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The Daily Union.

VOLUME V. "LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION." NUMBER 273

CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 7, 1856.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The name of no person will be entered upon our books, unless the payment of the subscription be made in advance.

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The COUNTRY PAPER is published tri-weekly during the sessions of Congress, and semi-weekly during the recess.

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☞POSTMASTERS are authorized to act as our agents; and by sending us FIVE DAILY subscribers, with $50 enclosed; or FIVE SEMI-WEEKLY subscribers, with $25 enclosed, will be entitled to a copy gratis.

United States Supreme Court Decisions.
JUDGE CURTIS'S EDITION.

Reports of Decisions in the Supreme Court of the United States, with Notes and a Digest.

By B. R. Curtis, one of the associate judges of the court. In 22 vols. 8vo. Price, $3 per vol.

THIS edition comprises the cases reported by Dallas, 4 vols.; Cranch, 9 vols.; Wheaton, 12 vols.; Peters, 16 vols.; Howard, 17 vols. The old series of these reports is in 58 volumes, the catalogue price of which is $522. This edition, in 22 volumes, is offered to subscribers at the low price of $3 a volume, or $66 for the whole.

From the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

We approve the plan of Mr. Justice Curtis's Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and believe that its execution by him will be of much utility to the legal profession and to our country.

ROGER B. TANEY, Chief Justice.
JOHN McLEAN, Associate Justice.
JAMES W. WAYNE, Associate Justice.
JOHN CATRON, Associate Justice.
PETER V. DANIEL, Associate Justice.
SAMUEL NELSON, Associate Justice.
ROBERT C. GRIER, Associate Justice.
J. A. CAMPBELL, Associate Justice.

The following opinions have been expressed of the work since the publication of the first three volumes:

From the Chief Justice of the United States.

I regard this publication as one of the most useful and valuable that have issued from the American press. I have examined the first volume. I need not say that it is evidently prepared with great judgment and care. The character of Mr. Justice Curtis is of itself a sufficient guarantee that any work of this kind undertaken by him will be executed in the best manner. And when it is completed it cannot fail, I think, to merit the approbation and support of the public as well as of the profession, whether practising in the courts of the United States or the courts of a State.

JULY 19, 1855. R. B. TANEY.

From Judge McLean, of the United States Supreme Court.

I have long desired to see just such an edition of the reports of the Supreme Court as this will be. The correction of the errors of the press in the present editions and the reference to subsequent cases where the decisions have been doubted, modified, overruled, or affirmed, as proposed in this edition, will give to it increased value.

JULY 15, 1855. JOHN McLEAN.

From Judge Catron, of the United States Supreme Court.

The specimen volume you have sent me is well edited and well printed; and, if the succeeding volumes are as well executed as the first one is, I have no doubt that Mr. Justice Curtis's edition will at once supersede all other reports of the Supreme Court decisions. He has disencumbered the reports of cases of useless matter, reducing them to a form and size convenient to the student and comfortable to the lawyer and the judge; and then the price is reasonable.

NASHVILLE, July 21, 1855. JOHN CATRON.

From Judge Grier, of the United States Supreme Court.

The plan of this work has already received the sanction and approbation of the whole court. The volume (the 18th) now claims the promise of its able editor. When fully executed it will make the decisions of the Supreme Court acceptable to the bar and others not only by greatly reducing the expense, but by eliminating the diffuse syllabuses, the superfluous statements, and other mass of useless matter in which many of the cases (as now reported) are enveloped and concealed. The notes at the foot of each case, referring to other and similar cases, will be valuable to the profession, and will save much time and labor in searching through ill-arranged digests and worse indexes. ROBERT C. GRIER.

PHILADELPHIA, August 22, 1855.

From Judge Daniel, of the United States Supreme Court.

Knowing the learning and ability of Judge Curtis, it was with great pleasure that I was first made aware of his purpose to undertake a republication of the decisions of the Supreme Court upon the plan adopted by him; and, judging from the specimen before me of his execution of that plan, I would conclude that my most favorable anticipations would be fully accomplished.

The exclusion from this work of matter in the form of statement and argument not necessary to the elucidation of the cases, and the safety with which the accuracy of the editor in presenting the points discussed and decided may be relied on, cannot but relieve both the bench and the bar from much labor and from the loss of much valuable time. PETER V. DANIEL.

WASHINGTON, October 1, 1855.

From the Attorney General of the United States.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
September 11, 1855.

GENTLEMEN: I have, in compliance with your request, examined the volumes now in the course of publication, entitled "Reports of Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States," by Mr. Justice Curtis, and perceive that the work possesses peculiar qualities, as follows:

1. In the preservation of whatever is of primary importance in the previous reports of the same decisions, with great saving of bulk and expense by the omission of secondary matter, such as editorial statements of the facts in the case and arguments of counsel, where these are not essential to the understanding or elucidation of the decisions themselves.

2. In the careful revisal of each case, in the sense of editorial accuracy, and the consequent correction of such errors of editorship or impression as existed in the previous reports.

3. In the addition to each case of reference by foot note to other decisions of the series in which the same is mentioned.

4. In the recomposition of the editorial statements of the cases, not merely in the sense of rejection or abridgment, but still more in that of essential improvement of the matter itself by means of information derived from the original records and files of the court.

5. In the recomposition of the head notes on a theory of juridical expositions, so that the syllabus of each case exhibits what is really adjudged in it as law, and that alone, passing over obiter dicta and mere judicial argument.

6. The digest promised will supply a want which is very sensibly felt by all who have occasion to consult the Decisions of the Supreme Court, the existing digests thereof being either antiquated or defective in plan and execution.

I think these are signal advantages of the present work, serving not only to render more accessible to the legal profession generally, but also more available and profitable for study and use, a series of judicial decisions holding the highest place among the many collections of the same class which honor and adorn the legal literature of the United States.

I am, very respectfully, C. CUSHING.

Messrs. LITTLE, BROWN, & Co.

From Prof. Parsons, of the Cambridge Law School.

Judge Curtis is rendering to the profession a service of very great importance in bringing within our reach the law of these numerous and expensive volumes. Let me show, by an example, taken only because it happened to be the first case I examined, how he does this. In his first volume the interesting case of Graves et al. vs. the B. M. Insurance Company, which determines the rules of law applicable to an insurance by one partner of the property of the firm, occupies less than six pages. In the second volume of Cranch (where reports are far less voluminous and diffuse than those of his successors) this case occupies twenty six pages. But Judge Curtis retains everything said by the Supreme Court, who speak by Marshall, C. J., and everything further which a lawyer can want or use. And he puts this in so compact a form that it is really much easier to get at the true result and operation of the case than in the original report. The same thing will, I think, be found to be literally true in reference to all the contents of these volumes. His condensation of this loose mass saves to not only money, but time and labor.

CAMBRIDGE, August 9, 1855. THEOPHILUS PARSONS.

LITTLE, BROWN, & Co.,
Law and Foreign Booksellers,
112 Washington st., Boston.
Jan 25—3awSwtf

United States Mail.

MISSISSIPPI.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
February 25, 1856.

PROPOSALS for conveying the mail of the United States from July 1, 1856, to June 30, 1858, on the following route, will be received at the Contract Office of this department until 3, p. m., of April 30 next, to be decided by the 7th of May following:

7484 From Charleston, Miss., by Mouth of Cold Water, Mitchell's Cross Roads, Mound Place, Moore's Bayou, and Swan Lake, to Helena, Ark., 75 miles and back, once a week.
Leave Charleston Monday at 7, a. m.;
Arrive at Helena next day by 9, p. m.;
Leave Helena Wednesday at 7, a. m;
Arrive at Charleston next day by 9, p. m.

NOTE.

Proposals must be guaranteed by two responsible persons, certified to as such by a postmaster or judge of a court of record; and contract must be entered into by the successful bidder, with surety, before the 1st of July next.

No pay will be made for trips not performed, and for each of such omissions not satisfactorily explained three times the pay of the trip may be deducted. For arrivals so far behind time as to break connexion with depending mails, and not sufficiently excused, one-fourth of the compensation for the trip is subject to forfeiture. Fines will be imposed, unless the delinquency be promptly and satisfactorily explained, for neglecting to take the mail from or into a post office; for suffering it to be injured, destroyed, robbed, or lost; and for refusing, after demand, to convey the mail as frequently as the contractor runs, or is concerned in running, vehicles on the route. The Postmaster General may annul the contract for repeated failures to run agreeably to contract, or for disobeying the post office laws or instructions of the department. The Postmaster General may alter the schedule. He may also order an increase of service by allowing therefor a *pro rata* increase on the contract pay. He may also curtail or discontinue the service in whole or in part, at *pro rata* decrease of pay, allowing one month's extra compensation on the amount of service dispensed with. Bids should be addressed to the "Second Assistant Postmaster General," superscribed "*Proposals for No. 7484, Mississippi.*" For further particulars see pamphlet advertisement for conveying the mails in Alabama, Mississippi, &c., of 1854 and 1855.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
Postmaster General.
Feb 26—1awtw

LOST LAND WARRANT.—Public notice is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Commissioner of Pensions, at Washington city, immediately after the expiration of six weeks from the present date, for a duplicate land warrant, in lieu of land warrant No. 93654 for 160 acres, which was issued to William B. Johns, on the 9d day of February, 1852, as lieutenant and captain of the 2d regiment United States infantry, Mexican war, under act of September 28, 1850, and which was subsequently lost by accident, having been blown overboard from a steamboat into the Ohio river, near Shawneetown, Illinois, and destroyed.

WILLIAM B. JOHNS,
Feb 6—law7w By Richard M. Young, his Attorney.

THIS is to give notice that the subscriber hath obtained from the orphans' court of Washington county, in the District of Columbia, letters of administration on the personal estate of Edmund Law, late of the State of Illinois, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the nineteenth day of February next; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand this nineteenth day of February, 1856.
Feb 20—law3w HENRY MAY, Administrator.

For Sale Four Hundred Negroes and Ten Thousand Acres of Cane-Brake Land in Dallas and Perry Counties, Alabama.

ON the first Monday in April next (the 7th) I will sell, at Cahawba, Dallas county, Ala., to the highest bidder, for cash, or Mobile acceptances, at sixty or ninety days, bearing interest, one hundred and fifty likely negroes; also, fifty others, on longer time. All acclimated, and experienced cotton-plantation hands.

I will also sell, at any time during this year, at private sale, for cash or on time, two hundred other valuable negroes, (in lots to suit purchasers,) and 6,000 acres of the very best and most advantageously situated "cane-brake" and "black land," including the nine plantations known as the "Trigg Plantation" "Mud Hall," "Sixteenth," "King Plantation," "Blevins Place," "Ludlow," "Lodebo," "Holmes Place," and the "Cross Roads," all of which, for cotton and corn, are inferior to no plantations in the world. Also, an elegantly-improved and beautiful residence adjoining Summerfield, eight miles from the city of Selma, with about four hundred acres attached to it; the dwelling house, offices, out-houses, grounds, garden, &c., are all in first-rate condition. These plantations are 70 or 80 miles below the city of Montgomery, about 150 miles above Mobile, and west of, and near to, the Alabama river, which is at all seasons navigable for steamboats. Near seven thousand acres, including four of the plantations, are on the Selma and Woodville railroad; and on this body of land, about fourteen miles from Selma, is located the depot at the junction of the Marion railroad with the Selma road, to and from which depot the cars run regularly. Of the other plantations, one is on the Selma railroad two are two miles, and two six miles distant, one of which is within six miles of the city of Selma. These plantations are in the highest state of cultivation, with good gins, gin-houses, cotton-presses, mills, negro cabins, shops, stables, artesian wells, &c., &c., &c.

I will sell them in tracts to suit purchasers, of 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, or 3,000 acres, and so laid off as to give as much opened and wood land in each tract as may be desired, and with or without the negroes, stock, plantation tools, corn, provender, &c.

Possession of the above plantations and negroes will be given to the purchasers at any time whilst the crop is growing, or in December or January next, as they may wish.

If not sold privately previous to the first Monday in December next, I will, on that day, at Selma, sell to the highest bidder such negroes as may then be unsold.

Such opportunities and advantages were never before presented for those wishing to continue or to engage in the cultivation of cotton. It has been difficult for years past to find a plantation in the "cane brake" region for sale at any price, or even to purchase there a large unimproved tract.

These plantations are, in fertility, facilities for transportation, and in all other respects, fully equal, if not superior, to any in the cotton-growing States; and I know that personal investigation will prove to the satisfaction of every one that no portion of the Union is more healthy than the "cane-brake" region of Alabama.

I will also sell privately, for cash or on time, one of the most beautifully-improved private residences in the city of Selma, and several valuable and elegantly-finished large blocks of brick buildings, including the largest and most desirably located store-rooms, offices, banking houses, &c., &c.

Also, several very desirable unimproved large lots, and small tracts of land in and contiguous to Selma.

Also, about 30 head of blooded horses; among which are the celebrated "Brown Dick," several superior brood mares, several young stallions, geldings, colts, and fillies—all of them from the very best racing stock.

Among the negroes are a first-rate trainer, several good race-riders, and many excellent mechanics, cooks, seamstresses, and house servants.

For further particulars address the undersigned, or W. M. Byrd, esq., at Selma; or W. M. Brooks, esq., at Marion, Perry county, Alabama. The overseers now on the plantations will give all desirable information to those who may wish to make a personal investigation of the premises. BEN. EDWARDS GREY.

SELMA, Alabama, Feb. 11, 1856.
Feb 19—d2aiif

Land Warrants.

JOHN CLARK, (late register at Iowa city, Iowa,) agent for the location of military bounty-land warrants in the State of Iowa.—I have opened an office in Washington city, D. C., in connexion with local agents and surveyors at the several land offices in the State of Iowa, by which I am prepared to offer new facilities for the location of land warrants, the only mode by which warrantees and other holders can fully avail themselves of the bounty of the government.

TERMS.

The land will be selected, the location made, and certificate mailed to the address of parties, sending warrants by mail, for the following fees, which must accompany the warrants:

40 acres, fee for selection and location, $4; to which add land office fee, $1—$5.

80 acres, fee for selection and location, $6; to which add land office fee, $2—$8.

120 acres, fee for selection and location, $8; to which add land office fee, $3—$11.

160 acres, fee for selection and location, $10; to which add land office fee, $4—$14.

The above are the lowest prices charged by competent agents at the local office.

I guaranty that all selections will be made judiciously, upon actual inspection, and of as good land as remains vacant in the district at the time.

The selecting agents are the most competent and experienced in the State, and are fully advised of all the local advantages—such as railroads, county seats, timbers, water, and settlements, present and prospective.

Lands thus selected will be worth, I am confident, from $2 50 to $5 per acre as soon as selected. Warrantees, for whose benefit this agency is designed, and other holders, cannot fail to realize a large advance upon the face of their warrants.

DIRECTIONS.

Warrantees will execute to me a power of attorney to locate endorsed on the warrant. And others will please fill the blank assignments with the full name of the locator.

Address JOHN CLARK, No. 432 Pennsylvania avenue, with J. W. Webb & Co.

Refer to the Iowa delegation in Congress, and the Hon. Charles Mason, Commissioner of Patents.

Feb 13—d1f 3m*

THIS is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the orphans' court of Washington county, in the District of Columbia, letters of administration on the personal estate of Thomas Law, late of the State of Illinois, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the nineteenth day of February next; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand this nineteenth day of February, 1856.
Feb 20—law3w HENRY MAY, Administrator.

To Members of Congress, and others.

FOR RENT.—A first-class furnished dwelling house, built in the most modern style, with the conveniences of water, gas, &c., and furnished recently in every department with taste and comfort. Apply on premises, No. 419 12th street, between G and H streets, or at my office. J. J. MILLER,
Dec 9—dtf Corner 7th street and Louisiana avenue.

Medical Card.

DOCTOR STANISLAS HERNISZ, regular practitioner of homoeopathy. Office, 231 corner F and Fourteenth streets. Consultations from 10, a. m., to 3, p. m.

Doctor Stanislas Herniszz, having returned from Europe with improved health, will attend to the practice of his profession.

Le Docteur parle Français.
Der Doctor spricht Deutsch.
El Doctor habla Espanol.
Il Dottore parla Italiano.
Jan 19—d6m

Madame Devos,
From Paris and New York.

MADAME DEVOS'S millinery has arrived, and is now opened for inspection at The Lakes, 504 Pennsylvania avenue, to which the attention of the ladies of Washington, Georgetown, &c., is respectfully invited.
Jan 24—tf

For Sale—Twenty-three Thousand Acres of Land.

THE subscriber offers for sale, upon the most liberal terms, the following lands: situated in Jasper county, Indiana, 1,360 acres; in Stark county, 6,576 acres; in Iroquois county, Illinois, 940 acres; in Hamilton county, 960 acres. These lands are finely timbered, in an old settled district, within five miles of McClenesborough, the county seat, and on the line of the Chicago railroad. In Jefferson county, Illinois, 240 acres; in Franklin county, 640 acres; in Pope county, 160 acres; in Alexander county, 240 acres; and other lands in Wisconsin. For further information call on G. M. GORDON, No. 298 H street, agent for J. L. DE CAMP.
Washington city, D. C., Feb. 17, 1856.
Feb 19—d1f

THE subscriber will remain in town a few days to dispose of the remaining States and Territories for the control of the sale of his Flour Restorative. He will treat with parties for the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Oregon, Washington Territory, Nebraska and Kansas, Minnesota, Utah, Northwestern Territory, New Mexico, and the island of Cuba. During my absence at any time from the city, my agent, Mr. G. M. GORDON, No. 298 H street, will represent me.
J. L. DE CAMP.
Feb 19—d1f tf

Willards' Hotel.

J. C. & H. A. WILLARD,
Pennsylvania avenue and Fourteenth street,
Washington, D. C.
Jan 29—d1f

F. L. MOORE is prepared to furnish the best white, and red ash coal of all sizes and Cumberland coal of all kinds to his customers at the lowest market prices.
2,240 pounds guaranteed to the ton.
Hickory, oak, and pine wood at very low prices.
A good article and full measure may be relied on in all cases.
Yard west side 9th street, between D and E, opposite "Old Stand."
Nov 30—FTuThtf

A Card.

Miss Brooke's English and French Boarding and Day School, Seven Buildings, No. 138 Pennsylvania avenue.

THE second session of this institution will commence on Monday, February 4, 1856.

Daily instruction in the French language is given by a lady, recently from Paris, who resides in the family; the higher branches of English are under the especial charge of Miss Brooke, and every means is afforded for the acquisition of a thorough and elegant education.
Jan 27—ed2w

GEORGE W. MORELL, Attorney and Counsellor-at-law, United States circuit court commissioner, commissioner for the Court of Claims, No. 44 Wall street, New York.

Refers to Hon. S. Nelson, Justice United States Supreme Court; Hon. H. Fish, United States senator; General J. G. Totten, Corps of Engineers, United States army; M. Blair, Solicitor to the Court of Claims; R. H. Gillet, esq., and Major Arnold Harris, Washington city. Oct 10—WF&Sm3m

NOTICE is hereby given that I will apply to the Commissioner of Pensions to grant me a duplicate of a 40-acre land bounty warrant, issued to me under the law of September, 1850, and numbered 54,065, for my services in the war of 1812-'15, which warrant has been lost, and which has never been assigned, pledged, or located by me, or by my authority.
Jan 12—law6w JOHN ROSS.

IN CONGRESS OF THE U. STATES.

Thirty-Fourth Congress—First Session.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1856.

SENATE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a report of the Attorney General, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information in relation to printing paid for by the Department of State during the year ending December 31, 1855; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table and to be printed.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* also laid before the Senate a report of the Postmaster General, showing the number of employees, other than clerks, in that department, and the compensation paid to each; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* also laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of War, in answer to a resolution requesting information what amount of the appropriations made by the act of the 30th August, 1852, for the improvement of the harbors of Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Racine, Milwaukie, and Kenosha, in the State of Wisconsin, has been expended in the improvement of each of said harbors, and also the amount of those appropriations remaining unexpended and applicable to said improvements; which was read; and, on motion by Mr. HAMLIN, it was referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* also laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate calling for the correspondence and other information in relation to the transmission of the mails and munitions of war on the Illinois Central railroad; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads and ordered to be printed.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* also laid before the Senate a communication from Samuel H. Huntington, chief clerk of the Court of Claims, transmitting an act to carry into effect the decisions of the court in the cases of Samuel P. Todd, John Shaw, and Isadore D. Beaugraud; which was read, and referred to the Committee of Claims.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. BROWN presented the memorial of a committee of the corporation of Georgetown, praying that the Long Bridge across the Potomac river may be removed, and that a bridge may be constructed across that river above the harbor at that place; which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. YULEE presented a memorial of Hon. Jackson Morton, and other citizens of Florida, praying that Captain William K. Latimer, of the navy, who has been placed on furlough, may be restored to the active-service list; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. DURKEE presented the petition of Wm. J. Sears, praying an increase of pension, which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, presented the memorial of Sarah Blunt, widow of a revolutionary soldier, praying to be allowed a pension; which was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Mr. CRITTENDEN presented the petition of John C. McFerran, a lieutenant and assistant commissary of the army, praying to be allowed a credit in the settlement of his accounts for a sum of money of which he was defrauded by an assistant commissary of the army; which was referred, together with the papers on the files of the Senate in relation to the same subject, to the Committee on Military Affairs.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Mr. DODGE submitted a resolution requesting the President of the United States to inform the Senate whether the sum of money directed to be paid to Richard W. Thompson, of Indiana, by a paragraph in the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill of 3d March, 1855, for his alleged services to the Menomonee Indians, has been paid to said Thompson; and if so, whether the assent of the Indians was first obtained to the payment; and if said sum has not been paid, that he inform the Senate what action has been taken in relation thereto, and transmit to the Senate all the papers in the case now on the files of the departments; agreed to.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, submitted a resolution directing the Committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for erecting a building at Dubuque, Iowa, for the use of the surveyor of the port, post office, sub-treasurer's office, land office, surveyor general's office, and other government offices of the United States at that place; agreed to.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, reported a joint resolution providing for the final adjustment of certain cases of appeal from decisions made by the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department; which was read three times by unanimous consent, and passed.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, from the Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Polly Scott, praying for a grant of bounty lands, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same, and that it be referred to the Committee of Claims; which was agreed to.

Mr. BRODHEAD, from the Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the memorial of the special agents of the State of Maryland, praying that that State may be reimbursed for advances made to the United States, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same, and that it be referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia; which was agreed to.

Mr. STUART, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to authorize the entry of certain lands in the State of Iowa by Mrs. Catharine Newington; which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. WELLER, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the joint resolution for the presentation of a sword to Colonel Benjamin S. Roberts, reported it back, with the recommendation that it ought not to pass.

Mr. W., from the same committee, submitted an adverse report on the resolution that the report of Benjamin S. Roberts, captain of the rifles, made to General Twiggs on returning to him the American flag which had been the first planted upon the Capitol of Mexico, and which he had intrusted to the keeping of Captain Roberts in the storming of Chepultepec and the taking of the city of Mexico, bearing date "City of Mexico, 17th September, 1849," be taken from the files of the office of the Secretary of the Senate, and be printed; and that the President *pro tempore* of the Senate cause an engrossed copy thereof to be deposited in the Department of State, with the flag whose history it gives, and which has already been deposited in said department by order of the Senate.

Mr. PUGH, from the Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill explanatory and amendatory of the act in addition to certain acts granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States, approved March 3, 1855, reported it without amendment.

Mr. P., from the same committee, to whom was referred the bill from the House of Representatives to amend the act in addition to certain acts granting bounty lands to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States, approved March 3, 1855, reported it with amendments.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. BROWN asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for the construction of a railroad and telegraphic communication from a point on the Mississippi river south of latitude 37 to the Pacific ocean at San Francisco. Mr. B. stated that the bill granted the company about forty millions of acres of land, on condition that they would pay fifty cents per acre for the same before they receive any title; it also required the company to deposit half a million dollars with the government before they are considered organized under the bill, as a bonus to secure the faithful carrying on of the work according to the provisions of the bill. This must be done within six months; and within eighteen months they must complete one hundred miles of the road. The United States are to pay six hundred dollars per mile for the transportation of the mails until the road is completed, and for ten years thereafter; and also such reasonable sum as the Secretary of War may determine for carrying soldiers, arms, munitions of war, &c. The road is to be forfeited if it is not finished within ten years, and all lands granted are then to revert to the government, except such as may have been paid for. The bill also grants the right of way through the public lands four hundred yards wide. Mr. B. added that the bill granted no exclusive privileges to this company, but allowed everybody else to begin and construct roads when and where they please, and to obtain such favors and assistance from the government as they can get. The gentlemen who asked this grant to constitute this company authorized him to say that they seek no exclusive advantage from the government in any form, and are perfectly willing that the committee on the Pacific railroad should throw such additional guards around the government as they may deem necessary. So far as he (Mr. B.) was concerned, he had never fully committed himself to any scheme for a Pacific railroad; but, if he should advocate any, it must be some such scheme as that which he now proposed, which was plain and simple. With these remarks, he would move the reference of the bill to the committee on the Pacific railroad, and commend it to their consideration.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. WELLER remarked that several gentlemen had given notice at an early period of the session of their intention to introduce Pacific-railroad bills. It was the intention of the committee to report a bill of some sort next week; and he announced this fact in order that those who had not yet brought in their bills might do so, and have them referred to the committee for their consideration.

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES.

On motion by Mr. TOUCEY, the rules of the Senate were so amended that the solicitor and the clerk of the Court of Claims shall be admitted on the floor of the Senate.

BILL INTRODUCED.

Mr. STUART asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill making a grant of land to the State of Michigan to aid in the construction of a railroad from Detroit to Lake Superior; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

NOTICE OF BILL.

Mr. BROWN gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill making a grant of land to the State of Mississippi, to aid in the construction of the Cape Island railroad, in that State.

COAST SURVEY.

On motion by Mr. JOHNSON, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the following order:

Ordered, That ten thousand copies of the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, communicating the report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey for the year 1855, in addition to the usual number, be printed; five thousand copies thereof for the use of the Senate, and the remainder for distribution by the Coast Survey Office; and that the same be printed and bound, with the plates, in quarto form, and that the plates be printed under the direction of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey.

The question pending was on the motion to strike out the words "and that the plates be printed under the direction of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey."

The amendment was agreed to, and the order was then adopted.

KANSAS AFFAIRS.

The subject of Kansas matters was taken up for consideration, and postponed to, and made the special order for, Tuesday next.

FORTIFICATIONS.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defence, and for the repairs of barracks and quarters for the year ending 30th June, 1857; which was read a third time, and passed.

The bill making appropriations for certain new fortifications was then taken up, and several amendments having been made, the further consideration of the bill was postponed until Monday next.

DUTIES ON RAILROAD IRON.

Mr. BRODHEAD remarked that, several days since, the senator from Alabama [Mr. CLAY] had presented joint resolutions from the legislature of that State in favor of remitting or refunding the duties on railroad iron; and on his expressing a desire to be heard in relation to the subject, the resolutions had not yet been referred. He would now say that, although he believed there were some erroneous statements in the resolutions, yet he would not object to their reference to the Committee on Finance; and after that committee had examined the subject, he might take occasion to address the Senate upon it.

The resolutions were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

DANISH SOUND DUES.

On motion by Mr. SUMNER, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the following resolution, submitted by him several days since:

Resolved, That the Committee on Foreign Relations be directed to consider the expediency of some act of legislation, having the concurrence of both houses of Congress, by which the treaty with Denmark regulating the payment of Sound dues may be effectively abrogated, in conformity with the requirements of the constitution, under which every treaty is a part of the "supreme law of the land," and in conformity with the practice of the government in such cases; and especially to consider if such legislation be not necessary forthwith in order to supply a defect in the notice of the purpose of the United States to abrogate the said treaty, which the President has undertaken to give to Denmark without the authority of an act of Congress, and in disregard of the functions of the House of Representatives in the abrogation of all existing laws.

Mr. SUMNER remarked that the President, in his annual message, had called the attention of Congress to three important subjects connected with our foreign relations; two of those, having reference to England, had been amply discussed in the Senate chamber, while the other had not been referred to. The President had informed us that, "in pursuance of the authority conferred by a resolution of the Senate of the United States passed on the 3d of March last, notice was given to Denmark, on the 14th day of April, of the intention of this government to avail itself of the stipulation of the subsisting convention of friendship, commerce, and navigation between that kingdom and the United States, whereby either party might, after ten years, terminate the same at the expiration of one year from the date of notice for that purpose."

Mr. S. maintained that, in undertaking to abrogate a treaty simply on a resolution passed by the Senate in executive session, and without the co-operation of the other branch of Congress, the President had exercised a power which was not sanctioned by the constitution, and which was a departure from the precedents in all similar cases in our history. He relied, in support of this proposition, on the principle that treaties are defined in the constitution to be a part of the supreme law of the land; and no law can be set aside or abrogated without the consent and concurrence of the representatives of the people.

Mr. MASON, on the other hand, maintained that the notice was not an abrogation of the treaty, but was a contingency provided in the treaty, upon which it would expire by the terms of its own limitation. He made no objection to the reference of the resolution, but was not entirely satisfied with the implication contained in the latter portion of it; and he accordingly moved to amend it by striking out all after the words "and especially to consider," and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "Whether there be any defect in the notice which has been given which such legislation may be necessary to remedy."

Mr. SUMNER accepted the amendment.

A somewhat protracted discussion ensued, in which Messrs. SEWARD, FESSENDEN, TOUCEY, COLLAMER, CASS, CRITTENDEN, and STUART participated.

The resolution was then adopted, and the Senate adjourned until Monday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12, m.

After prayer by the Rev. Daniel Waldo, chaplain of the House,

The journal of yesterday was read.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the clerk of the Court of Claims, transmitting, by direction of the court and in pursuance of law, an act to carry into effect the decisions of the court in the cases of Samuel P. Todd, John Shaw, and Isadore P. Beaugraud.

The bill was read twice by its title, viz: "A bill making appropriations for the payment of certain claims."

A discussion then ensued as to the direction which should be given to the bill.

Messrs. HAVEN of New York, ORR of South Carolina, and SIMMONS of New York, contended that the appropriate references of bills reported from the Court of Claims was to the Committee of the Whole, and that in this way alone could the action of that tribunal be rendered efficient; while Messrs. HOUSTON of Alabama, JONES of Pennsylvania, JONES of Tennessee, and MILLSON of Virginia, urged the importance of establishing a correct precedent, and the propriety of referring such bills to the standing committees having charge of the subjects embraced in the cases acted upon by the court. Before the debate was concluded the morning hour expired.

APPROPRIATION BILLS PASSED.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, hoped that, before taking up the Kansas contested-election case, the House would dispose of the appropriation bills reported yesterday from the Committee of the Whole.

There being no objection, the bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June 30, 1857, and the bill making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1857, were severally taken up, read the third time, and passed.

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, presented resolutions of the legislature of that State relating to unsatisfied bounty-land-scrip claims of citizens of that State; which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced in pursuance of notice, read twice by their titles, and appropriately referred:

By Mr. DISK, of Pennsylvania: A bill making an appropriation for improving the harbor at the city of Erie, Pennsylvania.

By Mr. BILLINGHURST, of Wisconsin: A bill relating to the appropriation for the improvement of the harbor at Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

By Mr. WALBRIDGE, of Michigan: A bill making an appropriation for the construction of a harbor at the mouth of Muskegon river, in the State of Michigan.

Also, a bill making an appropriation for the construction of a harbor at the mouth of Grand river, in the State of Michigan.

By Mr. SIMMONS, of New York: A bill to repeal part of an act entitled "An act to provide for the safe-keeping of the acts, records, and seal of the United States, and for other purposes."

By Mr. CARUTHERS, of Missouri: A bill to provide for three months' extra pay to the third regiment of Missouri volunteers.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED.

On motion by Mr. ALLEN, of Illinois, Senate bill for the relief of the distributees of Col. Wm. Linn was taken from the Speaker's table, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

On motion by Mr. WELLS, of Wisconsin, Senate bill for the relief of Anson Dart was also taken from the Speaker's table, read twice, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

On motion by Mr. SIMMONS, of New York,

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House purchase, out of the contingent fund of the House of Representatives, a complete set of the reports of the Supreme Court of the United States for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. CRAWFORD, of Georgia, Senate resolution for the relief of the Southwestern and Muscogee Railroad Company was also taken from the table, read twice, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

On motion by Mr. WAKEMAN, of New York,

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be requested to examine and inquire into the propriety of making an appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of Harlem river, at the port of New York, and that the committee report by bill or otherwise.

On motion by Mr. KNIGHT, of Pennsylvania,

Resolved, That the Committee on Agriculture be, and are hereby, instructed to inquire into the expediency of enabling the agricultural branch of the Patent Office, through its annual agricultural reports, to furnish more extended, uniform, reliable, and useful agricultural and horticultural information than hitherto has been practicable; and that in this connexion the said committee consider of the suggestions of the plan of the Commissioner of Patents to the members of Congress, set forth in his printed circular of the 9th ult., hereto annexed; and that the said committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. THORINGTON, of Iowa, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, reported a bill to grant to Jane Horner and her children a section of land in Oregon; which was read twice and committed.

KANSAS CONTESTED-ELECTION CASE.

The SPEAKER stated that the regular order of business was the consideration of the following resolution, reported yesterday from the Committee of Elections:

Resolved, That the Committee of Elections, in the contested-election case from the Territory of Kansas, be, and are hereby, empowered to send for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses upon oath or affirmation.

Mr. BOYCE, of South Carolina, being entitled to the floor, at the request of Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, moved to recommit the report of the Committee of Elections on the subject under consideration, with the instructions which Mr. P. endeavored to offer yesterday.

Mr. BOYCE then proceeded to discuss the questions involved in the report. It seemed to him that a great deal of irrelevant matter had been introduced into that report