spoken to by us in regard to the printing. One of these gentlemen informed us that Mr. Wentworth and one other were present when he was questioned; the other that Mr. Wentworth and two others (of a committee of nine) were present when he was examined. Both of them were indignant at the questions which had been propounded to them. Both of them testified that we had never approached them on the subject of the printing, or sought to influence them in that respect. This evidence did not, of course, suit Mr. Wentworth; and accordingly it was destroyed, and is not to be found on the record.

When these facts were communicated to us, we at once addressed a letter to Mr. Wentworth, demanding a second time the right of cross-examination. That letter was never replied to; and we have reason to believe that it was never laid before the committee. There were honorable men on that committee—men who never would have permitted such injustice if our demand had been laid before them. The committee continued its investigation in secret until about three weeks ago. Then we were informed that the committee had completed its investigation, and deposited its record with one of the clerks of the House of Representatives, and that we could examine it until the end of the week *during* the sessions of the House, and might afterwards examine witnesses and cross-examine those who had previously testified. We at once protested against this course of proceeding, as not having given us that right of cross-examination to which we were legally entitled. But, at the same time, we offered to accept the meagre privilege which had been accorded, if our foreman was permitted to examine the record, and a named attorney permitted to appear before the committee in our stead. This was granted; and as early as possible—within two days—our attorney notified Mr. Wentworth that he was ready to proceed, and he furnished at the same time a list of witnesses.

The committee had been examining witnesses for four months and a half. We had not been examining witnesses for more than the same number of days, when it was stated in the House of Representatives that the committee could not report because we were examining witnesses. This statement induced us to bring the examination to a close as soon as possible; yet we were not permitted to do so before the committee, or rather Mr. Wentworth, summoned and examined three new witnesses, the examination of one of whom occupied the sittings of the committee two days of the meagre time allotted to us. Yet, notwithstanding this unfair treatment, we succeeded in proving that we had executed our contract faithfully—that every exertion had been made by us to hurry on the public work, and that the delay which had occurred was not properly chargeable to us. In proof of this we mention the fact that a majority of the committee would not concur in the report which Mr. Wentworth had drawn up against us, and which he falsely pretended he was anxious to lay before the House of Representatives.

We have thus given a plain narrative of the facts of the case; but the events of the last few days, or rather nights, compel us to say more.

The Senate, convinced that we had fully complied with the terms of the contract, and that we had suffered thereby, amended the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill by a provision that the losses sustained by the contractor for the public printing should be made good, and ten per cent. on the cost paid by way of profit. This proposition was carried in the Senate by a vote of 36 to 15—Mr. Hamlin, the chairman of the Committee on Printing, and one of the fifteen, stating that he voted in the negative because he knew that a printer could not live on ten per cent. When the Senate's amendment was brought up in the House, we are told that such an exhibition of fiendish passions was never witnessed in a deliberative body. The host was marshalled by Wentworth, who, mindful of his former misdeeds, feared to open his lips to the House. His willing lieutenants and tools were Messrs. Evans of Maryland, Marshall of Kentucky, and Orr of South Carolina. Evans was smarting under the lash which duty compelled us some time since to apply to him. Marshall exhibited a degree of mental obliquity of vision which mars all his perceptions. The wonder is how a man like Mr. M. should have suffered himself to be played upon by such a man as "the *honorable* John Wentworth." At one time he endeavored to show that we had taken the contract at ruinous rates in order to compel Congress to break up the contract system. Five minutes afterwards he was rendering himself ridiculous—to say no worse—by endeavoring to show that we were making money out of our contract. As to Mr. Orr, the country needs no explanation of his conduct. We have labored for months to preserve the Union of the States; and therefore Mr. Orr is our enemy—bitter, malignant, blind—like an adder suffused with poison. These men led the van of the opposition; and to them we are very much indebted for the injustice we have sustained.

Personal Events in Washington.

We stated the other day that we have become much more the prominent object of notoriety than was suitable to our ambition or taste. Since we expressed that sentiment, circumstances have occurred to place us more directly in the foreground of the picture. We have been compelled to act in some degree the hero of the piece in the midst of both houses of Congress. We regret that we ever engaged in the contract; we regret that we have been compelled to apply for relief; we still more regret that at a time when every minute was precious to Congress—on the very eve of its dissolution—one humble man should have become a sort of shuttlecock for several hours on two successive nights of the session; that our case should have been one of the two which had been sent to three committees of conference between the two houses—a process, perhaps, unprecedented in the archives of Congress; and we regret, of course, the result which has pitched us overboard, and stripped us of all relief; and, still more than all, we deeply regret the unworthy feelings which contributed to the *denouement* of the drama, and "the spirit of malignity, I might say (writes an observer of the scene) of ferocity, which the House of Representatives has displayed towards yourself, after your patriotic defence of the Union of the States in the late crisis of public affairs."

We shall be necessarily compelled to call the public attention to these scenes—the actors who participated in them, the parts they had to play, and the plot of this tragi-comedy. We shall hold the principal character—the sly, insidious, and profligate personage who, filled with the vindictive venom which would disgrace any politician, was permitted by better men to conduct the machinery of a secret investigation, to select his testimony, to garble facts and fabricate charges which are as absurd as they are false. We shall do justice to the whole matter; but it will require some time to lay the whole web of iniquity before the eyes of our readers. In the course of this analysis, which will be addressed to the good sense and good feelings of a free people, to whom our public as well as private life is not wholly unknown, we may have occasion to appeal to their patience in laying these revelations before them. In the mean time, we would prefer to give a short sketch of these events in the words of others who were observers of the passing scene. The Baltimore Sun and Clipper are neutral papers, and their correspondents write as follows. The entire letter in the Sun is so interesting that we do not hesitate to lay all its contents before our readers:

[Reported for the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, September 23, 1850.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House met at 11, and (excepting a recess of two hours) continued in session till Sunday morning at five o'clock.

The most important business which occupied the attention of the House during the protracted session of this day was the several appropriation bills. Suffice it to say, without entering into a detail of the proceedings by which the result was arrived at, that these bills were severally passed, and, with the exception of the civil and diplomatic, have been signed by the President. In regard to the civil bill, there was considerable controversy and excitement and bad feeling between the two houses. The Senate had added to this bill some ninety amendments, involving an aggregate of appropriation of about $1,000,000; included in which was a provision in regard to the mileage of senators and representatives, fixing a maximum of mileage to the delegates and representatives west of the Alleghany mountains at $2,000, and east of said mountains at $1,000, going and returning to the seat of the federal government, and having for its effect to save many thousands of dollars to the public treasury. It also contained three sections, intended to remunerate the contractors for the public printing (Messrs. Trenholm and Belt, or otherwise Mr. Ritchie) for their losses in executing the same.

These sections indemnified for actual losses for all the work executed, and made an addition of ten per cent. for profit, to be determined upon by the Secretary of the Treasury, &c., and also provided that the work for the next session, and that remaining unexecuted for the present, should be proposed for, and awarded to the lowest bidder, &c. These provisions formed the principal cause of controversy between the two houses, and which came well nigh losing the general appropriation, and thus putting a stop to the wheels of government. After three several committees of conference, the House receded from its provision in regard to the mileage, and this left it under the old law, enacted before railroads were in operation. It, however, adhered to its amendment which struck out the entire provision of the Senate intended to indemnify Mr. Ritchie. So strong was the feeling of a considerable majority of the House, that they even refused to accept a merciful proposition reported to the two houses by the conferees, (of which Messrs. Vinton, Grinnell, and McLane, of Maryland, acted for the House,) intended merely to cover the actual losses of Mr. Ritchie, inclusive of a per centage for the wear and tear of types and presses. The last conference, of which Mr. Stanly was chairman on the part of the House, could not agree. Finally, upon the motion of Mr. Stanly, the House, at 4½ o'clock, a. m., adhered to its disagreement to the Senate's amendment in regard to the printing, and threw the responsibility on that body of receding or of losing the appropriation bill.

The Senate also amended the civil and diplomatic bill so as to appropriate $200,000 to commence laying the foundations for the additions to the Capitol—that is, of a new hall of Representatives and new Senate chamber, and new library; all of which are much needed. The House refused this appropriation. It was so managed, however, by the conferees as to induce the House to modify its action, and allow $100,000 to commence this very important and appropriate improvement. The additions proposed will increase the fronts of the Capitol east and west three hundred and fifty feet, with a depth of one hundred and fifty feet. The conjectural expenditure for this improvement is about $1,000,000, which will make this edifice of such extent and magnificence as to satisfy the wants of the legislative branch of the government, and in some small degree reflect the vastness of the republic and its growing wealth. This is an appropriation for which the people of this country will never complain. The money expended is not lost; for it accumulates property in another form to the government, and transfers the money to the pockets of the honest mechanic and laborer. Indeed, it is a great misfortune (or it may prove so some day) that Congress is not aroused to the importance of having fire-proof buildings to the State, War, and Navy Departments at Washington, in which to preserve its valuable memorials—such as the manuscripts of our departed patriots and statesmen, and the trophies gathered upon the land and the ocean by our heroes.

To return to the action of the last days of the session. I would mention, in commendation, the passage of a law by which the surviving officers and soldiers of all the wars in which the United States have been engaged will receive bounty land, and in certain cases their widows or children. The administration of the law (for it is now a law, having been signed by the President) will absorb nearly 60,000,000 acres of the public domain to those intended to be benefited, or to speculators. It will deprive the government of any accruing revenue from the sale of public lands for the ten or fifteen years to come. The rules of evidence will be such, no doubt, as to deprive the departments of the ability to issue warrants to cover more than 5,000,000 of acres per annum.

Should this amount issue, it will bring down the price of the warrants much lower than the government prices for the land, and thus enable speculators to undersell the government at the doors of the several land offices, where the greatest amount of public lands is entered. Purchasers of land, instead of paying the government cash, will make their entries with these warrants, while they will be able to buy at 25 per cent., or even 50 per cent., lower than the government minimum price. The only moneys that the government can possibly receive at their land offices will be for payments from actual pre-emptors; and it will not receive any from this class of purchasers if these warrants be made receivable in payment of entries by pre-emptors.

Thus you see that whilst the appropriations of this year amount to some $41,000,000, (independent of the appropriations to the Post Office Department, which department is presumed to support itself,) the policy of the present Congress has been to cut off a great source of revenue—the public lands—and to add that much to the deficit in the revenues. I foresee that the whig party will not only have a pretext for raising the tariff the next session, but a show of actual necessity for it, upon articles which will bear an increased duty without cutting off the importation, to replenish the treasury and enable the government to get along.

The California custom-house bill passed, and several other bills of minor importance, which I have not time to note now.

The House will meet to-morrow at 11. The only remaining act to be done is the signing of the civil and diplomatic bill by the Speaker. It is very doubtful whether there will be a quorum to witness the signature.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 1850.

Close of the Battle.—Action of the House.—Mr. Ritchie's Case.—Senate Rejections.—The Senatorial Difficulty Settled.—An Explanation, &c.

The battle has just been fought, and it is too soon now to do more than give an account of the killed and wounded.

The House sat last night till 5 in the morning, so that we have a physical insurance that the Sabbath will be a day of rest with many of the members. They passed all the appropriation bills, except that of the rivers and harbors, for which there will be time left next session, in conjunction with slight modifications in the tariff.

The civil and diplomatic appropriation bill went through a fiery ordeal, and there was some danger of the bill lying over till Monday, when, after a special committee of conference had been appointed in behalf of Mr. Ritchie, the Senate receded from its proposition in regard to him, and the House from the constructive mileage.

The manner in which Mr. Ritchie was overslaughed is not very creditable to the House. Whigs, free-soilers, and nullifiers conspired his ruin. The disunionists, North and South, after trying in vain to break down the *Union*, at last wreaked their vengeance on the *Union* newspaper. The Titans, after attempting to storm the heavens, have shown their prowess by cutting off heads of thistles. Mr. Ritchie does not understand boring, lobbying, or *making bargains*, and is now, in his old age, reproached for not having "his eye-teeth cut." He has conducted himself throughout the whole crisis through which he and the country have gone with singular uprightness, honor, and firmness; and may well exclaim with Francis I, *Tout est perdu hors l'honeur*. It is such battles as these which insure a man a name in the history of his country. If Congress will do nothing for the father Ritchie—if his enemies in the House insist on their pound of flesh, (poor Ritchie cannot spare it half so well as I,) they shall not draw *blood* with it.

Mr. Nathan Sargent, the reputed author of the Alpha letters in the New York Tribune, was slain by the Senate last night as recorder of the Land Office; this must have been the work of whigs. Hayden, of the Boston post office, also got his quietus; and Gordon, former whig postmaster, was confirmed in his place. But there is no use in calling the roll; the telegraph has done all that before me. Only the rejection of Mr. Peters, of New Orleans, the original friend of Gen. Taylor, deserves a passing notice, from the prominent position he occupied under the late administration.

The difficulty between Senators Foote and Frémont has been amicably arranged, as you will have seen by the card of these gentlemen's friends in to-day's Union. This is as it should be. Mr. Frémont was wrong to attack Mr. Foote for words spoken in debate, which, as he (Foote) distinctly avowed at the time in the Senate, were not spoken with a view to wound the personal feelings of any senator present, but merely to protect the country against *ex parte* decisions of the California board of commissioners for the adjustment of land titles.

All that General Foote had observed was, that without Ewing's amendment, granting an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from the decision of the board, he considered that the bill would disgrace the republic; and that however inclined he was to support the bill *with* the amendment, he should assuredly vote against it without the amendment. Mr. Foote retracted nothing, but distinctly avowed that he did not intend any personal disrespect for those who were against the amendment. Colonel Frémont could not but be satisfied with this explanation.

* * * * * * * *

Mr. Frémont labors under a mistake, if he thinks he has to *establish* a reputation. His great care ought to be to *preserve* it. As to General Foote, his national and patriotic course, his great talents, and his irreproachable rectitude and honor, have placed his character and reputation beyond all contingencies. It would have been folly for two such men to encounter each other to sustain a prejudice of society inherited from the barbarism of the dark ages; and the country owes a debt of gratitude to their "*friends*" for adjusting the whole matter in such a way that both gentlemen will give it the benefit of their talents and virtues for many years to come.

Yours, &c., X.

From the Baltimore Clipper.

Evening session.—At six o'clock the House reassembled. The galleries were crowded at an early hour by ladies and gentlemen. Light streamed from the splendid chandeliers, and every countenance seemed to wear a cheerful aspect.

There was so much done during this session of ten hours, that the prominent points only can be noted.

The bill making appropriations for light-houses was taken up in the House, and finally passed, after efforts to defeat it, by a vote of yeas 107, nays 50.

Mr. Bayly, from the committee of conference on the disagreeing amendments of the two houses to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, made a report, which was agreed to; and a further conference was requested on the following amendments, viz: 1, raising the salary of the head of the bureau of medicine and surgery; 2, the question of mileage reform; and 3, concerning the public printing.

There was much excitement during these proceedings, and the Speaker frequently called to order and suspended business in consequence of the confusion.

A committee of conference was ordered, and subsequently reported, on the disagreeing amendments to the bill giving land to all soldiers who have not been heretofore provided for by law. The report was agreed to, striking out lands to those who served as seamen and marines, including their officers.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the bill providing for the appointment of three Indian agents in California was passed.

Various appeals were made to take up certain private bills. They were represented as for the benefit of really deserving persons; but the House was deaf to the opportunities.

Many vainly sought to suspend the rules, to introduce resolutions, or to take up bills. Mr. Stanly, however, was successful, and on his motion the House laid on the table and ordered to be printed the evidence taken before the Wentworth select committee, to inquire whether there existed any combination to break up the contract system for executing the public printing, and the evidence taken by the Stanly select committee to inquire into the conduct of office-holders under the Polk administration.*

Further proceedings succeeded, when, at twenty minutes past ten o'clock, Mr. Cartter moved that the House adjourn; which was not agreed to.

Mr. McLane made a report from the new committee of conference on the disagreeing amendments of the two houses to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, recommending that the House agree to strike out the mileage-reform proviso; and the Senate's amendment relative to printing, with an amendment authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to reimburse John H. Trenholm and Wm. M. Belt, or their assignee or security, Thomas Ritchie, for any losses sustained by the printing contract; all manuscripts not put in type by them to be returned to the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, who shall cause the same to be printed at a cost not less than forty-five per cent. for long numbers, and thirty-three and a third per cent. for short numbers of copies, below the prices established by Congress in 1819.

This report occasioned much excitement. Several motions were made to lay it on the table.

Mr. Marshall wished to know whether, if such a motion should prevail, it would carry the civil and diplomatic bill with it.

The Speaker replied it would, unless there was a new committee of conference.

The friends and the enemies of Mr. Ritchie contended with much spirit; the latter prevailed. The report was not concurred in—yeas 65, nays 93.

Several gentlemen proposed to adjourn, as it was now after twelve o'clock, and Sunday morning.

There were motions for calls of the House, and frequent messages received from the Senate, &c. The confusion increased.

On motion of Mr. Stanly, the House *insisted* on its amendment to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

Two or three resolutions giving extra pay to messengers of the House, &c., were passed.

Mr. Stanly, from the new committee of conference, made another report on the disagreeing amendments to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, proposing, 1st, that the House agree to recede from the mileage-reform proviso; 2d, that the House concur in the eighteenth amendment; and, 3d, that House adhere to its disagreement to that indemnifying the public printer, releasing him from his contract, &c.

It appeared, in the conversation which followed, that the report was not from the joint committee, but from only two members of it; and it was laid on the table.

Mr. Stanly made substantially a motion to the effect of the contents of the report, and it was agreed to—yeas 91, nays 47; and, on his motion, the motion to reconsider, and the vote by which his proposition was carried, was laid on the table.

This forced the Senate to the alternative either to recede from its amendment indemnifying the public printer, (Mr. Ritchie,) and pass the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill, or to insist on their amendment and lose the bill.

A message was sent to the Senate, informing them of the action of the House, and they thus were obliged to recede; and thus the bill passed.

During the sitting, the President of the United States, through his private secretary, informed the House that he had signed the bounty land bill, the army, navy, fortification, and light-house bills.

The civil and diplomatic appropriation and the Indian appropriation bills were not signed, they being in the hands of the engrossing clerks. They will be signed on Monday; to which day, at ten minutes past 4 o'clock, the House adjourned.

[From another correspondent of the Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 1850.

The House and Senate continued in session until half-past four o'clock this morning—Sabbath!

The Utah nominations were all confirmed.

The Senate will meet to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock, to clear off the executive table, which is now reduced to almost nothing.

The rejection of Mr. Sargent, formerly Oliver Oldschool of the old Philadelphia United States Gazette, was caused by the votes and opposition of some of his political friends. I could tell you the reason, but n'*importe*.

Mr. Hayden, postmaster at Boston, fell a victim, also, to the demands of the same insatiate monster, jealousy of his own political household, notwithstanding the feeling appeal said to have been made in his behalf by General Foote, because of his warm support of the Adjustment and Mr. Webster.

Poor† Mr. Ritchie has been made to pay the penalty of his temerity, in undertaking to do public work below cost. Congress holds him to the performance of his contract, where it ruins him, and refuses to execute the contract on its part where it remunerates him! The work in the fifth class pays well, and might make up the losses on the other classes, but Congress expressly forbids payment during the recess for work of this class. This conduct on the part of Congress is disgraceful, shameful, wicked, tyrannical. It must and will be repudiated, or the character of this government for justice will be forever destroyed.

The Hon. Richard W. Thompson, of Indiana, was last night nominated and confirmed as recorder of the Land Office, vice Nathan Sargent, rejected.

Judge Courtland Cushing, of Indiana, is said to have been confirmed as chargé to Equador.

Congress presented last night a strong similarity to the eating, drinking, and roistering parliaments of Red William, described by Carlyle. ARISTIDES.

[From another correspondent of the Baltimore Clipper.]

The House last night non-concurred in the Senate's amendment to indemnify the public printers for their losses. Mr. Ritchie, the party most interested, during the session, had properly not permitted his semi-official position to influence his editorial conduct. If he had tied his right hand behind him, and suffered his quill to remain in the wing of his goose, there would not have been so much disposition evinced as there was last night to pluck him of his golden feathers. Members who freely vote to indemnify *themselves* for loss sustained in the extra consumption of stationery, and to supply themselves with nearly a thousand dollars' worth of books apiece, may have an apology in the fact that the treasury will not suffer additional depletion. The hall was the battle-field where *private griefs* were, for the occasion, signally redressed.

The river and harbor bill has not passed, and will go over until the next session.

The clerks of the House served up a collation to the members, in the shape of substantials, to satisfy hunger. G.

* Both miserable abortions; and in both we of the *Union* had to play no insignificant part. Mr. Stanly's committee proposed to drag us to the bar of the House to betray the names and secrets of our correspondents. This plot was hissed off the stage. The other committee, got up by that cunning manager Mr. Longdon Wentworth, as he is vulgarly called, after a long wild-goose chase, attempted in vain to prove a combination to break up the contract system, for which there was not the shadow of a foundation; the principal fact being, that some expressions were attributed to a third party, and then, by a new species of logic, transferred to the contractor, when no such declaration was ever authorized or sanctioned by him, and when his whole course was in express contradiction of the declaration. It will become our duty to hiss the manager and his piece off the stage.—UNION.

† "Poor" he may be in two senses of the term, but not poor in spirit—in the "indomitable spirit" which becomes a citizen and a man. It is true that amid the other acts of Congress which do not grace their session is the resolution which cheats the contractor from the adjudication even of a claim which he is advised by eminent counsel falls legitimately within his contract. He is prevented from even receiving any sum, large or small, for a job which was to be paid for under the contract as soon as it was delivered. Thus Congress itself has unwittingly violated the contract, and turned the public printer adrift to look out for other means for executing their other jobs.—UNION.

Marshall Wilmot out of the Field.

We are happy to learn from a reliable source that "he Wilmot" has withdrawn himself as a candidate from the field, and that, for the purpose of harmonizing and uniting the party, Mr. Lowrey, the regular democratic nominee, has magnanimously withdrawn, and that Galusha A. Grow, esq., of Montrose, a sound democrat of highly respectable talents, has been by the conference unanimously nominated. This secures the election of a sound democrat from that strong democratic district, in place of the firebrand.

The "North Pennsylvanian," published at Towanda, in that congressional district, confirms the statement and says:

"The conferees who originally nominated Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Wilmot, having received the declinations of both those gentlemen, have unanimously agreed upon Mr. Grow, of Susquehanna county; and he is now regularly and fairly before the democrats of this district as their only candidate for congressional honors. We most sincerely rejoice in this result, and earnestly call upon our democratic friends to unite cordially in support of Galusha A. Grow. Not one word of crimination or recrimination shall now disturb a union formed, as we believe, in good faith and with upright intentions, in both a personal and party point of view. 'Let by-gones be by-gones;' and instead of remaining a subject of derision for the whigs, who were profiting by our quarrels, let us rally, with one effort and one voice, in support of our WHOLE TICKET, and we shall triumph gloriously."

Thanks to the district which has thus withdrawn from the public councils the putative father of a projet which has disturbed the country for three years. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio—a man of very superior talents to Wilmot—is entitled to the credit of Erostratus in attempting to set fire to the temple of our Union. But the South will hail with pleasure the banishment of its foster-father to private life.

Documents on hand.

Questions have been addressed to us about the disposition of the public documents which are not yet printed. What is to become of them? Are they to sleep in MS.? or are they to be printed for distribution among the members at their respective homes, or to be laid upon their desks on the day of their reassembling? and who is to print them? and who is to pay for them? Besides the unparalleled numbers which have been executed, there is a very large mass yet to be printed. We had at one time determined to submit them to the disposition of Congress, as relief had been denied, and our means were exhausted. But we have changed our purpose. A generous friend has voluntarily stepped forward to offer us the amplest means of executing the work. We shall now prosecute their printing with more spirit than ever; we shall attempt to clear the decks; we shall labor to compass the whole; we shall immediately finish the printing and binding of the first volume of the Patent Office report—50,000 copies—and we shall put the second volume (in stereotype) in hand, of which we are to strike off 130,000 copies. We will even attempt to have the work done in other offices which we cannot complete in our own—to have it done as economically as possible; but we shall not stickle for our contract prices.

In a word, we mean to do what Congress ought to have done for itself—viz: to expedite the execution of the printing—knowing that the public interest will suffer more by delay than by a little advance of price to facilitate its prompt execution. Congress could not have secured this object, except by voting better than the contract prices. Instead of doing this, however, they have even denied us relief on a losing but faithfully executed contract. "But will they pay you?" We mean, at least, to venture the experiment. We shall take the responsibility. And we shall put it to them, as men of honor, to pay a debt of honor, contracted for the public good. We dare to believe that they cannot refuse to discharge the obligation in the handsomest manner. We still put unbounded confidence in gentlemen who did not appear very willing to extend it to us. Yet it was with infinite gratification that we witnessed the reaction which has taken place since Saturday night. We were assured by gentlemen from all parts of the House, that full justice would be done to us at the end of the next session, only sixty days off.

Action of the Southern States.

The Columbia South Carolinian of the 26th September refers to the proclamation of the governor of Georgia, and proposes to second it in South Carolina. It adds:

"South Carolina must not be laggard in action. It has been suggested in several quarters that the governor should convene the legislature, that that body might provide for a convention of the people, to meet simultaneously with the convention appointed in Georgia. * * *

"We have no suggestions to make at present. The members and senators about to be elected will come fully posted up in the views of their constituents, and will be thoroughly prepared *to act*. If, therefore, the governor should decide this question of expediency in favor of a convention to sit in December, he has ample time to convene the new legislature as soon after their election as may be practicable. We have little doubt but the sentiment of the people is in favor of a convention, to meet at or soon after the meeting of the Georgia convention."

We trust that these movements will meet with no sympathy in the other southern States. It is now hoped, too, that the convention of Georgia will consist of sound, moderate men, and that both secession and disunion will be distinctly repudiated.

We learn from the best authority that three-fourths of the citizens of Alabama are opposed to disunion or ultraism.

The strongest hopes are entertained of the moderation of Mississippi.

Virginia will prove as a breakwater to the furious current. Nine-tenths of our people (said one of the most intelligent of her politicians yesterday) are in favor of the Adjustment. There is no spirit of disunion in that wise and self-balanced Commonwealth.

"How is Virginia?" said an intelligent politician of North Carolina to us yesterday. "My State is as clear as Virginia. In Carolina a large proportion of her citizens are unionists."

Tennessee counts 99-100ths.

Our correspondent from Kentucky in this morning's paper shows how that State is.

Maryland, Mississippi, Louisiana, are all safe and sound.

We beg the noble citizens of Georgia to pause—for Heaven's sake, pause—if they should contemplate anything like revolution.

Texas.

The collision betwen the governor and legislature of Texas in relation to the Texas bill has created some doubts among our newsmongers respecting the acceptance by Texas of the boundary propositions. But her two senators here entertain no doubt about her ultimate ratification at the session which meets on the third November. The governor himself may not be strongly in favor of the measure; but he will be overruled. He vetoed, in consequence of some alleged irregularity of form, the resolutions which had been adopted for taking the voice of the people. After their rejection, the following resolutions were adopted by the State senate:

"*Resolved*, That should any proposition be made by the federal government to the State of Texas for the purchase of any portion of her territory, it will be proper for the people of said State to exercise their sovereign right of accepting or rejecting such proposition by vote at the ballot-box.

"*Resolved*, That, if practicable, a full vote thereon should be given on the first Monday in November next, and that the chief justice of each county be, and he is hereby, requested to furnish the representative of his county with a certificate of the result of said vote, directed to the speaker of the house of representatives, and to enclose by mail a duplicate certificate to the secretary of State for the speaker of the house of representatives; which certificates shall be opened by said speaker in presence of the two houses of the legislature, and the result be there made known.

"On the 21 September Mr. Clough moved to take up a joint resolution authorizing the governor to appoint delegates to the Nashville Convention; upon which the yeas and nays were called for, and stood yeas 11, nays 28.

"So the house refused to take up the resolution."

The *Union* will suspend all exchange with the New York Evening Post, unless it obtains a gentleman for its Washington correspondent. The *Union* is perfectly at its service. It shall still be continued to the Post for criticism and for censure, but we must beg leave to decline receiving the Post.

We would advise, also, the Philadelphia "North American" to teach its correspondent some of the manners of a gentleman. None but a Swiss scribbler would so misrepresent our own position. As he calumniates us, so will he misrepresent every democrat whom he wishes to prostrate. Upon one point he is mistaken:

"Mr. Ritchie retires, if rumor be true, to enjoy the luxurious retreat which five years of profitable association with the metropolitan press have provided. It this movement is intended—as has been suggested—as an adroit expedient to induce Congress to rescind the contract for public printing, which was procured by a most unworthy connivance, it is to be hoped that the two houses will set their faces against so prodigal and wilful a waste of the public money as the recent proposition contemplated."

We have purchased no "luxurious retreat" by five years' hard labor. We had heavy debts to pay when we came to Washington. These have been discharged, with one exception, upon which we shall never be hard-pressed. We have purchased the house in which we reside, and paid for the office, which this gossip says we have transferred to Messrs. Burke and Overton. This is the sum total of our accumulations—this the "luxurious retreat" which we have acquired by five years of unparalleled labor in Washington. We envy not the conscience or the taste of that man who, under the belief that an opponent is about to retire from the field, hurls at him the Parthian arrow of detraction, and would consign him to retirement with disgrace. This man would even add injury to indignity. He would persuade Congress to deny justice to a man who has incurred a heavy debt in the faithful execution of an onerous contract, and strip him of every cent which he has made in Washington. No one who is so perfectly destitute of the refinement or magnanimity of a gentleman is worthy to be employed as a correspondent for the press or an instructor of the people. We do not stoop to retaliate, although the archives of this city would furnish ample materials for recrimination.

National Courtesies.

The whole world knows of the philanthropic and benevolent mission to which M. Vattemare, the distinguished and persevering founder of the system of national interchanges, has devoted himself. We have often noticed in our columns his great and good enterprise, the unwearied zeal with which he pursues it, and the beneficent results which he has accomplished. Already is his system triumphant, and he has established his claim to the title of a benefactor of his race. May he continue to go on, reconciling and cementing the friendship of nations, by being the bearer between them of their mutual gifts of intellect and art!

When M. Vattemare visited this city in 1848, we understood that the late Commissioner of the Patent Office gave to him, for presentation to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce of France, the specifications and drawings of twenty-two of the most valuable and remarkable inventions and improvements which had been patented in this country during that year. Recently M. Vattemare has received from the secretary general of the Society of Encouragement in Paris the following letter, acknowledging the receipt of the specifications and drawings, the original of which, we understand, has been deposited in the Patent Office:

[Translation.]

"PARIS, April 21, 1850.

"The Secretary General of the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry to Mr. Edmund Burke, Commissioner of Patents (*president de la commission des brevets*) of the United States of America.

"SIR: By a letter which was read in the session of the 1st of August, 1849, M. Moreau hastened to bring to the knowledge of the Society of Encouragement that the Patent Office of the United States, of which you are the worthy head, had instructed M. Vattemare to present to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce the specifications and drawings of twenty-two new inventions.

"The Commissioner of Patents has expressed to the Minister the desire to have these inventions submitted to the Society of Encouragement of French Industry.

"In the name of the Patent Office, you have accompanied this message with expressions whose value the Society of Encouragement appreciates; and it is happy to seize this occasion to establish an exchange of documents, the knowledge of which can but be profitable to the prosperity of both countries.

"It was only in the session of January 16th that the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce laid before the society the specifications and drawings presented by the United States of America.

"The Society of Encouragement has made it a duty, Mr. Commissioner, to call the particular attention and interest of the Committee on Mechanical Arts to the inventions and improvements which are the subjects of these patents, and which exhibit a most remarkable talent for invention and research.

"I congratulate myself, Mr. Commissioner, in being charged with the duty of conveying to you the cordial thanks of the Society of Encouragement for the interesting communications which you have so kindly placed in its possession, and which have caused such lively satisfaction.

"Permit me, Mr. Commissioner, to offer you the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

"M. DUPIN."

In relation to the subject of the foregoing letter, M. Vattemare has very kindly placed in our hands the following extract from a letter addressed to him by M. Moreau, his agent in Paris, which will be gratifying to the inventors whose labors have been so flatteringly approved, and which reflect so honorably upon their country. M. Moreau writes:

"You may inform the Commissioner of Patents (the Hon. Edmund Burke) that of the twenty-two specifications and drawings he presented, twelve have been found, without prejudice to the others, by the Committee of Encouragement appointed to examine them, to possess extraordinary merit and value."

We understand that the report of the committee appointed to examine the inventions above alluded to will soon be sent to this country, and, we suppose, deposited in the Patent Office.

The rumors in circulation about the sale of the *Union* are not confirmed by the facts. More upon this point to-morrow. The negotiation has terminated, and the present editor remains at his post, prepared, with his gallant associate, (Mr. Overton,) to do battle against his own enemies or those of his country. We shall address our subscribers to-morrow. If they will stand by us with the same zeal with which we shall stand by our country, our own little *Union* is safe.

"Georgia and South Carolina."

LEXINGTON, (Kentucky,) Sept. 24, 1850.

To the Editor of the Union:

DEAR SIR: In view of what is transpiring in Georgia and South Carolina, it may not be improper to give expression to the tone of public sentiment in other slave States. Kentucky is perfectly quiet, and entirely satisfied with the Compromise bills which have at last become laws of the United States. The difference between us and the people of Georgia and South Carolina (and this difference applies to the whole valley of the Mississippi) is this: we do not believe that we would be better off, in any respect whatever, if there was a southern confederacy. We have not found, *nor have we dreamed that we have found*, that the Union of the States was a disadvantage to us. If a dissolution could be effected amicably, and a new republic could immediately be set up, with every prospect of permanent success, we would object to it. We prefer that things should stand just as they are. Georgia and South Carolina, therefore, will be disappointed, if they calculate that so soon as they make a move other States will rush to their rescue. The only chance for a breach that would have at all enlisted sympathy and partial co-operation on the part of other southern or southwestern States is passed—I mean a state of open war between the general government and the State of Texas. It is too late now for these two States to begin to move: *the good excuse* which *they hoped* they would have had has been taken away from them. If twice as much more had been granted, they would have been even more dissatisfied; for, like children, they wanted *to be mad*. But they will be disappointed even at home. Many political men call themselves democrats; but they are not. Like thousands of men who have called themselves Christians, they are the worst enemies of the great principles which they profess to subscribe to. Democratic principles do not consist alone in negatives. To be opposed to a national bank, to a tariff for protection, and to a mammoth system of internal improvements, involves more than opposition: it involves everywhere the defence of the fundamental rights of the masses of the people—the overwhelming majorities of the producers of the necessaries of life. The great body of the disunion politicians have no sympathy with the people. They have use for them at the polls, and at no other time. The time has come for this *people* to maintain their rights. They will have to fight the battles if any are fought; and it is for them to say whether any battles shall be fought at all. It is possible that, under deceptive pretences, a sufficient number of short-sighted, weak-minded, but strong-passioned politicians may be elected to a State convention in Georgia and South Carolina, to pass a series of dissolution resolutions. But should this take place, whether the conventions allow it or not, the people, the honest people, the patriotic people, will demand another vote: they will assert the right to vote upon the question, and upon that question alone, of United States and dissolution of the Union.

What happened in 1848 ought never to happen again, either in the States individually or in the United States. The battle that has been fought in Congress since last December should have been fought before the people at the polls. One day or three days at most would then have decided it. Had it been known what were General Taylor's views, as it was known what were General Cass's, the decision by the people, let it have been on this or that side, would have so settled all the questions at issue that when Congress assembled their path of duty would have been clear and plain.

The disunion politicians in Georgia and South Carolina are trying to do in those States what the whig party so successfully accomplished in 1848. They dare not go before the people with an open issue. Let the people see to this in time, or they will be put to much trouble. The democracy must let their voice be heard, and the sooner it is heard the better it will be for those States and for the United States. As you have so often shown, it is to the great democratic party that we must look for the preservation of the Union—for this obvious reason, if for none other: it is a "fixed fact" that the democratic party is in the United States decidedly in the majority. It is the party of the people, in contradistinction to the party of privileges. The great principles of republicanism, of American republicanism, are now before the world. The people *see* them plainly, and *feel* their influence, because they do not have to look through a medium of essays on government, written in Europe by the subjects of monarchies, nor have they been so favored by "prescriptive rights" as to prejudice them in their favor.

Virginia has suffered, perhaps, as much from the operation of laws passed by Congress as has Georgia or South Carolina; but Virginia has never thought of dissolving the Union. The reason is, that Virginia has been purely democratic, while Georgia and South Carolina have not been so. J. C. D.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

From our Baltimore Correspondent.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 30—5, p. m.

Progress of the Campaign.—Skies Bright.—Return of a Fugitive.—First Trial of the Fugitive-slave Law.—Mr. Forrest's Case.—New York Whig Troubles.

The preparations on the part of the democracy for the election for governor are going on most promisingly, and a majority of not less than 2,000 in this city is confidently expected for Mr. Lowe. The enthusiasm far exceeds that of either of the last presidential contests, and the vote will be immense. The whigs have stopped betting on Clarke, and seem very much depressed to-day. The democratic majorities in Baltimore city and county bid fair to overmatch all the majorities that can be brought against them in the whig counties. Bets are offered to-day that the eighth ward of this city alone will give a larger majority for Mr. Lowe than Clarke will receive in any county in the State.

The arrival here yesterday morning of officer Graham, accompanied by deputy marshals Talmadge and Brown, of New York city, bringing with them a slave named Hamlet, who escaped from Mrs. Mary Brown, of this city, about two years since, settles the point as to the availability of the new fugitive-slave bill. The fugitive is now in one of our slave prisons, and his owner has