

Christmas.

Once more we greet our readers with a "Merry Christmas." 'Tis an old familiar greeting, its associations are ever joyous, and though at times they may have a tinge of sadness, when we look back upon past days and the vacant chairs in the home circle, yet, there is even then, calm, holy joy, for those who trust in the "good tidings of great joy." Yes, indeed, the salvation of the world rested upon the birth of the Christ-child.

For over eighteen hundred and seventy-two years, this season has been one of feasting and general enjoyment. The children, more particularly look forward to the holidays with peculiar pleasure, and visions of endless fun and enjoyment float through their brain.

The heart and conscience must be soared indeed, when no emotion of gladness quickens the pulsations in this ever memorable season. Dwell not upon the past, but keep up a cheerful heart, and let this Christmas season be one of unalloyed pleasure and satisfaction.

The term Christmas is derived from the Latin Church, it is properly Christi Mass, (the mass of Christ).

The celebration of Christmas was formerly attended with boisterous mirth. The house or wall and dining room were decorated with holly, box and other evergreens. Candles of large size were used, and a huge log or block of wood, called Yule log or Christmas block was laid upon the fire, around which there was much beer drinking and merry-making. Parties of singers also went from house to house, singing what were called Christmas Carols. The following article embodies all the information concerning Christmas:

CHRISTMAS DAY.—We copy from Chambers' Encyclopedia, the following history of this day:

CHRISTMAS, the day of which the nativity of the Saviour is observed. The institution of this festival is attributed by the spurious Decretals to Telesphorus, who flourished in the reign of Antoninus Pius, (153-161 A. D.) but the first certain traces of it are found about the time of the Emperor Commodus (180-192 A. D.) In the reign of Diocletian (284-305 A. D.) while that ruler was keeping court at Nicomedia, he learned that a multitude of Christians were assembled in the city to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, and having ordered the church doors to be closed he set fire to the building, and all the worshippers perished in the flames. It does not appear, however, that there was any uniformity in the period of observing the nativity among the early churches; some held the festival in the month of May or April, others in January. It is nevertheless, almost certain that the 25th of December cannot be the nativity of the Saviour, for it is then the height of the rainy season in Judea, and shepherds could hardly be watching their flocks by night in the plains.

Christmas not only became the parent of many later festivals, such as those of the Virgin, but especially from the 6th to the 8th century, gathered round it, as it were, several other festivals, partly old and partly new, so that what may be termed a Christmas Cycle sprang up, which surpassed all other groups of Christian holidays in the manifold richness of its festal usages, and furthered, more than any other, the completion of the orderly and systematic distribution of church festivals over the whole year. Not casually or arbitrarily was the festival of the Nativity celebrated on the 25th of December. Among the causes that co-operated in fixing this period as the proper one, perhaps the most powerful was, that almost all the heathen nations regarded the winter solstice as a most important point of the year, the beginning of the renewed life and activity of the powers of nature, and of the gods, who were originally merely the symbolical personification of these.

In more northerly countries, this fact must have made itself peculiarly palpable—hence the Celts and Germans, from the earliest times, celebrated the season with the greatest festivities. At the winter solstice, the Germans held their great Yule-feast, in commemoration of the return of the fiery sun-wheel, and believed that during the twelve nights reaching from the 25th of December to the 6th of January, they could trace the personal movements and interference on earth of their great deities, Odin, Bertha, &c. Many of the beliefs and usages of the old Germans, and also of the Romans, relating to this matter, passed over from heathenism to Christianity, and have partly survived to the present day. The church also sought to combat and banish—and it was to a large extent successful—the deep-rooted heathen feeling, by adding—for the purification of the heathen customs and feasts which it retained—its grandly devised liturgy, besides dramatic representation of the birth of Christ and the first events of his life. Hence sprang the so-called "Manger songs" and multitude of Christmas carols, as well as Christmas dramas, which, at certain times and places degenerated into farces or fool's festivals. Hence also originated, at a later period, the Christmas trees adorned with lights and gifts, the custom of reciprocal presents, and of special Christmas meats and dishes, such as Christmas rolls, cakes, currant-loaves, dumplings, &c. Thus Christmas became a universal social festival for young and old, high and low, as no other Christian festival could have become.

In the Roman Catholic Church, three

masses are performed at Christmas—one at midnight, one at daybreak and one in the morning. The day is also celebrated by the Anglo-Catholic Church—special psalms are sung, a special preface is made in the Communia Service, and the Athanasian Creed is said or sung. The Lutheran Church, on the continent, likewise observes Christmas; but the Presbyterian churches in Scotland, and the whole of the English dissenters, reject it, in its religious aspect, as a 'human invention,' and as 'favoring of papistical will-worship,' although, in England, dissenters, as well as church-men keep it as a social holiday, on which there is a complete cessation from all business. But within the last hundred years, the festivities once appropriate to Christmas have much fallen off. These at one time lasted with more or less brilliancy till Candlemas, and with great spirit till twelfth day; but now a meeting in the evening, composed, when possible, of the various branches and members of a family, is all that distinguishes the day above others.

Bible Pictures.

BY HON. R. P. DICK.

No. 1.

[From the Greensboro North Star.]

The scenes in the life of our Saviour have furnished the highest themes and subjects for the genius of the poet, and artists whose productions have contributed so much to the enjoyments of mankind, and elevated and refined our modern civilization.

The Bible Pictures of the Old Masters are universally conceded to be models of the highest excellence, and time has increased the admiration of the lovers of the beautiful art.

When the desolating tides of war sweep over Europe, all nations are solicitous to preserve these works of genius, and when any of them are defaced or destroyed, the event is regarded as a misfortune to civilization. It is not the skill of the artist alone that receives such reverential homage, but it is the holy associations which are suggested by their magic pencils to the yearning hearts of mankind.

The beautiful character of Christ—His eventful life—His holy mission and glorious sacrifice, touch the tenderest chords of human sympathy and love; and with a silent but wonderful power, draw all men unto Him. To the Christian, the contemplation of Christ is a source of high and unceasing joy, and he never becomes weary with the repetition of those scenes which he loves more and more, as he presses onward through the cares and trials of life to reach the Everlasting Rest.

I propose to present sketches of various scenes in the life of our Blessed Saviour, and in many of them, I fancy myself to be an eye-witness, in order that I may the more readily give the striking outlines of the picture.

THE ADVENT.

All hail to thee, benignant little Bethlehem Ephratah, nestling among the fertile hills of Judah, encircled with green valleys and sparkling waters, all luminous with the evening's sunlight's glimmering sheen! How clear and serene is the sky-tent that covers thee, and how fresh and balmy are the breezes, as with laden wings they come from olive groves and vineyards, and whisper the sweet voices of nature's gladness.

Thou art well-named, Bethlehem, the house of bread, for thy store-houses are full; thy fields are rich with fatness, and thy purple wine-presses gush out new wine.

Through thy streets and open gates the stream of busy life is pouring; on thy home altars the vestal fires of domestic love are glowing, and in the quiet valley thy dreamland dead are sleeping. Thou hast witnessed many glorious scenes as Time has rolled his waves of ages over thee; and sweet memories are clustering round, making thee a dreamland of the heart.

From ponder verdant hill the youthful and loved Rachel saw thy bowing trees and festooned vines, and longed to enter thy gates with joy; but she died by the wayside and sleeps beneath those tall plumed palms, which murmur her constant requiem.

In one of thy humble homes the beautiful and faithful Moabitess consoled the sorrows of the widowed Naomi; and there she brought the golden grain which she had gleaned in the rich harvest fields of the generous Boaz.

In these valleys the beautiful shepherd boy watched his father's flocks; and perchance beneath the shadow of those towering rocks, he tuned his harp to sing some of his immortal melodies; and within those walls he received the kingly anointment upon his kingly brow.

Along those steep paths once trod the gallant sons of Zeruiah who led the victorious armies of Israel; and close by are the gardens, fish-ponds and fountains which Solomon built, to adorn the childhood home of his noble father.

But I will muse no longer in the past, and call up associations so full of pleasing enchantments—for this is the evening preceding the Advent, the time which the prophets foresaw with holy raptures, and which is the center of human history.

Crowds have filled every house in the City of David, and two wayward travelers are standing at the gate, and seek in vain a hospitable abode among their kindred. That sweet virgin face ought to touch every chord in every heart with sympathy for it is full of beauty, gentleness and love. It is a face that might inspire the genius of a poet or painter almost to adoration. The weary travelers have at last found shelter in the stable of the inn; and in that lowly abode, with humility and thankfulness, they rest from the toils of their journey.

Now the sun has gone down in his glory, but he leaves a crown of opaline splendors upon the brow of the westward mountains. The lowing herds and bleating flocks wake the echoes from their cavern slumbers, and the gentle and faithful shepherds are pre-

paring for their night watch beneath the silent stars. Arcturus with his suns, Orion with his hands, and the sweet Pleiades are glowing in the chambers of the South, and behold that strange evangelist, walking with quiet beauty through the sparkling fields of the firmament and guiding the footsteps of the devout Magi from the star-land of Chaldaea. All nature is now hushed in profound repose, and even the breezes, on poised wings, seem to be slumbering. A flood of shining light beams over the valley, and the frightened shepherds; and an angel-voice breaks the silence of the night with the glorious evangel, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And now from a heavenly choir in the magnificent star-lit temple of nature, rises the grandest Gloria in Excelsis that ever thrilled the human soul, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will toward men." With mysterious links of charity and mercy, it unites earth to heaven, and with sympathetic chords, binds together the brotherhood of man. Like a Jubilate of endless harmonies it goes swelling through the long vista of the coming centuries, and will rise in pathos and beauty, until it shall wake again the golden harps of the angels, upon the morn of Christ's second coming. When the symphonies of the Cherubim and Seraphim had ceased, the shepherds went in haste, and in the manger of Bethlehem saw the grandest event of earth, a poor helpless babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and yet "God manifest in the flesh."

Our Educational Wants.

One of the chief wants of the people, the increased means of education. The educational wants of our State are immeasurable, and one of the more important matters to engage the attention of the Legislature. That body is charged with a very great responsibility in this respect. Unless something effective is done, thousands of our children must grow up to manhood and womanhood in mental darkness and ignorance.

In this day of enlightenment this cannot be tolerated. It is not only our duty and privilege to educate the rising generation, but our very honor is involved in the matter. What will become of us if we neglect this great means of civilization and blessing to the country and humanity? We will become a laughing stock, a byword and a reproach, if we fail to educate our children—not only the rich—but the poor, and all.

We feel confident that the people will cheerfully pay taxes for the purposes of education. Make liberal provisions for schools and see that they are opened and made effective. Let them be so organized as to bless and benefit the people, and we will pay for it.

We venture to trust that the Legislature has taken, or will take this matter of great importance under most serious consideration. The people expect them to do so, and in this way they can make for themselves a name and a reputation worth more than gold, and above price.—Raleigh Sentinel.

Proceedings of Congress from our latest dates up to adjournment, uninteresting to our readers. After the holidays, we will give particular attention to the proceedings of Congress and the State Legislature.

LIABILITY OF POSTMASTERS.—The Postmaster-General has decided that all postmasters are liable to the government for the value of all registered letters lost in their offices. This principle, which has been long maintained with respect to minor offices, has never been applied to offices where any considerable number of letters has been registered. It is now claimed that the bonds of postmasters cover such cases of loss. The definite establishment of such a principle will render the responsibility under postmasters' bonds much greater than has been supposed.

North Carolina Legislature.

In the Senate, on Tuesday the 16th, Mr. Cowles announced a contract with Patrick McGowan as Keeper of the Capitol and grounds, at \$600 per annum, being \$150 less than last year. Concurred in.

Mr. Flemming introduced a joint resolution for an investigation into the manner in which the dividends in the N. C. Railroad have been disbursed.

The bill making the willful and malicious destruction of life on railroads, by placing obstructions on the track, shooting into passenger coaches, &c., a capital offense punishable by death, passed its second reading.

The bill to charter the Snow Hill, Greenville and Goldsboro Railroad Company, amended by a provision extending the road from Goldsboro to Fayetteville via Newton Grove, Sampson county, passed its several readings and was sent to the House.

Also the bill to charter the Wilson and Tar River Narrow Gauge Railroad Company.

The bill appropriating \$70,000 for the support and repairs of the Asylum for the Insane passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington Mutual Fire Insurance Company passed its several readings and went to the House.

The Senate adopted a joint resolution providing for a working session on Thursday next, the day fixed for a recess. The resolution went to the House.

In the House, on yesterday, but little of public importance was done.

Mr. Bennett introduced a bill to repeal all acts donating lands belonging to the educational fund.

The motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill amending the charter of the Wilmington and Planters' Railroad Company passed its third reading was lost. Pending the consideration of the Senate

bill to charter the New York, Norfolk and Charleston Railroad Company, the House adjourned.—Raleigh Sentinel.

The proceedings of the Legislature on Wednesday and Thursday, unimportant. Adjourned to the 15th of January.

Governor Caldwell is to be Governor for the next four years—so the Legislature declared.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 16.—Many bills presented, including an appropriation to Ward's Court claim, repealing the tobacco tax, refunding the taxes collected on raw cotton, repealing taxes on spirits made from fruits, removing all political disabilities, importing duty free on iron, Helena and Iron Mountain Railroad, reviving steamboat canal for Fernandina, Florida, to Orlean, improving certain Florida harbors and rivers.

Cox, of New York, moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution reading at the State government of Louisiana is now administered by orders from the Federal Courts, supported by the Federal bayonets, such condition of things being a violation of civil government and dangerous to liberty, and requesting the President to storm the House why the Executive of the United States interfered in the affairs of that State, giving all the facts. Also to give all information on that subject relative to the conduct of E. H. Durrill, United States Judge, there, so that the House may determine what step, if any, ought to be taken in consequence of such interference in the political affairs of Louisiana.

Stevenson of Ohio, asked Cox to omit the preamble. Cox consented to that and to the insertion of the words "if not incompatible with the public interests."

Eldridge, of Wisconsin, asked Cox not to insert these words; there could be no such thing as "incompatibility with the public interest" in matters of that kind.—Congress was entitled to know by what right or authority the President interfered in the civil government of a State.

Cox said he had inserted those words so as to have the resolutions adopted without any partisan or acrimonious discussion. He only wanted the facts to come out and all the basis for the President's action in that most important matter.

Sypher, of Louisiana, denied that the President had interfered in any way in the Louisiana matters, except to order the execution of the mandates of the United States Court.

Cox declined to take the statement of Sypher or of the newspapers in the matter.

Sypher said, "I will furnish the proof of it."

Cox—The gentleman cannot speak for the President. I want the information from the President.

Bingham, of Ohio, suggested to Cox to strike out the allusion to Judge Durrill, as the information which the President would furnish would necessarily cover the point.

Cox said he did not intend to amend the resolution any further.

Scott, of Penn., asked Cox to omit the closing words of the resolution "so that the House may judge, &c." which he thought implied that the House would do something, perhaps, offensive.

Cox declined to accede to the suggestion.

Many Republican members—"Let us vote it down."

The resolution was rejected—yeas 79, nays 22. A joint vote.

Stevenson, of Ohio, then offered a resolution, which was adopted without division, requesting the President to communicate information relative to the condition of affairs in Louisiana, and what action, if any, he has taken thereto.

Three long speeches upon the French spoliation occupied the day.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—House.—In the House to-day, General Young, of Georgia, offered his resolution regarding the Credit Mobilier, extending investigations of the committee to losses suffered by his constituents from the Union Pacific Railroad. The resolution produced considerable excitement in the House. The resolution was choked off by a call for regular order.

The House committee on Commerce this morning heard the argument on the Atlantic and Great Western Canal. Much interest was manifested, and the committee room was filled at an early hour by members from Alabama, Georgia and Virginia.

Colonel B. W. Probel opened the case in a carefully prepared address, in which he clearly pointed out the national importance and the great need of this interoceanic line, and showed pointedly and clearly the decline of our foreign trade; the evils under which our home industries suffer; the causes which force the manufacturer to seek protection and the depressing influences operating against the South and West. He pointed out the cause of the evil and the remedy to be applied, which he stated was clearly set forth in the President's message, and closed with a glowing description of the future of this country, with every section reunited again in the bonds of peace and good will toward each other. The argument was listened to with marked attention.

Colonel Price followed in an able argument on the beneficial effect of this outlet in regulating the money market of the country.

The committee will report the bill at an early day. The views of these gentlemen attract attention as showing that the South is taking a deep interest in the material prosperity of the country, and that she is looking closely into the question of national trade and finance with the object not of throwing obstacles in the way, but herself taking part to the music of advancement.

Col. Whitley, Gen. Jubase and Young took part in the discussion, and ably seconded the efforts of Col. Price and Probel. Mr. Porter's bill prohibiting the collection of double rates of postage where full rates are not prepaid was adopted by the House Postal Committee to-day. Also a bill establishing the letter carrier system in all cities of twenty thousand population.

FOREIGN.

The floods in England are unprecedented. Windsor and Eton are inundated. In some sections of the midland counties only the tops of trees and hedges are visible, and at Peterborough, Northamptonshire, many residents have taken refuge in the upper stories of their houses. In the last ten days 449 persons have perished by storms at sea.

The floods in Paris are so extraordinary that some of the bridges across the Seine are expected to be swept away. A gale of unprecedented violence has also swept over Naples, causing great destruction of shipping in the bay.

Rome, Dec. 21.—Victor Emanuel has recovered from his recent illness.

The Empress of Russia is expected at Naples, accompanied by the Russian fleet.

The boasted Freedom of Elections.—The Americans boast of freedom of elections is fast becoming an idle, empty, meaningless phrase. It is not enough that citizens should be allowed to vote, but their votes should be effective or the whole system of suffrage will be a hollow mockery. Under these modern appliances, invented by the cunning partisans of Radicalism, suffrage has become a mere sham. The voters attend the polls and cast their votes, but if a majority declare against the Radical candidates, their will is frustrated by a false count. In those few instances in which the count is honestly made a new device has been invented by which, as in the case of Louisiana, affidavits are tramped up to show that such and such persons have been prevented from voting, and the ballots attached to such affidavits are counted—enough of them to defeat an election. We all know the facility with which negro votes may be manipulated to meet every party exigency, and how easy it is for unscrupulous party managers to procure from them any number of affidavits. This new villainy has been put in practice to give success to the Custom-house party in Louisiana, against the honest popular vote, and the United States troops, under the sanction of the authorities at Washington, are actively co-operating to annul the recorded will of the people of that State, and to install a bogus Governor and Legislature.

What a mockery it is, with such examples before us, to talk about the freedom of elections!

In 1848, Daniel Webster, the then Secretary of State, wrote to Hon. Thomas Erving, the Secretary of the Treasury, the following letter:

Sir—The President is of opinion that it is a great abuse to bring the patronage of the General Government into conflict with the freedom of elections; and that this abuse ought to be corrected wherever it may have been permitted to exist, and to be prevented for the future.

He therefore directs that information be given to all officers and agents in your department of the public service, that partisan interference in popular elections, whether of State officers or officers of this government, and for whomsoever, or against whomsoever it may be exercised, or the payment of any contribution or assessment for party or election purposes, will be regarded by him as a cause for removal.

It is not intended that any officer shall be restrained in the free and proper expression and maintenance of his opinions respecting public men and public measures, or in the exercise, to the fullest degree, of the constitutional right of suffrage. But persons employed under Government, and paid for their services out of the public Treasury, are not expected to take an active or officious part in attempts to influence the minds or votes of others; such conduct being deemed inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution, and the duties of public agents acting under it; and the President is resolved, so far as depends upon him, that while the exercise of the elective franchise by the people shall be free from undue influences of official station and authority, opinions shall also be free among the officers and agents of the Government.

This letter shows the high tone that prevailed at the period illustrated by such men as Webster and Clay. Since their day and under Radical auspices a marked change has taken place. Not only are the officers of the Government permitted, but they are actually required to interfere in popular elections. We wish that this was all, but it is not half. The conduct of the officials in Louisiana, shows that after an election has been made, they are permitted, if not required, to annul it by decrees of United States courts, enforced by United States troops.

What would Daniel Webster have said if he had lived to see such enormities!

Exchange.

**A Shocking Deed—Particulars of the Murder of Two Small Children by their Father in Ohio.**

[From the Cincinnati Commercial.]  
COLUMBIA, Dec. 12.—One of the most inhuman and brutal murders ever perpetrated in this part of the State, was committed yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, about three miles southeast of this place. Erben G. Porter, the perpetrator of this horrible deed, and his family, consisting of a wife and two little daughters, aged one and three years, resided in the same house with his father-in-law, Mr. Henry F. Calkins. At the time the murder was committed Mrs. Porter and her three brothers, Jacob, John, and Solomon, and her sister, Lydia, were in the house, and all except Mrs. Porter, were engaged in cracking walnuts. Erben Porter, after going up stairs and putting on three shirts, came down with a hatchet, and seated himself with the other members of the family, and commenced cracking and eating the nuts showing nothing unusual in his manner.

After a brief interval, Mrs. Porter went up stairs to attend to some work. Porter quietly arose and walked into an adjoining room, where his oldest child was alone. After closing the door, he struck the child three blows with the sharp edge of the hatchet, cutting a terrible gash at each stroke on the top of the head, either of which would have produced almost instant death. He then opened the door leading into the room in which the other members of the family were seated, and seized his youngest child, dragged it into the room and struck it two blows on the top of the head, burying the hatchet deep into the brain at each stroke. He then walked into an adjoining room, and threw the hatchet, all covered with blood and brains, into a wood box, put on his hat, and started out the house, passing, as he did so, his wife, who on hearing the first child utter a piteful cry as he struck it the first blow, had come down stairs to see what was wrong.

On seeing her husband throw down the hatchet she asked him what he had done. His answer was, that he had done what he ought to have done before, and he could not help it. She hurried to the room where the deed had been committed, and seeing her children lying in their own blood, ran out to the road, and gave the alarm to the neighbors, several of whom lived near, and were on hand in a few minutes.

Porter, after leaving the house, made his way at a rapid rate to this place, and thence to Leota. He was followed to this place by one of his neighbors. Dispatches were sent in every direction, and a large number of persons started in pursuit of him. Immediately on the receipt of the dispatch at Leota, it was placed in Marshal Rollin's hands, who in about twenty minutes, started after his man. On approaching him, Porter turned round and gave himself up, admitting that he had committed the deed, and asking the officer to protect him from those who were in pursuit of him.

**The Marshal brought the prisoner to this place on the 9:55 p. m. train, and he was immediately arrested by Joseph Robinson, Esq., for a hearing, when he pleaded not guilty to the charge of willful murder. After hearing the testimony in the case the Justice committed him for trial at the next term of the court of Common Pleas, and sent him, under a strong escort, to New Lisbon.**

**The Clerk of the House of Representatives has prepared, as far as he is able at this time, the roster of the next House of Representatives. The full membership will be 232. The Democrats must have, therefore, 98 votes to break the two-thirds majority of the Republicans. Thus far the Democrats have 89 votes, and New Hampshire and Connecticut have yet to elect their members. The relative strength here given does not also include the members from Florida, Louisiana, or West Virginia, those being subject to future decrease. There is a prospect that five, or at most six, more Democrats may be added, making in all not more than 95, or three more than a third of the membership.—Baltimore American (Radical).**

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.**—It appears from the annual report of the Librarian of Congress that there are in that library an aggregate of 246,245 volumes and about 45,000 pamphlets, being an increase from last year of 2,900 volumes. During the past year there have been received under the copyright law 6,350 books, 5,456 periodicals and pamphlets, 4,614 musical compositions, 36 domestic compositions, 531 photographs, 4,712 engravings, chromos, and prints, and 441 maps and charts—the total being 22,140.

**NEW YORK, December 21.—George P. Putnam, the publisher, was in unusual health and spirits in his store this morning, when he fell, striking his head against a projecting shelf, causing death from apoplexy.**

**GENERAL NEWS.**

**Louisiana Affairs.**

WASHINGTON, December 21.—It can be positively stated, on good authority, that Judge Bradley has not signified any intention to go to New Orleans during the present term of the United States Supreme Court, and it is pretty certain that he will not do so unless requested by the President, who, as the head of the political department of the Government, is more especially charged with the political relations between the States and the General Government.

It is understood the Supreme Court does not regard itself as having any power over the question, whether Judge Bradley should or should not go to New Orleans; and his going there at all, at this juncture, at the request of private parties, or from his own volition, might have the appearance of distrust of the two judges already at or near the spot. He would be very reluctant to take such a step, however willing to do anything in his power to aid in settling the unhappy difficulties which exist.

**LONDON, Dec. 17.**—Fourteen ringleaders in the recent disorders have been imprisoned for various terms.

**HEAVY snow and north wind yesterday. Snow and frost in Yorkshire cause railways to be impeded. The streams are much swollen.**

**Dec. 18.**—A 24 hours' rain storm. Large tracts of land in Leicestershire flooded. A twelve inch snow in Derbyshire.

**The small pox in Washington is increasing, forms mild.**

**Hon. A. H. Stephens cannot walk without the aid of his crutches and a servant and can leave the house only on pleasant days.**

**A famous rose tree in the Island of Cayton is eighty feet in circumference and fifteen feet high. It has been known to bear two hundred roses in full bloom at one time.**

**Mr. A. J. Newton, Jr., of Jasper county, Ga., had nothing at the close of the war except a horse and saddle. He now owns 5,000 acres improved lands, 20 head of horses, mules and other stock, and makes 100 bales of cotton per year.**

**NEW YORK, Dec. 18.**—A snow storm commenced here this morning.

**A most affecting scene occurred at the undertaker's yesterday, when the wife of the murdered man, Jurga, entered and threw herself on the body of her murdered husband, declaring that she would be taken to the grave with him, and exclaiming amid violent sobs, "My good, kind husband, and this is my Christmas, this is my New Year. You left me yesterday, hale and hearty and here you are dead and cold," &c. She was finally carried away by physical force.**

**NEW YORK, Dec. 21.**—The ship Matchless, heretofore reported lost, with all on board, off Northumberland county, England, is safe.

**SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.**—General Crook is endeavoring friendly Indians to fight against those that are hostile. If let alone he expects to make a short and decisive campaign.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.**—Dispatches from New York, St. Louis and Chicago report a violent snow storm prevailing.

**MONTGOMERY, Dec. 20.**—The House permanently organized to-day by the election of Republican officers. The disposition to retract former action is no longer visible. Everything seems to be harmonious. The Senate did nothing.

**SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.**—There was a smart earthquake on Sunday morning throughout Oregon and the Northern Coast.

**NEW YORK, Dec. 17.**—W. W. Orton has bought fifty-one shares, a controlling interest in the Tribune. White & Bond sold four shares for forty thousand, and Orton, Jay sold two shares for \$25,000. It is understood that eight of Orton's shares are reserved for Collar.

**The noted literary dealers John Simmons and Nicholas H. Durgen, fought to-day. Result fatal to Durgen. Simmons refuses to make a statement of the origin of the difficulty. Both were immensely wealthy.**

**At a recent term of Judge Rivers' Court in Abington, the Virginia says: "The old case, known in this country for the last forty years, as the Vint & Allen case, came up and was disposed of at last. Decree rendered in favor of devisee of John Vint, involving the title to one eighth of King's Saltworks."**

**Edward A. Pollard, Editor and Author is dead.**

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