

# The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1886.

## The Week.

THE name of Gen. John A. Logan has been inscribed on the page of his country's history by meritorious and conspicuous service in war. Yet a military career was not the one he had marked out for himself, or had much liking for. A leader of his party in southern Illinois before the secession movement began, he had conceived, as how many American youths have done, the idea of becoming some day President of the United States by signal services to the Democratic party. Stephen A. Douglas was his leader and model. It was a great disappointment to him that war broke out between the North and the South. It shattered all his political theories, and for a brief interval left him without star or compass to guide him. He had been intensely Southern in his leanings and prejudices, as were all his neighbors and friends in southern Illinois. The district that he represented in Congress had just reelected him by 16,000 majority. He had not the insight into the designs of the Southern slaveholders that greater experience had given to Douglas. Nor had he enjoyed the benefit of the Northern training that Douglas had received and had never been able wholly to shake off. Southern Illinois in its feelings and prejudices in the year 1860 was pretty much the same as northern Kentucky and central Missouri. Logan's instincts were identical with those of his constituents.

What would have happened in that quarter if there had been no Douglas, it is impossible now to say. Probably southern Illinois, and with it Logan, then only thirty-four years of age, would have found their places on the right side, after taking a little time to digest their deep and bitter disappointment. It was fortunate for them and for the country that the Northern Democrats had a leader able to come to an instant decision, and to support it by masterly argument and overwhelming passion. There is evidence, however, that Logan did not "fall into line" with the greatest alacrity. It was not his nature to change his mind suddenly. His prejudices, as well as his settled beliefs, were deep-rooted, and it was not possible for him, then or at any other time, to keep silent when he was the prey of conflicting emotions. Some hot expressions of his dissent from Douglas gained currency before he presented himself at Springfield, in conjunction with McClelland, as described in Gen. Grant's Memoirs, and gave his influence and his sword unreservedly to the Union. From these hasty words grew the wretched slander of later years that he once tried to enlist soldiers for the Confederacy. His army career and the later events in his political life are familiar to all. His fame rests upon his military achievements, and these were due rather to prodigious energy than to great generalship. He was enterprising in war as in everything else that he put his hand to, and he had the indispensable

faculty of imparting courage and confidence to those under his command. Among the volunteer officers of the great conflict he holds the foremost place, unless Gen. Terry may be said to dispute the palm with him.

The Republican Senate is put in an awkward position by the President's act in sending in again the name of Mr. Matthews for Recorder of the District of Columbia. Mr. Matthews is a colored man whom the President named for this position during the last session of Congress. The Senate rejected the nomination, Democrats voting against Mr. Matthews because he was a negro, the Republicans voting against him because he was not merely a negro but a Democratic negro. The excuse which the Republicans made was, that Mr. Matthews was not a resident of the District. After the Senate adjourned, the President reappointed Mr. Matthews, and he has been discharging the duties of the office with great credit. It will not be possible for the Republicans to give their old excuse for rejecting him now, and if they refuse to confirm him, as it is thought they will, they will be obliged to take the ground openly that they reject him because he is a Democratic negro, while their hearts beat warmly for Republican negroes only.

Senator Blair has introduced a new pension bill, which seems to have many of the familiar characteristics of his former measures for emptying the national Treasury. This bill provides for granting pensions to all persons who were disabled while in the military service of the United States, whether they were mustered out or not, and to all women nurses in the war who have arrived at the age of fifty and are without the means of comfortable support. It also removes the limitation of the Arrears of Pensions Act, and makes the fact of enlistment evidence of physical soundness at the time of entering the service. No estimate is given of the amount which the bill would be likely to draw from the Treasury if it were to become a law, but Mr. Blair is not the man we take him for if he has failed to construct a measure which would dispose of a large part of the surplus. The only surprising thing about his bill is, that he has stopped short of Gen. Logan's latest pension position, namely, that every man who ever served in the war at all is entitled to a pension.

The debate on the Inter-State Commerce Bill is bringing out some ugly facts regarding railroad discriminations, some of them of recent date and others of a continuing nature. The letter from one of the Standard Oil Company's subordinates to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, directing the latter to "turn on another screw," has been extensively published and commented on. The significance of this missive was that a firm in Nashville had received seventy barrels of oil from some rival concern at "the usual fifth-class rate," which the Standard Oil Company could not abide. So it required the railroad company to fix an unusual rate for future shipments

made by the rival concern, and the railroad company complied, the rate being raised from \$41.50 to \$63. The live-stock and dressed-beef dispute has also been brought into prominence again. In this case the rule was sought to be enforced by the railroads that they must be paid more for carrying the beefsteaks and roasting pieces, of an animal than for the animal itself. Still another grievance comes from the mining regions, where the rule prevails that "you must pay for hauling metals according to their value and not according to their weight. Instances are cited where miners, in order to avoid heavy freight charges on their ores, have erected expensive machinery for concentrating the ores so as to leave the refuse material behind, but have been charged for carrying the small weight as much as for the greater. All these tricks and extortions are either cut off by the anti-discrimination clauses of the Inter-State Commerce Bill, or put under the jurisdiction of the proposed national railroad commission. They have no bearing, however, upon the two clauses of the bill upon which the main controversy arises, viz., the long-haul and short-haul clause and the pooling clause, and it is not right that resentment growing out of discriminations should be used to promote the enactment of measures having quite different aims. The railroad companies appear to be content to accept any legislation, no matter how severe, against discriminations, provided they can be protected against the two clauses above mentioned. There is a good deal of force in Mr. Blanchard's criticism of the bill, that it is not wise to attempt to regulate the length of haul in the first national railway act ever passed. Better give the Commission a year or two to examine the subject on all sides. We do not need an inter-State commerce bill now, any more than we have needed it during the past twenty years, indeed, not so much as we have needed it at some periods. It is more in accord with the scientific spirit to make changes gradually, especially those of such magnitude as are contemplated in the pending measure.

The letter which Mr. Combs, the removed General Appraiser of Maryland, has sent to the President is a manly statement of his case, and confirms the view which we took of it at the outset, namely, that it is one of the worst-offences yet charged to the Cleveland Administration. Mr. Combs was not only removed without cause but without courtesy. He makes the serious charge that an official answer from Secretary Manning to his telegram of inquiry about his removal was suppressed by Eugene Higgins, the disgraceful Appointment Clerk of the Treasury Department. Higgins made the excuse that it was not sent "because they feared it might complicate the appointment." This is a charge which Mr. Manning ought not to allow to go unanswered. If Higgins has power to suppress official documents and communications, his presence in the Department is a much worse scandal than has hitherto been supposed, and it has always been bad enough,

In Mr. Blaine's Boston *Concio ad Clerum* he did not fail to display his characteristic readiness to speak with great positiveness on matters which he has but superficially studied. In fact, one is irresistibly reminded, all through his address, of Pascal's "Je suis devenu grand théologien en peu de temps, et vous en allez voir des marques." He appeared, he said, in the guise of a "Pennsylvania Presbyterian" addressing the Congregationalists of New England, yet he said at least two things which no genuine "Pennsylvania Presbyterian" would ever be betrayed into. He spoke of Dr. Bushnell as "one of the most eminent of New England ministers." Now, in Pennsylvania Presbyterianism, "Bushnellism" is a name of direst significance, and it is impossible to conceive of a typical "Pennsylvania Presbyterian" referring to Bushnell as Mr. Blaine did—at least not without some serious qualification, such as "far as he departed from a sound theology," or, "much as his influence in some respects is to be deplored." Then Mr. Blaine affirmed that the differences which keep apart Presbyterians and Congregationalists are "child's play." But he would have known, if he had really understood Pennsylvania Presbyterianism, that it is nothing if not of the high-church and divine-right stripe, looking upon independency as, by nature, the mother of heresies and insubordination, and as just now in New England running into Socinianism as fast as possible.

The Senatorial contest in this State continues to be waged on the lines of our inestimable tariff. It appears that there are a number of undying supporters of the duty on salt who would like to vote for Mr. Morton, but are embarrassed by that gentleman's vote in Congress to repeal the duty, and by his subsequent statement in an interview that he so voted because the farmers and dairymen wanted free salt to their pork and butter. One of these, Mr. Lewis T. Hawley, of Syracuse, accordingly addressed a letter to the Albany *Evening Journal*, and sent a copy of it to Mr. Morton, enforcing the necessity of "protecting the salt industry of this State." Mr. Morton replied that the revision of the tariff should be made by the Republican party only, they being its true friends. This was a safe position to take in a political sense, but a little awkward to carry into practice, since the Constitution allows the Democrats to vote also. The *Evening Journal* improves on Mr. Morton's reply by "having not the slightest doubt" that Mr. Morton would even vote to increase the salt duty "if it should be established that the salt industry of New York needed greater protection than the present tariff affords." The salt boilers can "establish" this as easily as the owners of iron mines established the need of an increased duty on iron ore. Mr. Morton's position ought now to be satisfactory to everybody, but especially to the farmers, the salt boilers, and the Republican party.

The feature of the New England Society's dinner on Forefathers' night was the speech of Mr. Henry W. Grady of Atlanta, Ga., on "The New South." It was in every way a most notable address—full of an eloquence which stands the severe test of perusal in print the follow-

ing morning; lightened by a humor which is well sampled in the delicious allusion to Gen. Sherman as one "who is considered an able man in our parts, though some people think he is a kind of careless man about fire"; instinct with a patriotic spirit which stirs the blood of the reader; infused with the vital qualities of that oratory which touches the heart because there is sincere feeling behind the speaker's words. It was the perfect expression of what has so seldom been adequately set forth by any Southern man or fully understood by the North—the real attitude of the younger generation of the South towards the past and the future: its clear perception that the overthrow of slavery was a blessing; its consistent blending of honor to the memory of men who fought unsuccessfully for what they believed to be right, with a confession that Providence was most kind in dooming them to failure; its manly resolution to work out the tremendous problems imposed by emancipation, enfranchisement, and a revolution in material conditions no less complete than that produced in political relations by the new amendments to the Federal Constitution. Mr. Grady is himself an admirable type of a class which we think it fair to say has done more than any other class of society in his section to bring about the acceptance by the Southern people of the new order of things. We refer to the progressive men, chiefly of Mr. Grady's generation, who have of late years come largely into control of the Southern press, and who in their various fields have done a service to their countrymen which has not yet received the recognition that it merits. Mr. Grady is the editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, which under his charge has come to have a national reputation, but he is only one of a number of men who, in various fields, have labored to the same ends, of arousing the people from the supineness inevitable after their defeat in war, breaking down ingrained prejudices, and preaching the gospel of work.

One of the most shocking things in "politics" in this city has always been the fact that the care of the criminals and paupers was part of the "spoils." When one considers what the responsibilities of a civilized Christian community are towards these classes, what a difficult and complicated question the proper treatment of them is, how much knowledge, and skill, and experience, and conscientiousness it requires—in short, what a tremendously solemn trust before God and man it imposes—the committal of it to the kind of men who get their living out of city politics is little short of a public crime. The appointment of "Fatty" Walsh, a notorious "tough," rough, gambler, and liquor-dealer, one of the peculiar products of the vice and crime of this metropolis, a kind of man who was, during the greater part of his life, a walking disgrace to our laws, our manners, our religion, to be a warden in the city prison, shows that the old disease still lurks in the system. It is a kind of incident which should be exhibited nowhere but on the opéra-bouffe stage, where colonels are promoted for cowardice on the field, and bank presidents get testimonials from the stockholders for hav-

ing left a small sum in the bank vaults. Of course there is a great deal of political capital in it for both sides. One party has paid its debt to Walsh with it, and then the other is able to use him as an awful example of its opponent's wickedness. He is, in fact, almost as useful to the working politicians as the reindeer to the Laplander. Some say Mayor Grace did it; and others say Mayor Hewitt was going to do it, but the man whom the public ought to hold responsible is Mr. Henry Hobart Porter, the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, without whose vote it could not have been done. Mr. Porter belongs to what is called the "better element" in New York politics. He is a man of education and fortune, and has nothing to lose by devotion to the great interests of morality and order, and much to lose by any real or apparent indifference to the value of character as a qualification for public office. How he can face either family or friends after putting a man like Walsh in charge of the prisoners in a jail, is happily something which he, and not we, has to settle.

The importance of this Walsh case, we must beg the industrious moral and religious public of this city to remember, lies in the fact that the great difficulty of our city government is that we have too many "Fatty" Walshes. All our churches, and schools, and charitable and philanthropic associations, and our civil-service regulations, are intended to keep down the number of Walshes, and to diminish their influence in our political and social life. If there were no Walshes among us—that is, no liquor-dealing, gambling, law-breaking professional politicians—the rowdy and criminal element in the population would be greatly diminished. They are and have been for many a day the curse and shame of New York. What then must be the effect on the young men who are inclined to criminal and violent courses, and to whom regular industry is distasteful, of seeing a leading member of this odious class, a man who has lived half his lifetime without a lawful calling, actually made governor of the City Prison? Was there ever such a premium offered to lawlessness, turbulence, and vice? Walsh would not, under the civil-service regulation, be allowed even to compete for admission to a subordinate office in the Department of Charities and Correction, because he could not satisfactorily answer the question, "Have you ever been complained of, indicted for, or convicted of any criminal offence?" or the question, "What is your regular occupation?" Nor could he obtain the certificate of respectable citizens "that he is a man of good moral character, of sober and industrious habits, and that they have never known him to be guilty of or convicted of any criminal act or disorderly conduct."

Under the title "The Increasing Curse," the Prohibition organ, the *Voice*, presents a table compiled from the reports of the Internal Revenue Bureau, which gives the number of dealers in liquor paying the United States tax imposed upon everybody who sells liquor, and the amount of liquor produced, in both 1885 and 1886. The total number of dealers in the



country increased from 201,435 to 209,500, and the amount of liquor (both distilled and malt) produced, from 669,679,885 to 723,887,961 gallons. Unfortunately the latter figures do not represent the amount of liquor consumed, which is the important thing to know, as production is always more or less affected by trade fluctuations, while the number of dealers is necessarily governed by the popular demand. The increase here, it will be seen, is almost exactly four per cent., taking the country at large, or just about the rate at which population is increasing. But while this is true of the country at large, the *Voice's* table brings out the very startling fact that in the prohibitory State of Vermont, which has long remained almost stationary in population, the number of liquor-dealers has grown in the past year from 494 to 573, or more than 15 per cent. The last census gave Vermont 332,286 people, and the proportion of liquor-dealers is therefore 1 to every 580 of population. But Maine is almost as badly off, with 1,040 dealers for 648,936 people, or 1 to every 624, while New Hampshire, another prohibitory State, leaves her neighbors far behind, with 1,354 dealers for 346,991 people, or 1 to every 256. A small proportion of these dealers in prohibition States are druggists who do a legitimate business in selling liquor solely for medicinal purposes, but the overwhelming majority are regular saloonkeepers, like the sixty in Bennington.

Mr. Powderly's amiable scheme of combining all the laborers of the country into a kind of social-science brotherhood, for their own moral and intellectual improvement, appears to have suffered an irremediable shock when he succeeded in having his salary raised to \$5,000. The Knights were uneasy before that event, and were showing signs that they did not care particularly about intellectual development, but they were willing he should go on talking harmlessly about it until he raised the price of his services. From that moment dissensions have multiplied with alarming rapidity, and the chances for dissolution of the Order are so imminent that it is doubtful if he will succeed in getting even one year's salary at the advanced rate. He declares that he is undismayed, however, and does not mind a few seceders here and there. The trouble is, that every assembly which secedes makes it necessary to increase the assessments upon those which remain, and this is the surest way of breaking up the Order.

The greatest "beat" in the Campbell case, since the *Tribune* copyrighted the most filthy document of the trial, was secured by the *World* of Friday, in the form of what purports to be a long interview with Lady Colin Campbell sent by cable from London. In the course of the interview the following passage occurs:

"Lady Colin talked with much spirit and animation. I asked her if she would not like to say something to the American people through the *World*.

"Oh, yes," said she. "I really am glad of the opportunity. The case in which I have had the misfortune to become so conspicuous a figure has, I understand, been very fully reported in America. I only hope justice will be done to me by the American press and by the American people. I know the *World*. It has,

I believe, the largest circulation in America, and I think it would be doing myself an injustice were I not to consent to your visit. The proceedings of the late trial have been emotive out like a flood all over the earth. I am glad now, after it is all over, if I may be permitted to have some sort of a fair and just representation. I was never in America, but I have always wanted to go there, and I may go there yet some day."

She did not say that her heart "beats warmly for the whole American people," but it is evident that that is the way she feels. What the effect of that allusion to the *World's* circulation will be upon the *Herald*, remains to be seen. She says she knows the *World*, but it will be observed that she does not say how well she knows it. This leaves the way open for a *Herald* interviewer to get from her a statement that she knows the *Herald* better even than the *World*. There is not the slightest need of going to London for it, for any member of the *Herald* staff can write it just as well here.

The London correspondent of the *Tribune* has been lecturing the British press severely for publishing the bad parts of the Campbell divorce case. No doubt they need admonition on this point quite as much as the *Tribune* itself. His last letter, dated December 14, implies that there are some details known to himself which even the British public are not generally acquainted with. "You may tax your imagination," he says, "to conceive the full horrors of Lord Colin's treatment of the beautiful creature whom he married—you will tax it in vain." He little knows, however, what the imagination of the *Tribune* can do when well "taxed." Then he acquaints us in guarded phrase with the substance of the letter from Lady Campbell to her husband which was published and copyrighted in the *Tribune* on November 29, the printing of which the *Tribune* thought was justifiable on the score of properly showing up Lord Colin in this community, where neither he nor his wife had ever been heard of except in connection with their divorce suits. If any *Tribune* reader should "tax his imagination" on that subject, he would indeed "tax it in vain," but not in the sense that the correspondent implies.

The London *Economist* dissents from Secretary Manning's argument on the silver question in so far as the latter maintains that the suspension of silver coinage by the United States would impel England toward bimetallism, by throwing larger quantities of silver on the market and lowering the price and disorganizing the exchanges with India. On the contrary, says the *Economist*, "it would have the very opposite effect." England does not want a currency that is on the down grade. The more you prove to her that silver is on the decline, the less of it she will care to have in her pocket. The *Economist* thinks that the silver coinage in the United States cannot be of long duration because it is "so egregiously foolish." The people will wake up one of these days and wonder why they have been taxing themselves \$25,000,000 per year, to no end except the profit of the owners of silver mines, and then they will have an account to settle

with the Blands and the Becks, who have led them into the quagmire. In Germany the bimetalists are accusing Prince Bismarck of duplicity in effecting the recent sale of silver to Egypt. The *Kreuz-Zeitung*, the organ of the silverites, says: "We are unprejudiced enough to see in this step a great victory of the gold-currency party." Then, losing its temper a bit, it adds: "We must confess with sincere regret that the mighty German Empire has not shown itself strong enough to put an end to this Witches' Sabbath of a gold-currency swindle." The *Kreuz-Zeitung* also falls into the error ascribed by the *Economist* to Secretary Manning of supposing that the renewal of sales of silver by Germany will prove too much for England, and will compel her to take the lead in the "rehabilitation" of that deserving metal. We agree with the *Economist* that if England feels any pressure at all by reason of the decline of silver, it will be felt quite on the opposite side, and that the sales made by Germany will work very much like the efforts of the wind, in *Æsop's* fable, to make the traveller take off his cloak.

The great Powers are apparently all getting ready for a war in the spring, but each is nevertheless vigorously protesting that it desires peace above all things. The two principal sources of danger are Russia and France. Russia has suffered a rebuff in Bulgaria, which becomes more mortifying every day, and which both the Government and the people find it difficult to stomach, and has a secret consciousness that the decision of the long-pending question, Who is to have Constantinople? is close at hand. France probably shrinks from war, in spite of all the newspaper talk of revenge, but she has been overtaken by a great calamity in the advent of Gen. Boulanger. That is to say, after the experiences of 1870, the French were profoundly impressed with the danger of taking the field without a War Minister or General of capacity. As long as no such person appeared, they were therefore pretty certain to remain in a pacific state of mind. Unhappily, in one way or another, Gen. Boulanger has taken hold of the popular imagination, as a man competent to put the French armies in the field and make them fight, and he has now become apparently the permanent Minister of War, and is as much a favorite with the army as with the people. When the French have a man who they think has the makings of a military hero in him, nobody can tell what will happen. The non-appearance of such a man during the last fifteen years has been a most fortunate circumstance, and there appeared for a moment a chance that Gen. Boulanger might be ruined by the discovery that he had been telling lies about his relations with the Duc d'Aumale. The failure of this revelation to hurt him was very ominous, and the chances seem now to be that the French will sooner or later try their luck with him in the field. He has done a good deal for the organization and equipment of the French army, but of his capacity to wield masses of men nothing whatever is known, and he may go down under the German hammer just as rapidly as Bazaine or MacMahon.

## SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, December 22, to TUESDAY, December 23, 1886, inclusive.]

## DOMESTIC.

GEN. JOHN ALEXANDER LOGAN died in Washington at 2:58 o'clock on Sunday afternoon of rheumatism, followed by congestion of the brain. He was born near Murphysborough, Illinois, on February 9, 1826. He was the eldest of the eleven children of Dr. John Logan, who came from Ireland and married Elizabeth Jenkins, a native of Tennessee. His early education was obtained at home, and at a local academy. In his twentieth year he enlisted in an Illinois regiment of volunteers for the Mexican war, and was soon made a second lieutenant. At the close of the war he returned to his home with a good record of service, and studied law. He was soon chosen Prosecuting Attorney for the Third Judicial District of his State, and in 1852 he was elected to the Illinois Legislature. He was twice reelected to that body as a Democrat, and in the Presidential election of 1856 was a Buchanan elector. In 1858 he was elected to Congress, and in 1860, when he supported Douglas for the Presidency, he was reelected. On the outbreak of the rebellion he resigned his seat in Congress, and served as a private with a Michigan regiment at the first battle of Bull Run. Returning to Illinois, he raised a regiment of infantry, was made its colonel, and took the field in McClelland's brigade on September 13, 1861. In the battle of Belmont he led a bayonet charge, and his horse was shot under him. At Forts Henry and Donelson he led his regiment to the assault. In March, 1862, he was made a brigadier-general of volunteers. He was actively engaged in Grant's Mississippi campaign, distinguishing himself by his gallantry, and in November, 1862, he was promoted to the rank of major-general, and commanded the centre of McPherson's line at Vicksburg. Gen. Logan was made Military Governor of Vicksburg on its surrender, and was presented with a gold medal of honor on behalf of the Seventeenth Corps. In October, 1863, he was appointed to the command of the Fifteenth Army Corps, and in 1864 he led the advance of the Army of the Tennessee while Sherman was marching to the sea. In the battles of Resaca and Kennesaw Mountain he rendered valuable service, and at the bloody engagement of Peach Tree Creek he succeeded to the command of the Union forces on the death of McPherson. After the fall of Atlanta he returned to the North and made campaign speeches for the reelection of President Lincoln. At the end of the war he declined the Mexican mission, which was tendered to him by President Johnson, and in 1866 he was elected Congressman-at-large from Illinois, as a Republican, by a majority of 60,000. In the House of Representatives he served as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs and was one of the managers of the impeachment of President Johnson. In 1868 and 1870 he was reelected to the House, which he left March, 1871, having been chosen Senator from Illinois. He was reelected to the Senate in 1879, and again last year. In 1884 Gen. Logan was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency, and was finally nominated for Vice President on the Blaine ticket. He was one of the founders of the Grand Army of the Republic, and its first Commander-in-Chief. He married in 1855 Miss Mary Cunningham of Shawneetown, Ill., whose counsel, tact, and encouragement are believed to have had considerable influence in the promotion of his political successes.

The death of Gen. Logan called forth expressions of deep regret throughout the country from all parties. In Washington the sensation created was only less than that caused by President Garfield's assassination. Bills will be introduced in both houses of Congress immediately after the holiday recess, awarding to Mrs. Logan the pension she would have

received had her husband died of wounds in the service instead of from a disease the foundation of which, it is asserted, was laid by the exposures of his army life. A fund for the benefit of Mrs. Logan was started on Tuesday by the editor of the Washington *National Tribune*, and \$10,000 were raised in five hours. Funeral services will be held in the Senate Chamber at Washington on December 31, and the body will be temporarily placed in a receiving vault. Its final resting-place will probably be Chicago.

Senator Edmunds's bill to prohibit the importation of opium into China by American citizens, and into the United States by Chinese subjects, is another tardy attempt to comply with a plain provision of the Chinese Treaty of 1880. A similar bill passed the Senate in 1884, but failed of action by the House.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina has decided that the Vance Railroad Law, which forbids discrimination in freight rates, is unconstitutional wherever the freight was marked and entered for shipment beyond the limits of the State, or from a point outside to a point within the State, because it undertakes to regulate commerce between the States.

The Brooklyn Civil-Service Commission submitted to Mayor Whitney on Thursday a report of their work for the last year. The total number of examinations of candidates for positions under the city government, which by law are required to be filled in conformity with the civil-service regulations, was 69, while during 1885 but 15 were held. The candidates numbered 1,241, as against 1,177 for the preceding year. The number reaching the standard required for eligibility was 581, whereas only 445 are credited to 1885. From the eligible lists 258 appointments were made, 49 of which were taken from among those examined before January last.

Judge Peckham of the Supreme Court has decided that the Broadway repeal legislation of last winter is constitutional, and that the mortgages are a lien on the property. The case is that of the People vs. O'Brien, Receiver of the Broadway Railroad. Explaining this decision, Attorney-General O'Brien says that Judge Peckham's decision holds that the Broadway Charter Repeal Act is valid; that the act turning the franchise over to the city is not valid, and that the feature of the act winding up the affairs of the corporation, which provides specifically how alleged creditors may present their claims, is invalid. This last feature is regarded as too narrow in its limitations. The Broadway Surface creditors, it is held, should be allowed the same latitude that other creditors have in prosecuting their claims. The Attorney-General says that the case will be appealed by the concurrence probably of all the parties, and that the Court of Appeals will have to make a final disposition of it.

About 2,000 horse-car drivers and conductors struck in Brooklyn on Thursday because their complaints about over hours, etc., were not heeded. Attempts were made to run cars with new men, and serious disorders occurred with some bloodshed. Eleven horse-car lines were tied up. The demands of the men were practically yielded later in the day, and cars began running as usual at 8 P. M.

The conference between President Lewis of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company and thirteen employees, representing the eleven lines of the company, in reference to the list of grievances presented by the Executive Committee of the Empire Protective Association, resulted on Monday afternoon in an agreement by Mr. Lewis to recognize the latter organization and its Executive Board, and refer to arbitration any future question on which an agreement cannot be reached.

Thomas ("Fatty") Walsh has been appointed Warden of the city prison by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction in this city. Mayor Grace, Edward Cooper, E. E. Anderson, Henry K. Beekman, and Maurice J. Power

recommended his appointment. He is a notoriously unfit man for the place.

Mayor Grace has sent a copy of a letter to James C. Carter, Wheeler H. Peckham, Elihu Root, Francis L. Stetson, E. L. Godkin, E. Ellery Anderson, Simon Sterne, Walter Howe, William M. Ivins, E. Henry Lacombe, Thomas Allison, F. W. Whitridge, and Francis M. Scott, in the course of which he says: "As you are well aware, the passage of the special laws affecting this city have been productive of great evil in the past, and it is probable that similar evil in the future can only be effectually prevented by express constitutional amendment. I therefore suggest to you, with any other citizens who may desire to associate with you, that you organize yourselves into a voluntary committee to take into consideration the whole subject of the proper relation of the State to the cities, and with a view, if possible, of agreeing upon and urging the adoption of a constitutional amendment, independent of all partisan considerations whatever, which will serve to protect the city from a recurrence and perpetuation of the evils which have resulted in the past from special legislation; and further to prepare, if possible, a form of a general character, which, with such variations as the differences in population will necessitate, might be enacted by the Legislature in conformity with constitutional provision for the government of the several cities of this State, and which may adequately protect the interests of all cities alike."

Gov. Hill's decision in the case of Mrs. Druse, sentenced to be hanged for murder, is that she be respited for two months, and that unless the Legislature changes the law she must be hanged on February 28.

The hearing of the charges against the Andover professors began in Boston on Tuesday. The counsel for complainants were Judge Hoar, Judge French, and A. W. Wellman; for the professors there were Charles T. Russell, formerly on the Board of Visitors; Prof. Baldwin of Yale, ex-Gov. Gaston, and Prof. T. W. Dwight of New York. The Board of Visitors decided to take up Prof. Smyth's case first, and Judge French put in as further evidence an *Andover Review* editorial and Prof. Smyth's address at the meeting of the American Board at Des Moines. It was agreed by complainants to accept the suggestion of the professors and put in the whole book, 'Progressive Orthodoxy,' so as to get its entire scope. Then Prof. Dwight made the opening speech for Prof. Smyth. He attacked the complainants for their "duplicitous and underhanded" way of appearing at first as a committee of alumni, when there was no committee except of the whole; then he argued that there were no real plaintiffs in the case because the complainants had no personal interest in the Seminary. Further, there is no heterodoxy there, for heterodoxy has never been defined in the eighty years of the Seminary's existence, and there is no departure from common beliefs, but only from the special creed. A court decision has been given that the creed must be interpreted in a liberal spirit, and the Visitors are bound by it. Prof. Dwight argued that professors were allowed much latitude by the creed in saying that they should teach "according to the best light which God may give them."

Prof. Charles Short, for many years Professor of Latin in Columbia College, died on Friday at his home in this city. He was born in Haverhill, Mass., in 1821, and was graduated from Harvard College in 1846. Throughout his life he was engaged in teaching, being at one time President of Kenyon College, Ohio. He edited a number of Greek and Latin text-books, and was a member of the American Committee in the revision of the New Testament.

Ashbel H. Barney died in this city on Monday at the age of seventy. He was prominent in many important business enterprises.