

THE LEGISLATIVE BALL, Friday, 6th, under the admirable management of Messrs. E. T. Benson and L. E. Harrington of the Council and Messrs. L. Farr, P. Maughan and C. W. West of the House, passed off in fine style, Governor Doty, Superintendent Irish, Secretary Reed, Mayor Smoot, Judge Smith and, in short, every one seemed to enjoy themselves. The supper and refreshments prepared by Mr. Golightly were very creditable, being well served, varied and plentiful.

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

By the latest news received from Europe we learn that numerous shipwrecks have recently taken place around the English coast, in consequence of frequent and disastrous gales.

The news of President Lincoln's reelection had reached England, and was, of course, being commented upon by the press.

There is a report in England that Capt. Semmes' new steamer, the Sea King, has been wrecked off Madeira.

The Princess Mary of Cambridge is said to be in love with an English noble of lower degree, but the Queen, whose consent is needed to the match, refuses to give it.

In consequence of the capture of a distinguished English navy officer in command of a blockade-runner, and of representation made on the subject to the English Government, the Admiralty have notified such naval officers that they "cannot countenance" such doings.

The London *Globe* asserts that Lord Lyons, the British Minister plenipotentiary to the United States, has not resigned, but returns home on six months leave, on account of ill health.

Mr. Cobden, on the 23d of November, delivered an address at Rochdale, in which he spoke at great length on the American war. He regarded the peaceable Presidential election as one of the most sublime spectacles in the history of the world.

The evidence in the case of the ship *Great Western*, which was detained at Liverpool on account of alleged recruits for the United States army among its passengers, proved so weak that the Government had to release it. The owners of the ship intend to claim damages from the Government.

It is reported that documents captured on board the *Florida* implicate some foreign officials of high rank.

Professor Goldwin Smith, in a letter to the London *Daily News*, extols the tranquillity with which the Presidential election was conducted. He regards the defeat of the Democrats as a great escape from danger for both America and England.

Gen. Tom Thumb and wife have been received by the Prince of Wales.

ITALY.

The Italian parliamentary chamber passed the bill for the transfer of the capital to Florence by three hundred and seventeen votes against seventy. An amendment was moved in favor of Naples as the capital; but it was opposed, even by several Neapolitan members, and finally withdrawn.

The Chamber of Deputies had adopted the bill reducing the emoluments of public functionaries.

The Senate had also passed the financial bill by 108 to 27.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The Councils-General of the Danubian Principalities show themselves strongly devoted to the rule of Prince Couza. Two of them voted funds for erecting statues of the Prince; four colleges to bear his name, and ten monuments to be erected in his honor.

IRELAND.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin had been giving a banquet to the Lord Lieutenant, who in a speech bore testimony to the undoubted recovery and progress of Ireland.

FRANCE.

The weekly returns of the Bank of France show an increase of cash on hand of over 24,000,000 francs.

The Bank of France has reduced its rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent.

The *Temps* and the *Journal des Debats* construed the result of the Presidential election as evidence that the war is to be prosecuted with redoubled vigor until the South is completely subjugated. The former says it heralds forth the approaching re-establishment of the Union and the final extirpation of slavery.

JAPAN.

A telegram from Shanghai, of Oct. 9, says: "Prince Nagato has agreed to

open the Straits of Simonosaki, not to rebuild the demolished forts, and to pay the expenses of the allied expedition.

EGYPT.

One hundred million dollars worth of cotton, is said to have been raised in Egypt, in 1864.

SPAIN.

Election returns show results favorable to the ministers at the rate of 4 to 1.

AUSTRIA.

In the Reichsrath M. Von Schmerling declared that no bill making ministers responsible to the Reichsrath would be introduced at present, and intimated that any measure of the kind would be premature until the work of the constitution should extend over the whole empire.

PRUSSIA.

An official Berlin paper regards Lord Napier's appointment to the Court of Berlin as favorable to the future friendly intercourse of Prussia and England.

MEXICO.

By the arrival of the *Ariel* at this port we have Havana dates to Dec. 2. It is reported that the Emperor Maximilian, on returning from his journey through several of the interior states, met with a grand ovation. Immediately after his arrival in the capital, he dictated instructions to the prefects of the departments respecting the civil administrations of the Empire. The main features of the Imperial policy will be unity of gubernatorial action and justice for all. A letter from Maximilian to the Minister of State likewise defines the principles by which the Emperor intends to be governed. The most important point in this letter is the announcement that hereafter the adherents of the Republican government will be treated as outlaws. A new railroad is to be built from Guanajuato to Morelia, in which the Emperor and Empress have taken shares.

In the state of Oajaca the Republican forces have gained a victory, while on the other hand the Imperialist General Marquez has occupied Colima, the capital of the state of the same name.

Gen. Mejia, at Matamoros, is represented as being very severe to his soldiers. The punishment for almost any misdemeanor is five hundred lashes and death.

CANADA.

The Vermont raiders who have been in custody for the past month at Toronto, and who secured a long postponement on the pretext of getting evidence from Richmond, were brought into Court again yesterday. Instead of producing testimony, the prisoner's counsel astonished the other side by setting up want of jurisdiction on the part of the Court. The judge adjourned for an hour or two, and on re-convening his Court, fully and rather hastily agreed with the view of the defense, confessed that he had been wrong in the whole affair, and forthwith discharged all the prisoners on all the indictments.

In the case of the Anglo-Rebel Burleigh, the court at Toronto, has granted his request for a month's delay, on pretense of getting testimony from Richmond.

NEWS ITEMS.

NICKEL and plumbago have been discovered in Northern New Jersey.

THE new Custom House law of Chili opens the coasting trade of the Republic to vessels of all nations, and declares that anchorage, tonnage, light dues, as well as wharf charges, are abolished entirely.

THE last two of the six light-draught transport steamers built by Norman Wiard, of New York, have been finished. One has already started for Hilton Head, and the other will soon follow. These vessels draw but three feet of water when loaded, and will carry eight hundred men with coal and stores. They are surrounded with bullet-proof iron plating, with bronze bullet-proof pilot houses. They can be turned completely around in the space of their own length.

THE Ordnance Bureau report states that over twenty-seven thousand muskets were picked up on the battle-field of Gettysburg. One-half of these were found to be double-loaded, and one-fourth contained from three to ten loads. In some cases the ball was inserted before the powder, and nearly all showed the absence of presence of mind on the part of those who had used them.

HON. JAMES SPEED was confirmed by the Senate on the 12th in executive

session, as Attorney-General of the United States.

The Supreme Court no longer will move at snail's pace—

In this all the lawyers, of course, are agreed, For while at its meetings there must be a Chase, The Government causes can go off with Speed.

THE New York *Sun* of the 10th Dec. gives the following account of the new fractional currency:

The new fractional currency notes of the denomination of fifty cents are red-backed, with the metallic ring on the face, which is printed in black. It is the same width of the old fifty cent issues, and is twice as long, being full an inch longer than it should be to be perfect in proportion. It is, nevertheless, a little more like money than the old dumpy issues. The twenty-fives are to be a little shorter, and so on shorter down to the lowest denomination, and all will be given out for circulation, it is expected, in a few days.

THE Richmond *Whig* says: A gentleman who had ocular proof of the result of Gen. Rosser's recent expedition to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, states that General Rosser's force brought safely into New Market fifteen hundred horses and mules, eight hundred sheep and hogs, and eight hundred Yankees. General Rosser destroyed two hundred loaded wagons and a large quantity of army stores at New Creek, burnt all the bridges between New Creek and Piedmont, and destroyed at the latter place all the machine shops, engines, rolling stock, and lost only two men killed and wounded.

THE rebel Congress has passed a series of resolutions, relative to the seizure of the pirate *Florida* by the United States sloop-of-war *Wachusett*. They state that the act was in violation of the rights of the rebel government in neutral waters; that it was an insult to Brazil; that it was in opposition to the laws of nations, and that the Brazilian government is bound to make restitution *in statu quo*. What they propose to do with Brazil in the event of a non-compliance with this demand, does not appear in the resolutions.

THE Toronto *Leader* of the 10th, in an article upon the case of Burleigh, the late Erie pirate, says: "On many grounds it would be desirable that both this and the St. Alban raider's case should be submitted to the law officers of the Crown in England. These officers are better versed in international law than anybody can pretend to be, in a distant province of the Empire, which has no direct relations with foreign powers. The gravity of these cases, is such, as to demand the application to them of the best available talent. Beside, the responsibility of the decision, is more than the Province ought to take upon itself."

THE following item occurs in the Charleston *Mercury* of the 6th inst.: Siege Matters—515th Day—During the progress of the exchange of prisoners now going on in the harbor, and which will probably last for two weeks or thereabouts, the bombardment of the city by the enemy, is to be suspended. Under this arrangement, there was no shelling yesterday. We understand that the truce was to apply to the various hostile batteries in the harbor; but, by some mistake, the cause of which we have not learned, the terms of the truce were not fully known at Fort Sumter, and one of our sharpshooters at that post, shot and killed a Yankee, who showed himself at Battery Gregg; thereupon several of the enemy's batteries opened fire on Sumter. Finally, however, the enemy was apprised by flag of truce, of the nature of the mistake, and on apology tendered for the unintentional violation of the truce. The harbor then assumed its former quiet aspect.

THE Mobile papers state that the grain crop in Northwestern Mississippi, is a failure, and unless outside aid is extended to the inhabitants, numbers of them must perish.

THE Washington *Chronicle*, proposes that Mr. Fessenden, shall have unlimited power to issue such foreign and domestic loans as he may deem expedient, and even to issue legal tender notes, if he shall think proper.

THE bill for the payment of invalid and other pensions, reported in the House, on the 14th inst., from the committee on Ways and Means, for the year ending with June, 1866, provides \$4,000,000, for invalid pensions; 7,000,000, for pensions to widows, mothers, children and sisters; and \$230,000, for revolutionary pensions—an aggregate of \$11,230,000.

NOVEL way of steering steam-ships; Mr. Renssels, an Austrian, has secured

a patent in this country for a contrivance by which vessels may be steered by the propeller or screw which moves them ahead, and without the help of a rudder. The propeller is fixed in a case which supports it, and in which it is moveable by the turning of the steering wheel, either to starboard or to port, in either case, forcing the stern around, while her headway is not stopped, and indeed scarcely lessened. By this method a vessel can be easily turned in her own length.

SHEEP raising in the United States: According to the last census, in 1850, the number of sheep in the United States, was 21,723,200, while in 1860, the number was 24,823,566. The number of pounds of wool produced in 1850, was 52,516,959, against 60,511,343, in 1860. At the same periods, the amount of cotton produced was, for the former year, 2,445,792 bales, and for the latter, 5,198,077. Thus, while the cotton product doubled, the wool product increased only about 8,000,000 pounds, a smaller proportionate increase than of any other agricultural product of half its value, or upwards, sugar only excepted.

THE DESOLATIONS OF WAR.—A correspondent of the Nashville *Union*, who has explored the region passed over by Sherman's army, says:

From Chattanooga to Merietta, there is presented to the eye one vast sheet of misery. The fugitives from ruined villages or deserted fields, seek shelter in the mountains. Cities sacked, towns burned, population decimated, are so many evidences of the fearful guilt that rests upon the chiefs of this most wicked and causeless rebellion. All along the roads are great wheat fields in which no sickle will enter; crops sufficient to feed all New England, are to be lost for want of laborers. The owners have been driven into the rebel army by a merciless conscription, and the blacks have been sent further south. I saw enough of this country to get a most vivid and painful impression of the horrors of war. "This is a beautiful country," exclaimed a friend, as his eyes for the first time looked upon the gentle undulations of the valleys, terminating in the windings of the rivers flanked by the majestic barriers of the mountains. The entire country, in almost every rood of it, is a battle-field trodden over by both armies. In every town the more public buildings and the more conspicuous residences have been devoured by fire or riddled by shot and shell. Used as headquarters, or for rebel commissary stores, or occupied by prominent rebels, such buildings have become singled out for destruction. In some instances churches have not escaped. They have been stripped for firewood or converted into barracks and hospitals. In the towns, one is struck with the absence of young men and men in middle life. Fences are demolished, and here and there a lordly mansion stands an unsightly ruin.

THE HOUR OF DEATH.—A paper on this subject was read at the British Association, by Mr. Haviland of the Bridgewater Infirmary. It is stated that the author had collected over 5,000 cases of death, with the hour of death, and other circumstances recorded, which he had tabulated and exhibited on a large chart. By this chart, he showed that in 1,000 cases of death in children under five years of age, the periods of the greatest mortality took place during the hours between one and eight in the morning; but an extraordinary depression took place in the succeeding hours, and that between nine and twelve p.m. the rate of mortality was at its minimum. He then compared these statistics with 2,891 deaths from all causes, and the chart showed how remarkably the wave lines of death compared with those above. In the cases of death from consumption, although there showed a general resemblance in the wave line, yet within the hours of four and eight a.m., when there was a depression when compared with the first four-hour period, the mortality was the greatest. The extraordinary mortality was in the early hours of the morning, when the powers of life were at their lowest ebb, and, strange to say, when the patient was most cared for. He urged the necessity of feeding and stimulating the patients at their weakest hour, so as to tide them over a critical period, even if death be inevitable, to support the patient so that he might at least have a few hours more of life snatched from eternity, to admit of his being able to carry out some neglected duty, pardon some enemy, or see some beloved friend.