

THE WILMINGTON HERALD. WILMINGTON, N. C., DECEMBER 30. LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

We beg leave to remind our many patrons that the newspaper business is a cash business. Every thing that enters into the composition of a newspaper calls for cash. All our labor demands cash weekly. White paper is a cash article in all markets. Telegraphing requires to be paid for in cash. Therefore, without cash a newspaper cannot be given to the public. Under these circumstances, it can hardly be considered unreasonable that we require cash from those dealing with us. We have an inflexible rule that forbids the sending of a paper out of the office until the subscription price is paid. We have heretofore been disposed to deviate from the cash principle in regard to regular advertisers and for job work. But the difficulty we encounter in making collections of bills thus contracted forces us to adopt more stringently the cash system in all our transactions. If a job of work is worth ten dollars, it is worth it as well when ordered, as thirty, sixty or ninety days afterwards. The same principle applies to advertising. We are therefore constrained to announce that from and after the 1st of January, we shall require cash for advertising and job work, payable on the receipt of the order. T. M. COOK & CO.

Sabbath Services. St. John's Episcopal church, corner Third and Red Cross streets, divine services at 10 A. M., and 7 1/2 o'clock, P. M. Rev. R. E. Terry, rector. Front street Methodist church, corner Front and Walnut streets, divine service at 10 A. M., by the Pastor, Rev. J. H. Daley. City Hall, services by Rev. W. L. Young, at 10 A. M., and 7 1/2 P. M. St. James' church, corner Market and Third streets, services at 10 A. M. and at 3 P. M., by Rev. W. Waterhouse. Fifth street Methodist church, services at 10 o'clock, P. M., by Rev. S. D. Peeler. Sabbath school at 9 o'clock, A. M. Catholic church, Dock street, between Second and Third services by Rev. Dr. Corcoran, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and 3 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

REACTION.—The reaction consequent upon the passing away of the holidays, and the seriousness with which every one is endeavoring to recover from the effects of the too much dissipation indulged in during the past week, is now upon us, by all its "naked deformity." Too much pleasure at one time is very apt to breed too much ennui at its passing off, and in proportion to the degree of pleasure experienced, so will be necessarily the lassitude that follows. This Christmas has been with all an unusually gay and festive one, and in proportion to the depth of the gloom which has overshadowed the land for the past four years, so has been the lightening up that has been so long restrained. Now, however, the festivities have all departed, and the flatness of the getting-over-it part is upon us. Business is again asserting its empire; pleasure is palling before the greater glow of work, and the relaxed brain and sinews must be re-strung for the task that is before them. There is a time for all out of three work and for play, for pleasure and for business. The play day for this occasion at least has passed; the work day is here, and it is the duty of all men to gird themselves anew for the task that is to be done, truly thankful for the joy of the pleasure past, and gladly hopeful for what the future may possess.

THE ACCIDENT AT THE SOUND.—Some slight mention was made in this column yesterday, of an accident which happened at the sound on Saturday last. Our information at the time was of a very limited nature, and we could not give such particulars as we wished to do. In our notice we mentioned that the accident occurred at Wrightsville Sound. This was an error, as the report should have read Topsail instead of Wrightsville. It seems that a party of three white men and two negroes started for a fishing expedition. The party was running out as they crossed the bar, and some difficulty was experienced in managing the boat. One of the rowers having lost his balance was precipitated overboard, and the effect of the loss of the oar, joined to the rapid action of the tide, forced the boat broadside to the breakers, from which position she was soon capsized. We regret much to be compelled to state here that the entire party were drowned, but such is the sad fact. We stated yesterday that one man, whose name we ascertained to be Gunsel, was drowned. Since then we have heard that all five of them lost their lives by the accident, which was witnessed by a distance to land, were, however, very near. We have not as yet heard of the names of the other four men, or any further particulars of the accident. The only name we have heard is that of the party given above, and which was published in yesterday's issue.

A GRAND CELEBRATION IN VIEW.—We understand that a grand celebration by the colored population of the place will take place in this city on the first of January ensuing. Gen. Crook, having been appealed to by them, has promised them protection in their undertaking, and will guarantee to them a peaceful enjoyment of the occasion, provided they conduct themselves as they should. A grand procession is to be one of the leading features of the occasion, with transparencies, devices, &c. We wish the colored element a good time on the projected occasion. We are satisfied that all necessary protection in the enjoyment of the day will be accorded them both by the white citizens as well as by Gen. Crook; but we would suggest to them here to recollect that protection and license are not synonymous terms, and it would be well for the success of the occasion if they are careful not to confound the meaning of the two. Another thing that they should exercise much care in, is in the selection of the devices which with their banners and transparencies will be carried, and we would even go so far as to suggest to the leaders of the movement that a committee of officers be requested to confer with them in the perfection of their arrangements, so as to avoid, in as much as is possible, anything that may have the most remote tendency to breed unkind thoughts.

CELEBRATION AT LUMBERTON.—The Masonic Fraternity at Lumberton, N. C., seemed determined to have a good time of it, on their annual celebration of St. John's day. They were certainly not behind-hand with their brethren in Wilmington, if a good intention is to be taken in

any measure as a criterion of success. A procession was formed in the morning and marched to the court house, where an excellent address was delivered by Col. W. Foster French. The installation of officers was previously performed at the lodge room before the procession was formed. At night the ceremonies of the day were wound up with a sumptuous supper, followed by a dance at the court house, on which occasion there is no doubt but that everybody enjoyed themselves hugely. "Old Frank" was on hand and performed some of his best and liveliest music, not a whit behind hand in some that he rendered to us on a similar occasion twenty years ago. Although it was not our good fortune to be present on the occasion, yet we have been assured by those who were there, that the occasion was a delightful one, and that no accident or untoward circumstance occurred to mar the festivity of the occasion.

THE DAVIS PETITION.—We are happy to be able to state that three gentlemen from this place, Major John W. Cameron, and Messrs. Donald McRae and Benjamin Hardy, are now in Washington City, in charge of the petition praying for the release of Hon. George Davis. This committee left here nearly two weeks ago, but owing to a request made by some few of the authorities, the publication of this fact has been postponed until this time. The gentlemen of the committee were very sanguine of success at the time of their departure, and although no report of their operations has been received, yet very confident hopes are entertained that in a few weeks at the furthest our distinguished friend will have arrived again in our midst. But few misgivings are entertained relative to the success of the mission of the committee, and we hope soon to experience the pleasure of pressing once more the hand of one whom everybody delights to honor. It is proper to mention here that the committee originally appointed at the town meeting here, so far as lay in their power, faithfully performed their duty, and that the delay experienced in forwarding the petition to the executive has been entirely unavoidable and strictly consistent with the probable success of the undertaking.

ST. JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY.—Last Wednesday, the 27th inst., was celebrated by the masonic lodges in this vicinity, with the ceremonies appropriate to the occasion. It was the anniversary of St. John's day in the masonic calendar. A procession was formed about 10 o'clock, in front of the Masonic Hall, and preceded by a full band of music, the members of the lodge and chapl. formed in order, and marched to the City Hall, where the officers of the lodge for the ensuing year were inaugurated. Masonic songs and odes were sung, and an address was delivered by R. W. York, Esq., of Chapel Hill, who had been chosen orator of the day. After the exercises were concluded at the hall, the fraternal adjourned to the city hotel, where an excellent dinner was discussed. The ceremonies and festivities incidental to the day were closed by a ball at night, given at the festival room in the City Hall buildings, at which a goodly number were present, and when all present seemed to enjoy themselves highly.

ATTEMPT AT BURGLARY.—Four white men, who refused to give their names, were arrested yesterday on Dry Pond, for an attempt, on the previous night, to enter forcibly the grocery store of Mr. Hanchey. The attempt to gain an entrance was frustrated, and yesterday the police made a descent upon the gang and succeeded in arresting four of them. As stated above, they have refused to render their names to the officers of the police; but it is supposed that some of them belong to the navy. Much credit is due the police corps for the vigilance which they have displayed in this affair, and the decided manner in which they have suppressed this organized movement, and have arrested the parties engaged in the transaction.

A FINE STOCK OF GOODS.—It may not be generally known to all, but it is a fact none the less apparent on that account, that J. S. Topham & Co. generally keep on hand a very fine assortment of saddlery and harness. A glance at their well-filled establishment, and at the various selections contained therein, will satisfy any one that they are all that they claim to be. They propose to sell cheaply, and we do not in the least doubt their ability to do so. Our country merchants and others would doubtless find it to their interest to patronize this establishment. Their place of business is located a few doors south of the exchange corner, and next to Messrs. Geo. F. French & Co.'s grocery store.

MAYOR'S COURT, FRIDAY DEC. 29.—One colored man, named Henry Madison, arrested on the corner of Front and Nun streets, charged with stealing brass from some of the public fire engines, was fined \$10 and ordered to the cell until the fine was paid. G. W. Brady, a policeman, charged with sleeping on post, was fined \$2 and returned to duty.

HOTEL ARRIVALS. J. F. Johnson, Halifax. J. B. Plumb, Poughkeepsie, R. S. Millard, Brooklyn, N. Y. F. L. Cobbs, Albany, N. Y. T. L. Coffin, Albany, N. Y. J. A. Barker, Charleston, S. C. J. B. Richards, Jr., Va. D. McKay, Albany, N. Y. A. C. Litchfield, do. DeBee, S. C. O'Connell, do. J. McLambert, Nyack, N. Y. F. A. Bicalas, Rocky Point, N. Y. A. Jones, Barbadoes, W. I. F. Cartwright, do. P. A. Marrygold, do. J. Andrews, Boston. R. W. Taylor, White Plains, N. Y. J. H. Fisher, London. J. R. Ricardo, do. W. Johnston, Asheville. Dr. R. Lewis & lady, Washington City. S. J. Price, Jr., Va. C. E. Tucker, mail agent, Eastern, Jr., Baltimore. R. Shaw, Philadelphia, W. D. Sigan, S. C. W. E. Powell, Columbus. E. A. Thomas, Nat. Ex. Co. W. W. Baldwin, Brunswick.

THE SUNDAY MORNING HERALD. THE SUNDAY MORNING HERALD, a mammoth literary paper, will be ready on Sunday morning, and will contain all the latest news of the day by telegraph and the mail up to the hour of going to press, besides a choice selection of poetry, stories, and other literary matter, religious intelligence, home gossip, an accurate market review, &c. &c. It will contain a great variety of useful and entertaining reading matter—valuable alike to the business man and the home circle. THE SUNDAY HERALD has a large circulation in town, and business men could not better consult their interests than by patronizing its advertising columns. A limited number of advertisements only will be inserted, which must be handed in by five o'clock Saturday evening. THE SUNDAY HERALD is sold at TEN CENTS per copy.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH. A TERRIBLE DISASTER.

WRECK OF STEAMER CONSTITUTION. A Large Number of Lives Lost. ONLY FOURTEEN SAVED. Later from Europe.

The English Press on the President's Message.

LATEST FOREIGN MARKETS. ARRIVAL OF CAPTAIN SEMMES AT WASHINGTON, &c., &c., &c.

Arrival of the Australasian. NEW YORK, Dec. 29. The Australasian, with Liverpool dates to the 15th has arrived. The message of President Johnson was favorably received, is regarded as friendly, and United States bonds improved after their reception.

Liverpool Cotton Market. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 14. Sales of the week 80,000 bales, including 12,000 to speculators and 20,000 to exporters. The market opened dull at a decline of 1d., but recovered, closing with an advance of 1/4d. on the week. Middling Orleans 21 1/4d. Sales on Friday 8,000 bales, market closing quiet. Stock in port 348,000 bales, including 127,000 American.

Additional Foreign News. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. The London Times says of the president's message: "The part concerning England ought to be received in a friendly spirit." The Telegraph says: "The document reflects the highest credit on its author, and furnishes the world satisfactory assurances of peace."

Latest Liverpool Market. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15—P. M. COTTON.—Sales of 1,000 bales—3,000 to speculators and exporters; the market closing firmer and quotations unchanged. CONSOLS.—Closed at 87 1/4 @ 87 1/2. FIVE-TWENTYS—64 1/2 @ 64 1/4.

Marine Disaster. RALEIGH, Dec. 29. We have news here from Morehead City of the loss of the steamer Constitution, from Savannah to New York, with fifty-one souls on board, all of whom were lost but fourteen of the crew. From Washington. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. Captain Semmes has arrived here, and is now under arrest at the navy yard.

BY MAIL. FROM WASHINGTON.

A Dismal Christmas—Snow, Rain, Hail and Fog.—The U. S. Supreme Court—No Decision in the Garland Case.—The Negro Suffrage Question Again.—The State of Feeling in Washington and Georgetown.—The Proposed Tour of Lieut. Gen. Grant.—The Antagonism between the late Reports of Gen. Grant and Carl Schurz—Operatic, &c., &c.

Our Washington Correspondence. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. CHRISTMAS AND NO CHRISTMAS. Christmas passed away in a thoroughly dismal style. The remarkable unpleasant condition of the weather rendered all out-door enjoyments perfectly impossible. Everything was, and is now, in a lamentably damp status. We have had snow, hail, rain and slush in quantities without parallel, and in consequence everything is dull. There is no news, and no newspapers this morning; everybody that can keep out of the streets is doing so. Pennsylvania Avenue is in a fog; the rain is descending with a good looking chance of continuing for a week or thereabouts, and the whole aspect of Washington is one of discomfort. The Capitol looks uncomfortable, and the treasury department looks soaked; business is dull in spite of the holiday time, and to make a general summary of the condition of things, it is only needed to remind any one who has ever visited here that the usual results of a forty-eight hour winter rain are in their most perfect state.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. The United States supreme court met to-day, when it was expected that a decision would have been given in the matter of the application of Mr. Garland, of Arkansas, who petitions for the right of practice at the bar; the decision was not rendered, however, as the merits of a Milwaukee land case are being discussed. The protraction of the address by Reverdy Johnson, senator from Maryland, in favor of the petitioner, which was delivered on Friday last, is regarded as a patriotic and splendid example of oratory. The entire argument of this great and eminent jurist in this case may well be distinguished as worthy a lasting place among the records of our country. Searches into the very spirit and letter of the constitution and laws of the land. The decision of the court is looked for with great interest, as it will decide the constitutionality of the test oath, and will be as famous throughout the whole extent of national territory as was the decision in the case of Dred Scott, which is the secret to all the animosity which may be visited upon the late chief justice, and which even now finds vent in occasional uncharitable allusions by political zealots, whilst the venerable form of the feeble

old jurist is resting beneath the green sod of his native Maryland soil.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE. Since the alarming proportions of the proposed infliction on the people of this district of the extension of the elective franchise so as to include negro suffrage, the citizens have been puzzling their brains in every conceivable way to know how to get rid of this "monster of such hideous mien." The Washington community has cast its negative vote earnestly and quietly protesting against it. On one day of this week the Georgetown populace will "go and do likewise," and thus add to the protest; but yet in the face of the cherished designs of Sumner, Stevens and their associates, the people of both places are going to further lengths, and some are disposed to do what they can—which will be a minute performance—towards having an entire change of the corporation machinery. Don't want to have anything to do with it, and throw up the charter altogether. How it will work remains to be seen. Blackstone—any legal individual can read the book, chapter and paragraph—says that a corporation either aggregate or sole can deliver up the charter; but, unfortunately for the renowned deceased, more modern days have produced disciples of legal lore who would respectfully beg to differ from him on particular points in this connection, and would argue the case no doubt very elaborately. This question of a delivery of the charter of the corporate authorities of Washington to congress, whom it was delegated, is of local importance; but at the same time it is one of those vexed questions which will interest many. How the corporation can be compelled to exercise its functions has not transpired. We must wait for the course of debate.

GEN. GRANT'S PROPOSED TOUR. General Grant will not long delay his visit to the Rio Grande and will proceed south, probably first to Pensacola over coast, where he will be accommodated with a man-of-war for further explorations into the country and the temper of the people. The tone of his report, based upon the observations made during his tour in more northerly parts of the southern states, is not, in the estimation of the admirers of Carl Schurz, who has published his mighty report, different in tenor and elaboration from that of Grant, the true indication of affairs. Nothing forgiving, conciliatory, fraternal or just will please certain distinguished individuals, and consequently the document of the commander-in-chief is not so cordially endorsed by radical gentlemen as it might have been. The worst of it is, they look for no more hopeful report from a trip further south than they received on his first journey. The talk of human kindness, as well as the sense of human justice, is too prominent in the soldier's character.

THE OPERA. Despite the inclement weather, the opera was crowded last night. Maretek moved his baton to an assurance of excellent patronage and much bounty. The performance, critically examined, would be pronounced excellent. The sweet symphonies from Il Trovatore, were received with delight; but it seemed as if something was wanted to render the performance completely en fait. The great flourish of trumpets with which the prince of impressaries heralds the advance of his vocal army, generally effects the devotees of music to expect too much, and probably that is the reason why many who pay extravagant prices for second rate seats, and exorbitant prices for first rate seats, exclaim when they are asked the amount of pleasure realized on the occasion, "Well, passably."

CONDITION OF THE SOUTH. General Schurz's Report of his Tour.

The Instructions He Received from the President, &c., &c., &c. In beginning his report to the president, General Schurz recites the instructions he received as follows: You informed me that your policy of reconstruction was merely experimental, and that you were not to be satisfied until the experiment had led to satisfactory results. To aid you in forming your conclusions upon this point I understood to be the object of my mission, and this understanding is in perfect accordance with the written instructions I received through the secretary of war. He then proceeds to describe the methods he adopted for obtaining trustworthy information—mainly consisting of interviews with representative men in different parts of the south, and subsequent comparisons of their views with those of our military and naval officers, besides personal observations of the country, talks with the negroes, and perusal of official papers. The first division of the report notes the condition of the south immediately after the war. Union men and those who took part in the rebellion concur in the statement that general reconstruction prevailed after the surrender of Lee and Johnston, and that prominent rebels were completely panic-stricken; but the worst apprehensions were gradually relieved as day after day went by without bringing the disasters and inflictions which had been vaguely anticipated, until at last the appearance of the North Carolina proclamation substituted new hopes for them. The development of this second period General Schurz called upon to observe on the spot, and it forms the main subject of this report. He winds up his report by summing up all he had said in a few words, as follows: If nothing were necessary but to restore the machinery of government in the states lately in rebellion upon the point of form, the movement made to that end by the people of the south might be considered satisfactory. But if it is required that the southern people should also accommodate themselves to the results of the war in point of spirit, these movements fall far short of what must be insisted upon.

THE FENIANS. New York, Dec. 24. It is reported that Colonel O'Mahoney has received dispatches from the "Head Centre," Stephens, calling for prompt and decided action by the Fenians. The crisis is said to be near at hand. At about five o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the rag store, No. 10 Gouverneur slip, owned and occupied by Daniel Sweeney. The flames extended to Nos. 6 and 8, occupied by Messrs. O'Donnell & Co., coopers. The three buildings, four stories in height, were totally destroyed. Mr. Sweeney's loss on stock was about \$20,000, and on buildings \$15,000. Other parties lost about \$7,000.

Attempted Murder and Suicide. A startling case of attempted murder and subsequent attempted suicide transpired on Clinton street, near Warren, Brooklyn, at about half-past five o'clock last Saturday evening. The persons interested in the sanguinary affair have heretofore occupied the highest positions in the estimation of their friends, and that of the lady is still unimpaired. The woman is W. H. Russ and Miss Frances M. Dayton. The former, the lover of the latter—thinking he had been deceived, or made insane by some unknown cause, while walking with the lady, near her residence, suddenly drew a revolver, fired four shots at her, wounding her severely in the head, and then, turning the weapon upon himself, fired two shots into his own skull. Thinking the woman dead, he then ran to the river and threw himself into the water, but afterwards escaped from it, and was finally arrested. When taken into custody he had the weapon still in his possession, and his wounds were bleeding profusely. The young lady is not expected to survive. Russ was conveyed to the hospital.

The Income Tax. A Washington correspondent says: It can be stated that a respectable minority, if not an actual majority, of the members of the finance and ways and means committees of the senate and house are strongly in favor of the repeal of the income section of the tax law, and in lieu thereof, imposition of a tax on sales, which, at one per cent., will produce a revenue of one hundred and twenty millions of dollars; out of receipts for rents, dividends upon stocks and other justly taxable emoluments, a similar rate of one per cent.; with the specific taxes upon spirits, malt and vinous liquors, and upon to-

the south will not cease until such results are secured. Only in this way can that security be established in the south which will render numerous immigration possible, and such immigration would materially aid a favorable development of things. The solution of the problem will be very much facilitated by enabling all the loyal and free labor elements of the south to exercise a healthy influence upon legislation; it will hardly be possible to secure the freedom against class legislation and private persecution unless he be endowed with a certain measure of political power. As to the future peace and harmony of the union, it is of the highest importance that the people of the states lately in rebellion be not permitted to build up another "peculiar institution," whose spirit is in conflict with the fundamental principles of our political system; for as long as they cherish interests peculiar to them in preference to those they have in common with the rest of the American people, their loyalty to the union will always be questioned. I desire not to be understood as saying that there are no well meaning men among those who were compromised in the rebellion; there are many, but neither their number nor their influence is strong enough to control the manifest tendency of the popular spirit. There are good reasons for the hope that a determined policy on the part of the national government will produce innumerable and valuable conversions. This consideration counsels lenity as to persons, such as is demanded by the humane and enlightened spirit of our times, and vigor and firmness in the carrying out of principles such as is demanded by the national sense of justice and the exigencies of our situation. In submitting this report I desire to say that I have conscientiously endeavored to see things as they were, and to represent them as I saw them. I have been careful not to use language stronger than was warranted by the thoughts I intended to express. A comparison of the tenor of the annexed documents with that of my report, will convince you that I have studiously avoided over-statements. Certain legislative attempts at present made in South Carolina, seem to be more than justifying the apprehensions I have expressed. Conscious though I am of having used my best endeavors to draw from what I saw an accurate and correct general conclusion, yet I am far from placing too great a trust in my own judgment, when interests of such magnitude are at stake. I know that this report is incomplete, although as complete as an observation of a few months would enable me to make it. Additional facts might be elicited, calculated to throw new light upon the subject. Although I see no reason for believing that things have changed for the better since I left the south, yet such may be the case. Admitting all these possibilities, still I would entreat you to take no irrevocable step toward relieving the states lately in rebellion from national control, until such favorable changes are clearly and unmistakably ascertained. To that end, and by virtue of the permission you honored me with when sending me out, to communicate to you my views as to measures of policy proper to be adopted, I would now respectfully suggest that you advise congress to send one or more "investigating committees" into the southern states, to inquire for themselves into the actual condition of things before final action is taken upon the readmission of such states to their representation in the legislative branch of the government and the withdrawal of all national control from that section of the country.

UTAH. Commissary Warehouse Burned—Loss One Million Dollars. SALT LAKE, Dec. 20. A fire at Camp Douglas yesterday destroyed a large commissary warehouse, filled with government supplies, but little of which was saved. Loss about \$1,000,000. A board of officers has been detailed to investigate the cause of the fire, which is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. Desperate Attempt to Break Jail Frustrated. FOGHREPPERS, Dec. 24. A desperate attempt was made to break jail in this city on Saturday morning, at 3 o'clock. The attempt was to involve the death of Jailer Palmer. The party attempting to get out consisted of three persons, one of whom was armed with an iron bar, and stood at the entrance through which the jailer would pass to reach the prisoners' quarters. When that official opened the door leading to the quarters, he observed the puffing stander with uplifted arm, the bar in his hand ready to strike. With great presence of mind, he quickly closed the door, thereby saving his life. The night police was then called in, and the desperadoes were secured and heavily ironed. The ruffians are confined on the charge of river piracy. Their trial will take place next month.

Fire in New York. NEW YORK, Dec. 23. At about five o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the rag store, No. 10 Gouverneur slip, owned and occupied by Daniel Sweeney. The flames extended to Nos. 6 and 8, occupied by Messrs. O'Donnell & Co., coopers. The three buildings, four stories in height, were totally destroyed. Mr. Sweeney's loss on stock was about \$20,000, and on buildings \$15,000. Other parties lost about \$7,000.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE. Major's Intelligence.—A Steamer Wrecked—Response to the State with all our Board—Arrival of Troops. The following named vessels were spoken off Cape Henry, yesterday, by the revenue cutter Kearsage; English bark Queen Victoria, and Walker from Liverpool for City Point, with salt; bark E. G. from Carrazaobol, Chili, for Baltimore, with copper and copper ore. The bark Welk reported having passed at sea the wreck of an unknown steamer. A portion of the cargo of the bark Victoria, which was wrecked near Cape Henry on the 30th was seen at Norfolk, yesterday, by the board of underwriters. Good prizes were received. Among the lot sold was an assortment of brandy, the duties on which amounted to \$18,000. Fourteen government buildings will be sold at Portsmouth on the 26th inst. The steamer George Leary ran over an unknown vessel in the Bay last night, and it is presumed, sunk her, with all hands, as afterward reports were lowered, and no trace of the vessel could be discovered. Three companies of the Twelfth United States infantry, arrived here yesterday, and will form part of the garrison of the fortress. A portion of them left for Williamsburg this morning.

Execution of a Murderer. ROCHESTER, December 22. WILKINSON, the murderer of Devoe at Portage, was hanged to day at Genesee. The murderer took place on the 16th of May. Wilson went to the gallows with a brave spirit. He had shown since his conviction, and smiled with content upon the scene in which he was the most prominent person. He denied that he had killed Devoe, but admitted that he knew Devoe was the guilty party. He refused to entertain any clergyman as spiritual adviser. Sheriff Chase had caused his photograph to be taken, as he was on his way to the jail to the gallows, against his protest. For this he told the sheriff, against his protest, to put his neck, he would take his (the sheriff's) picture—quick, if he had the power. He did like a brute, without looking for sympathy on any one present. Wilson confessed he did not bear his true name, and refused to disclose it, or tell his history to his counsel. He had, however, confessed he killed the Hon. Burr Johnson, of Syracuse, in May last, and also a Mrs. Lewis at Lancaster, Ohio, about a year since. He hinted at many other crimes, but disclosed no particulars, and gave his body to his counsel who sold it to a surgeon at Nunda.

The French Organ on the Message. The National Intelligencer has translated the following from Courrier des Etats Unis of the 7th: The impression produced upon the press and public by the president's message has been decidedly most favorable. For our part, we cannot but praise, without reserve, all that relates to internal policy. Mr. Johnson has expressed himself as a patriot and a statesman, and his diction—always clear and sometimes eloquent—is in happy contrast to the eccentricities and diffuse obscurity to which we were accustomed from his predecessor. There is not quite satisfied with the language of Mr. Johnson concerning France and England, and we are pleased to see that the chief magistrate has at last abstained from the empty declamation which is, unfortunately, too much the fashion in the United States. The president, while firm in regard to Great Britain, sees above all in the present controversy, a question of principles, and does not demand actual redress for certain grievances. In respect to France, it will be remarked that Mr. Johnson refrains from mentioning the Monroe doctrine, but that he nevertheless adheres to the principles which it enunciates. The paragraph in question is an indirect setting at rest the abandonment of Mexico, and a threat payable when due, made elsewhere in a milder form. For France, as for England, the United States will wait its time and await its opportunity. It is probable Mr. Johnson will have more to say when he communicates to Congress the diplomatic documents to which he alludes. The presidential message has met with almost universal approbation. Will Congress submit to the opinions and second the views of Mr. Johnson, instead of combatting them? This the future will reveal. In Europe our message will excite profound interest, and there is no doubt that it will all that relates to internal affairs, it will be unambiguously and warmly approved. In all cases we have scarcely seen in the white house the present generation.

A Call for an Indictment. A number of adopted citizens in New York have signed a petition for presentation to the grand jury, calling for the indictment of the present senate and cabinet of an "embroidered republic." Among the reasons given for such an indictment are the following: Issuing bonds of a republic which has no existence, forming, conspiring and banding together for the purpose of invading and leaving war on a peaceful and neighboring people, forming plans, factions and parties, who are likely to endanger the lives and property of the people of this municipality, spending the money thus obtained in fashionable extravagance and high living, when they had no further evidence to render to the very low level.

An Infant Blondin Drowned. Troy Times of the 19th, says: "Bernard Rafferty, a young lad fifteen years of age, known as the 'Infant Blondin,' was drowned yesterday at Cayuga, while skating on the northern canal. He was well known in Troy and Albany, as well as the place of his residence, as a rope-walker—hence the name by which he was usually known. Scarcely a picnic passed in summer without his taking part and executing some of his feats. Some years ago, while practicing, he fell from the rope and received injuries which rendered him deformed, but he lost none of his agility. It is quite strange that after so many hair-breadth escapes in his perilous profession, he should at last find a watery grave."

TRIAL OF GEN. MERCER.—We learn from the Savannah Herald of the 6th that the trial of Brig. Gen. H. W. Mercer, of the late confederate army, before a military commission, has been progressing for the last three days at the superior court-room in Savannah. General Mercer, charged with murder in shooting federal prisoners of war for desertion from the confederate ranks, which they had voluntarily entered. The trial is proceeding very slowly, having been delayed over without progress for two consecutive days. The judge advocate announcing that he had no further evidence to render to the court to introduce. Thus far no evidence has been adduced sustaining the charge against General Mercer. The witnesses for the defense have been dismissed from attendance at the trial. The Herald further states that the government is awaiting their testimony.—Augusta Constitutionalist, Dec. 22.

The Boston Theatre. BOSTON, Dec. 23. Lewis Booth and J. S. Clarke have leased the Boston theatre for the ensuing year.