sheridan's communication with reference to the affairs in Texas.

Mr. Brooks asked whether there was anything in the communication relating to a rencontre in New England between gamblers and civil officers, wherein several officers were killed.

Mr. Dawes said he could quiet all the gentleman's fears in reference to the people of Massachusetts. If there had been any such instance of outrage, people there were willing and able to enforce the law and bring to condign punishment any violation of it. He wished he could say as much for the people in the gentleman's district.

Mr. Brooks wished to know whether the people of Massachusetts desired martial law there.

Mr. Dawes replied that if martial law were necessary for the protection of the citizens of Massachusetts, they would submit to it, but there never had been an occasion for martial law there since the example set by one-third of the people of the Union, in an attempt to overthrow it, encouraged and sustained by the people of the gentleman's (Brooks's) district and city, encouraged by the Governor of the State, who addressed them as his friends and supporters. (Laughter.)

The papers, after being read, were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. Adjourned.

The Constitutional Convention.

Bribery and Corruption Proposed Legislation on the Subject, &c.

ALBANY, Dec. 17.—The Convention met at ten o'clock A. M.

Mr. M. I. Townsend called up his resolution calling upon the Legislature to enact laws providing for the payment by the State of the expenses necessary to be incurred in this county, in order to ferret out and punish bribery and corruption. He reviewed the extraordinary laws relating to this subject, and also the decisions of the courts. He said the laws now on the statute books, as expounded by the courts, were sufficient to ferret out and punish bribery and corruption to a great degree. The evidence taken before the committee on that subject was adduced to show that half a million of dollars was expended about the capital last year to influence legislation. Why was not the existing remedy applied? He would venture to say that an honest lawyer, if one could be found, and a competent detective, would ferret out and bring to punishment fifty persons who had committed crimes of bribery and corruption in the district, and it appeared that the Legislature should take such action as will provide for the payment of the expenses necessary to accomplish this work.

Mr. Opdyke opposed the consideration of the resolution at the present time. He thought it would be better to refer it to the Committee of the Whole, having the subject in charge. He moved to lay the resolution on the table. Carried—48 to 37.

JUDICIARY.

The Convention then went into Committee of the Whole on the report of the Committee on Judiciary. The discussion was directed to the term of office of the justices of the supreme court, the judges of the superior court and the court of common pleas of New York City, and the judges of the superior court of Buffalo. The Judiciary Committee reported in favor of the tenure of office during good behavior or until the judges respectively attain the age of seventy years.

The pending amendment was to limit the term of office to fourteen years. Recess.

At the evening session the consideration of the report on the Judiciary occupied the Convention up to the hour of adjournment.

Dickens and the Bostonians.

BOSTON, Dec. 17.—The rush and excitement to procure tickets for Dickens' second readings was fully equal to that attending the previous sale. Large numbers of persons retained their positions near the door all night. Tickets for the two readings were all disposed of between eight and eleven o'clock, and one-half of the crowd was disappointed for not procuring them.

TELEGRAPHIC ITEMS.

THE United States officers have brought up several manufacturing concerns in Concord, N. H., for frauds on the revenue.

EARLY yesterday morning the steam boiler in the distillery of John Haas, in West Philadelphia, exploded, completely shattering the building and seriously injuring three persons.

THE report of the Society for the Education of Freedmen shows that over seventy schools for the colored people are now in operation in Maryland, and that fifty are in course of construction.

JOHN MURPHY, employed at the Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass, was discovered yesterday morning frozen to death in a snow drift three feet high, at Quinsigamond village. He had been missing since Saturday.

GENERAL O. O. HOWARD made an address, Monday night, in Boston, before the Society for the Education of the Freedmen. He denied that he had said that the colored race were dying off since their emancipation from slavery.

IN the Georgia Reconstruction Convention yesterday, a resolution was introduced to prevent discrimination by common carriers on account of color; also a resolution, recommending the removal of Gov Jenkins, and the appointment of Mr. Bullock, of Richmond County.

THE old Reformed Dutch Church at Kinderhook, N. Y., was destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. Nothing of any account was saved. The church was built in 1814. It was the place of worship of Martin Van Buren, and around it clustered many hallowed memories. The congregation is the largest and wealthiest in the country.

IN the Virginia Reconstruction Convention, yesterday, the following resolutions were referred: For incorporating a provision in the Constitution "that immigrants to this State shall not be sued in the courts here for debts incurred before immigration, and exempting a certain amount of real and personal property of such immigrants from seizure for debt." For changing the system of State laws from remedial to preventive. The preamble to this resolution refers to the prostitution of the liberty of speech and the press. For the punishment of attempts to intimidate at ratification elections. For preventing citizens from being distressed by disloyal tax collectors for taxes levied years ago. A colored delegate offered a resolution prohibiting distinctions on railroads, or other public conveyance, on account of color, which was referred.

On the night of the 28th ult, whilst the Queen was returning from Claremont to Windsor, a brewer's dray ran into the second carriage, killing one of the two horses, and smashing the carriage. Sir T. Biddulph was inside, but was not hurt. Sir T. Biddulph proceeded to Windsor in a baker's cart. The carriage lamps were not lighted.

THE Boston *Post* says: "The annexation fever increases. Squantum is to have a meeting to-night to see if it is best to annex to Boston. Squantum has from ten to fifteen voters, according to its promptness in settling the poll tax. Squantum once attempted to join Dorchester, but he was at a loss to know on what principle the exemption of bonds from their fair share of taxation could be maintained. Referring to recent whiskey frauds, he said, but for them they could afford to resist not only the cotton tax, but many others. He was in favor of postponing the bill until the whole subject of revenue was before them. If that course should not be taken, he thought the amendment suggested by him last night should be adopted, confining the operation of the bill to 1868. He closed by moving to postpone the bill until the third Tuesday in February.

Mr. Morton reiterated his views expressed yesterday, that although the present tax is too high, cotton should not be entirely exempted from the burdens of the government, which other industries were borne down by those burdens. A tax of three-quarters of one per cent. could be easily borne by cotton, and he hoped hasty action would not be had.

Mr. Davis supported the view that the tax was unconstitutional. Referring to the remark by Mr. Morrill yesterday, likening Kentucky to a goose, he said that acute Senator was more goosish than any goose he knew, in trying to kill the goose that lays the golden egg—namely, cotton. (Laughter.) Travelling on to political subjects, he characterized Mr. Stanton as the Hayman of America, for repudiating what he (Mr. Davis) called the magnanimous terms of surrender accorded by Grant. The rebels, he said, were greater enemies of his than even you are, addressing Senator Wilson, in that by the evil they did they had given him and other Senators a pretext to do greater evil. (Laughter.) He proceeded to denounce the Republican party for mal-administration at some length.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, said that he would not reply to the Senator from Kentucky, for the reason advanced by the gentleman, who, after giving a beggar half a dollar, turned round and gave him a kick. When asked why he did so he said: If he had not the fellow would have been under eternal obligations to him. (Laughter.)

Mr. Stewart continued the debate in opposition to the bill, claiming that whenever it was legitimate, the South should bear a share of the burdens of the government, and that it was because of their endeavors to overthrow the government that they were now coming to Congress for relief, after spurning the most magnanimous terms ever offered to any conquered people. He favored postponing the bill, and letting other projects be heard before action shall be taken.

Mr. Hendricks said it would have been for the benefit of all if the southern Republicans had been admitted when they came, offering a willing obedience, asking admission to the 39th Congress. He proceeded to advocate the immediate passage of the bill.

Mr. Yates was in favor of equal and impartial legislation. He averred that the West was universally in favor of the passage of the bill. He deprecated the introduction of politics into the discussion. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. Ingersoll, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to provide for juries in the District, which was recommitted and ordered printed.

The bill provides that in all criminal cases in the Supreme Court of the District the jury, who are entitled by law that an impartial jury cannot be obtained in the district, issue a special venire for such number of disinterested men as may be deemed necessary, being citizens of the United States and having the qualifications of electors of the state or of the district of their residence.

DISTILLERIES.

Mr. Koontz introduced a joint resolution for furnishing meters to small distilleries. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

A RECONSTRUCTION BILL.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, then asked unanimous consent to report from the Reconstruction Committee a bill relating to the reconstruction of southern territory. The first section modifies the Reconstruction act, so that a simple majority of votes cast for or against the Convention may affirm or reject such Constitution. The third section assigns the number of representatives as follows: To South Carolina shall be entitled five of whom shall be elected by general ticket. To North Carolina eight; one to be elected on general ticket. To Georgia 8; one to be elected on general ticket. To Florida one. To Alabama 5; two to be elected on general ticket. To Mississippi six; one on general ticket. To Arkansas three. To Virginia—the number is not filled in. The bill was opposed by Messrs Chanler, Rose and others objected to the introduction of the bill, and it was not received.

MARYLAND.

Mr. Thomas reported a resolution authorizing the Judiciary Committee to continue the inquiry concerning public affairs in Maryland with all the powers and authority given to the committee on that subject by the orders and resolutions which have been adopted by the House.

Mr. Phelps moved as an amendment that the representatives from the State of Maryland be privileged to attend at the examination and cross-examination of witnesses. Mr. Phelps spoke of this examination as going on since last December, and characterized it as a secret *ex parte* inquisition, carried on with the representatives of the State of Maryland excluded from its secret meetings; an investigation carried on not only to intercept the representatives of that State, but to keep it out of full fellowship with the three Houses, put the State itself on trial for its life, its independence, its sovereignty and its integrity.

Mr. Thomas would say, however, that the Judiciary Committee some time ago had thrown open its doors and allowed every member from Maryland to read, in confidence, the testimony taken, and suggest the name of witnesses. With such a latitude as that, he thought, given to his colleague, he did not think there was any room for complaint.

Mr. Phelps repeated that the investigation was monstrous, and a gross indignity to the State of Maryland.

The amendment was then agreed to, and the resolution as amended adopted.

STOLEN GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

Mr. Garfield, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made an adverse report on the petition of an officer to be allowed credit for public funds stolen from him while in the service. He said that this was intended to cover this whole class of cases. The report was laid on the table.

CASHIERED ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. Garfield, from the same committee, reported back the bill relating to officers of the army discharged or cashiered by sentence of general court-martial. The bill declares that no officer of the army, cashiered or dismissed from the army, by sentence of a general court-martial, approved by the proper reviewing authority, shall ever be restored to the military service, except by a reappointment, confirmed by the Senate. The bill was passed by yeas 116; nays 34, and the bill amended so as to make it declaratory of the law.

BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE.

The House proceeded to the business on the Speaker's table, and disposed thereof in part, as follows:

Senate amendment to House bill in reference to additional bounties. Referred to Committee on Military Affairs.

Senate amendment to House joint resolution changing the time of holding the annual meetings of the stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad. The amendment provides that in the election of directors in March, 1868, the terms of all the present directors shall cease. The amendment was concurred in and the joint resolution goes to the President for his signature.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The House then at half-past two went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. Dawes in the chair, for general debate on the President's annual message.

Mr. Pike addressed the committee in support of a resolution offered by him some days since, to tax United States bonds. In his judgment this question had been already decided too long. The property in bonds of the United States was equal to one-eighth of the whole property of the country, and the question was whether that one-eighth should continue to be exempt from taxation. Congress had reserved to itself that right and had already exercised it in the matter of income tax. The tax paid at present for national, state and town purposes, amounted to 3 per cent. on the entire property of the country, and he was at a loss to know on what principle the exemption of bonds from their fair share of taxation could

THE OLD WORLD.

SUN CABLE DISPATCHES.

News from Great Britain, France, Austria and Abyssinia.

Terrible Nitro-Glycerine Explosion.

SUPPOSED FENIAN ARRANGEMENT.

Several Persons Killed.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 17—Evening.—An inquest was held to-day on the bodies of the persons killed by the attempt to blow up the wall of the Clerkenwell prison. A large number of witnesses were examined, but nothing satisfactory was elicited as to the perpetrators of the crime.

FATAL NITRO-GLYCERINE EXPLOSION.

LONDON, Dec. 17—Evening. A terrible explosion occurred at Newcastle-on-Tyne today. The authorities last night received information that a quantity of gionoin, or nitro-glycerine, had been secreted in that place, it was supposed, by some Fenians. The Sheriff and Town Surveyor, with a large squad of policemen, proceeded to the spot indicated and discovered the oil packed in the usual manner. While the men were removing it, the substance exploded with a tremendous detonation. Several of the policemen were instantly killed, and few of the party escaped injury. The men who were nearest to packages of gionoin were blown to atoms. Both the Sheriff and the Surveyor were badly hurt, and are lying in a critical condition.

France.

PARIS, Dec. 17—*The Patrie* this morning indignantly denies that there is any truth in the report, which has been circulated, that the French government has sent an Envoy to Mexico. The Bourse is buoyant to-day and Rentes have advanced.

Cuba and Porto Rico.

LONDON, Dec. 17—Evening.—The truth of the report which reached here by the Atlantic cable, that Spain has offered to sell the Islands of Cuba and Porto Rico to the United States, is doubted.

Austria.

LONDON, Dec. 17—Evening.—A rumor has reached here from Vienna that a change in the Austrian ministry is impending, and that Count von Taaffe is to form a new cabinet. The report needs confirmation.

Abyssinia.

LONDON, Dec. 17—Evening.—The last dispatches received from Massowah report that the British expeditionary force in Abyssinia had reached a place called Senate, where there was an abundance of water and the natives were friendly.

Marine News by Cable.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 17—11.15 A. M.—The Inman steamship City of Paris, Capt. Kennedy, arrived at this port at nine o'clock yesterday morning, having made the passage from New York in eight days twelve hours and a half.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17—11.15 A. M.—The steamship Moravian, Captain Wylie, from Quebec, has arrived here on the way to Liverpool.

OUR DUBLIN LETTER.

Public Feeling in Ireland—John Martin and John Mitchel—The Army of Occupation in Ireland—How the Constabulary get Promotion—Poaching Royal Residences, &c., &c.

DUBLIN, Dec. 5th, 1867.

"It's a queer world where nobody lives, where the dogs bark at strangers and the natives are blacks" as the Irishman said; for whoever perpetrated a bull but an Irishman, at least so think all mankind. Ireland is certainly a queer place, as queer now as ever. Its a pity that at the creation, when the land was separated from the water, Ireland wasn't moved further away from England. Some one—I suppose he must have been a poet—says that "proximity is the soul of love," but it needs no poet to demonstrate that in the case of Ireland and England proximity is the soul of hate. There is no affinity between their respective peoples, no similarity in temper, in sentiment, or in anything else, no subtile chain of sympathy; no, they are opposites, as far asunder as the poles. This is attributable to the relations that have existed for centuries between the races, the one dominant and oppressive, the other conquered but restlessly unabidded. Abortive uprisings and rebellions, crushed by the strong hand, followed each other at intervals, and the blood shed in one rebellion became the seed of the next. Thus it has been, and thus it will ever be until Ireland is free, or her sons become an extinct race.

The almost universal sympathy expressed for the "Manchester martyrs" is proof positive of the state of Irish feeling. The national papers were in mourning, and the more moderate Liberal organs with one accord denounced the executions; the women wear crape, the men meet at midnight, and revive their neglected drilling, funeral processions marched boldly through our cities, and prayers are offered up for the dead. John Martin, of 48 fame, whose spirit six years of penal servitude could not break, has stigmatised the "Manchester strangulings" as a "national murder which England has committed against his country," and has put himself in danger of being sent to his old quarters in a felon's cell. Martin was a cotemporary of John Mitchell, and like him is from the North. They are the only survivors, worth naming, of that gifted band who suffered in '48, under the name of Young Irelanders. Martin, now in the sere and yellow leaf, with feeble frame and frosted head, is much venerated by his countrymen.

Ireland is filled with soldiers, horse and foot, who might enjoy the privilege of dying in Abyssinia could they be spared from here, but they can't. The pomp and circumstance of war must be kept up, to strike terror in the hearts of the people, only, unfortunately, their hearts are so filled with sorrow and bitterness that there is no room for fear. Couriers and orderlies gallop through the streets at all hours of the day and night, with much haste, regardless of the high price of horseflesh. Regiments are constantly moving from one station to another, to the infinite disgust of the men, but particularly of the officers, whose oaths in abusing Ireland would choke ordinary troopers, but these men appear to be highly endowed with the swearing faculty, and deliver themselves of profanity with unembarrassed facility, if not felicity.

You hear in America of the Royal Irish Constabulary being made targets of by-playthings, indeed, rebels and, of course, think these gentlemen find it difficult to preserve their hides intact. Pray don't waste your commiseration on them at least. They don't deserve it, not a bit. I'll tell you how they manage it. As may be supposed, their daily stipend (paid monthly) is not so munificent as to compel each private in the force to keep a Chancellor of the Exchequer to control his finances. In fact, their pay is so small that the idea of supporting a family on it is simply ridiculous, and few of them get married until they become promotion, with the accompanying increase of pay. This can be secured only by long service, combined with good conduct, or by performing some act that singles them out from their comrades as braver and better men. The opportunities of distinction, if waited for to turn up, would leave them waiting for advancement until death advanced them to another world. Wanting an opportunity, they make one; and some dark, rainy night, A 161, for instance, approaches A 162, and discharges his revolver over his head. The two worthies rush to the barracks, report they have been attacked by a "superior force," swear they have been fired at, and thus get their names in the papers and under the notice of their superior officers. In course of time, perhaps, with a judicious repetition of the firing, they are promoted for having been exposed to danger in the cause of law and order, &c. In this way the thing is done. Occasionally the man that fires, misses the air, kills his comrade by mistake, and then he is certain of being rewarded.

The cold season has begun and so has the winter sport of fox hunting, indulged in by the squires, squireens, army officers, &c. The chase is a remarkable institution, and the Nimrods of Ireland are determined that while a fox remains in the land, they will hunt the unfortunate brutes. Reynard is an ignoble animal on which to squander much bravery and daring. The manner in which the huntsmen and huntswomen, too, for that matter, negotiate five-barred gates, and double ditches, shows they don't hold their necks or their lives in high estimation. The season will not terminate until Spring, and by that time many foxes will have fallen and so will the annual sacrifice of huntsmen.

A royal residence has been again suggested by some dreamers as a cure for all the ills that Irish flesh is heir to. But you might as well try to keep back the Atlantic with a pitch-fork as to cure Irish discontent by applying a royal plaster. There was a time, a few years ago, when such a course, united with liberal legislation, might have forestalled Fenianism, but the golden opportunity went by unimproved, and now it is too late.

TIMOTHY INGRAM.

West Indies.

Various Interesting Matters.

(*By the Cuba Cable.*)

HAVANA, Dec. 16—Recent arrivals here report that there had been a desolating conflagration in Guadeloupe Island, but no particulars of it are given. Fearful shocks of earthquake visited St. Kitts on the 11th and 20th of November. Many buildings were destroyed and several lives were lost. An earthquake visited Antigua on the 18th of November, causing great loss of life and property. The reports from St. Thomas are more cheerful. The inhabitants are recovering from their panic and business was recuperating. The men of the New York Submarine Company were engaged in raising wrecks with great success. Advices from Hayti confirm the report of the assassination of Montez. The revolution was increasing. President Cabral, of Santo Domingo, was marching with an army against Hayti, under the pretence of avenging the death of Montez, but in reality to gain possession of the whole island. The American wife of Senor Hernandez, and her child, were burned to death at Guanabacoa. The commercial feeling in Havana is very insecure. The condition of several merchants is critical, and some bankruptcies may be expected. Great preparations are being made for the reception of Captain-General Lasunda.

HAVANA, Dec. 17th.—The principal of a large provision house, called the San Ciprian Company, has absconded, leaving liabilities to the amount of $700,000. His assets are small.

MAIL ITEMS.

LINCOLN'S autograph sells for ten dollars in Germany.

A LETTER from Paris states that Rossini is "very unwell."

BLONDIN broke his arm by a fall from his rope at Cologne.

DICKENS is taking notes for a new volume upon this country.

"DRUNK and disorderlies" saw the city wood in Minneapolis, Minn.

ONE of the Maine courts has just granted forty divorces in a single term.

THE London papers want the police force increased from 7,000 to 10,000.

THE engineer who constructed the Vermont railway tunnel opine was become insane.

THE walrus in the Zoological Gardens in London daily consumes ten quarts of oysters.

THERE is said to be a breed of cats in Plainville, Conn., that are born wholly without tails.

BUFFALO meat, at wholesale, is down to "cents per pound in the Hays City, Kansas, market.

IT costs 75 cents to have a shirt washed in some parts of Ohio, just now, owing to the scarcity of water.

A DEAF and dumb man named James Webb has started shoemaking in Danbury, Conn., with five deaf mute workmen.

THE prisoners in the Chicago jail complained of visits from a ghost, which has turned out to be a ventriloquist.

SECONDIAN, Shaynamish and Snagnalmin are some of the pretty and poetic names of streams in Washington Territory.

MORE votes are cast in Montana than in either Nevada or Nebraska, yet the two latter are States, while the former is a Territory.

Two only girls in Maquoketa, Iowa, have declared their readiness to walk from that place to Chicago in five days, for $100 each.

AN English firm of brewers have just had a brewing pan made that will hold 1,100 barrels. It is the largest one in Great Britain.

A MAN name Garland, in Arkansas, has been sentenced to hard labor in a military prison for hurling down the United States flag.

AT Chicago, on the 10th, Wm. Andrews attacked Wm. Hamilton, bit a great chunk out of his lip and swallowed it, moustache and all.

The scholars in the public schools at Clinton, Iowa, attend school but half a day, the boys in the morning and the girls in the afternoon.

NEXT Friday Mr. E. T. Goodrich and Frank Swift, will skate on the Rensselaer Park in Albany, for the championship of the United States.

A PIECE ivory, which leapt at one bound from the ground to a crotch of a tree fifteen feet from the ground, has been killed on Rock river, Ill.

MRS. GENERAL SHERIDAN PRIOR has recently received $10,000 insurance upon the life of her husband in a Connecticut Life Insurance Company.

THE Paris Rothschild reduced the salaries of his clerks fifty centimes per day each—to make up the expense of entertaining the Austrian Archduke.

A PRISONER in a Michigan jail lately took poison to make himself sick, so that he might escape trial for the time, and succeeded in killing himself.

THE Amesbury (Mass.) *Villager* says that a lady of that place killed a Brahma rooster who had thirteen nickle cents in his crop, and two two cent pieces.

AN advertisement for a copyist, in a Boston paper last week, was responded to by one hundred and sixty applicants, three-fourths of whom were women.

AMONG the women who were sent from the French prisons to the convict colony of Cayenne have married there. One of them had murdered her husband in France.

TOM MORGAN, of Manchester, N. H., recently placed his tongue against an iron jump post and was "frozen fast" for his pains. Hot water was required to release him.

A PARIS physician says that six cigars a day will shorten a man's life five years. Then twelve cigars will shorten it ten years, and a proportionate number will kill him on the spot.

MANON, the million who, in attempting to shoot the ring master of a circus at Boston, Mass., last fall, killed a young girl in the audience, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

THE work over the second track between Poughkeepsie and Albany, on the Hudson River Railroad, went into operation, giving a continuous double track from Albany to New York.

MRS. MARGARET A. JOHNSTON died in St. Louis on the 9th instant, a few hours after the decease of her husband, Edward Wm. Johnston, a brother of General Joseph E. Johnston.

HENRY WARD BEECHER never saw a theatrical performance or a circus exhibition, and never expects to; so it may be doubtful if he ever "sees the elephant." So says the Boston *Transcript*.

THINK of making a tour to Egypt and the Holy Land at eighty years of age! Amos Kendall, Jackson's Postmaster General, has just done it, and is back home again as well and vigorous as ever.

TWENTY persons were admitted into the Methodist Church at New Haven, Conn., last Sunday, on probation. They were the first fruits of the revival that has been going on there recently in the Methodist Church.

A HUNTER in Crawford county, Wis., recently shot a cougar or American panther, measuring three feet six inches in height, and five feet in length; the largest ever seen in that region. He got $12 bounty.

A COUNTRY merchant was swindled out of thirty-five dollars in St. Louis, last Saturday, by two confidence men. He discovered the swindle before the men got out of sight, chased them, and shot one of them through the neck.

THE benevolent ladies of Hartford, Conn., are about to establish an Industrial School for vagrant girls. Fifteen thousand dollars have already been subscribed, and five thousand more, all that is wanted to begin this excellent work.

IT is estimated that no less than 50,000 people come into Boston from the suburbs every morning, classified as follows: 6 A. M., workmen; 7 A. M., clerkesses; 8 A. M., shirkers; 10 A. M., shirkes, the latter lounging in the fair sex, for shopping and visiting.

THE work on the monument to the Father of His Country, in Washington city, has already cost $200,000. At this time the structure has reached the height of 174 feet, leaving 274 feet to be completed, the entire height of the monument being fixed at 548 feet.

GENERAL DIX, writes a Washington correspondent, has written home that he will return in April. His friends say he will be a candidate for the Presidency before the Democratic Convention, and that when Mr. Johnson finds that he can't reach it himself, he will throw his influence for Dix.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THE hotels are nearly empty.

ON a level—the road and sidew