

CONGRESS—TUESDAY.

SENATE.—After the reception and reading of the President's annual message an interesting debate sprang up, in which Messrs. Douglas and Stuart intruded their dissent from the views expressed by the President in that portion of his message respecting the action of the Leocompton convention in framing a constitution for Kansas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The message of the President of the United States was received and read. A debate took place on the subject of the public printing; but, without going into an election for printer, the House adjourned.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We spread before the readers of the Union in this morning's impression the first annual message of President Buchanan to Congress. As a full and complete résumé of "the state of the Union" it will attract the attention not only of the members of the national legislature, to whom it is officially addressed, but of the whole country.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PENSIONS.

From the annual report of the Commissioner of Pensions it appears that the Pension Office has added to the roll of pensioners during the year, under all the various acts:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes 52 revolutionary soldiers, 338 widows of revolutionary soldiers, 265 half-pay widows and orphans, 291 invalids, 946 arrears due on the same at the date of issuing the pension certificates, etc.

LOCAL NEWS.

THE MESSAGE of President Buchanan concludes with a brief yet complimentary commendation of the interests of the people of this District to Congress. The same "long acquaintance" to which he so pleasantly alludes has also enabled the citizens of Washington and of Georgetown to appreciate the many virtues and noble qualities of their Chief Magistrate, whose solicitude for their welfare is the more acceptable at this time, when congressional interference appears necessary to procure obedience to law.

ESTIMATES, on a liberal scale, for the preservation and improvement of public property in this city, have been submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury, at the recommendation of the Commissioner of Public Buildings. Among them we notice the following:

For lighting the President's House and Capitol, for public grounds around them, and around the executive offices, Pennsylvania avenue, Bridge and High streets, Georgetown, \$35,000. For repairs of the Potomac, navy-yard, and upper bridges, \$4,000. Repairs of Pennsylvania avenue, \$3,000. For public reservation No. 2 and Lafayette Square, \$3,000. Taking care of the grounds south of the President's House, containing the improvements of the same and keeping them in order, \$5,000. For preservation and improvement of circle at intersection of Pennsylvania avenue with New Hampshire avenue with K and Twenty-third streets, \$500; for continuing the grading and planting with trees the unimproved portions of the mall, \$10,000; for continuation of filling up the ravine and grading Judiciary Square, \$7,000; for casual repairs of Patent Office building, filling up the southwest corner of the square, setting the curb, raising Ninth street in front of the building to its proper grade, \$50,000; for new picket fence for portion of the mall upon which the Smithsonian Institute is situated, \$1,000; clearing sewer traps on Pennsylvania avenue, \$500.

COURT OF CLAIMS YESTERDAY.—The case of Richard W. Meads, administrator of the United States, was taken up, and Mr. Blair, United States Solicitor, commenced the argument for the United States, and spoke until 3 o'clock, and, without concluding.

The court adjourned until to-day at 12 o'clock, m. In our Sunday morning's directory of members of Congress the residence of the Hon. Sherrard Clemens was stated to be 23 instead of 32 Four-and-a-half street. Senator Dixon's residence should have been printed 305 I street.

MORE SMOOTING.—Edward A. Latta was shot on Monday evening at a tavern on the avenue by James Powers, with whom he had a long-standing quarrel. Powers was arrested at Hladensburg yesterday morning so he was about to take the cars, and was brought in and committed to jail.

HOMICIDE.—B. Robinson was yesterday committed to jail, charged with having caused the death of Thomas Turner about a week since by striking him on the head with a stone during a quarrel as to their relative excellence as "handy" players.

FAREWELL CONCERT.—The "last concert" of Miss Juliana will take place on Monday evening next at Currier's Saloon, when those who were not in the city when she sang will have an opportunity to hear her sweet and well-trained voice. The sale of seats will commence on Friday morning next at the music stores, where seats can be secured without extra charge.

BY TELEGRAPH.

St. Louis, Dec. 8.—An express passed through this city yesterday with dispatches for Washington from Col. Johnson.

The Republican has dates from the camp of the 3d of November. The Mormons had stolen 600 head of cattle in sight of Col. Alexander's camp.

There had been considerable suffering for want of provisions and clothing. The houses were also much in want of fuel, and were giving out.

Governor Cumming and other officers were determined to enter Salt Lake city, if possible. The Mormons were determined on resistance.

Letter from the Plains.

New York, Dec. 8.—The St. Louis Democrat learns that news has been received at Fort Leavenworth from Major's and Russell's trains that the government animals are dying in great numbers on the plains. Colonel Hoffmann, from Fort Laramie last October, arrived here on Sunday night. He brings no news from the Utah expedition.

Sudden Death and Alleged Murder.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—On Sunday afternoon Frank R. McClure went into the store of Messrs. Beattie & Anderson for the purpose of talking upon business matters with Mr. Beattie. About an hour afterwards McClure was seen to fall from the front step of the store, and when picked up it was found that he skull had been fractured. He died from the effects last night.

Dismissed.—Shipwreck.

New York, Dec. 8.—The steamer has dismissed District Attorney McKoon for opposing the regular nomination.

Marine Disaster.

NORFOLK, Dec. 8.—The ship Eva Dorstha, Captain Galtman, from Bremen, bound for Baltimore, captured near Cape Henry. She had on board 250 passengers, all of whom, together with the crew, were saved. The vessel and cargo will probably prove a total loss.

Destruction of the War Steamer Powhatan.

NORFOLK, Dec. 8.—A slight accident occurred to the United States steamer Powhatan yesterday when about five miles below, which will detain her until to-morrow.

Fire in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 8.—A destructive fire occurred yesterday morning in Market street, above Eighth street. The stores of Messrs. Davis & Steele, forwarders; Livingston & Co., forwarders; Borbidge & Son's stables, Jerris & Son's coach factory, and two dwellings, were burnt, and several other buildings damaged.

New York Bank Statement.

New York, Dec. 7.—The weekly statement of the city banks foot up as follows: Loans increased, \$1,370,000; specie, \$1,766,000; circulation, \$34,000; and a decrease in deposits of \$1,007,000.

The Case of Donnelly.

TRUSTON, (N. J.), Dec. 7.—The argument in the case of Donnelly was concluded last Saturday. The court will give an opinion this week.

Senatorial Election in Virginia.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8.—The legislature to-day fixed Thursday next (10th inst.) for the election of a senator to succeed Mr. Hunter.

THE GREAT AUCTION SALE OF CARRIAGES. At J. C. McIntire's on Thursday, the 10th inst., at 11 o'clock, a.m., will be sold, by public auction, a large number of the best carriages ever offered in this city at auction, they having been built especially to order for private custom. A first-rate family horse and pair of matched bay carriage horses, and several second-hand carriages, will also be sold.

AN ELEGANT TWO-HORSE CARRIAGE FOR sale. Apply at 892 C Street. Dec 8-30-57

THE PRESENT CRISIS: or, the Currency; by FRANK CRAWFORD.

rich in mineral and agricultural resources, especially in silver and copper. The mails of the United States to California are now carried over the new Atlantic Pacific route, and this route is known to be the nearest, and best adapted to the West to the Pacific.

Long experience has deeply convinced me that a strict construction of the powers granted to Congress is the only true, as well as the only safe, theory of the constitution. Whilst this principle shall guide my public conduct, I consider it clear that under the war-making power Congress may appropriate money for the construction of a military road through the Territories of the United States, when this is absolutely necessary for the defence of any of the States against foreign invasion.

The difficulties and the expense of constructing a military railroad to connect our Atlantic and Pacific States are greatly exaggerated. The route proposed, from the Arizona route near the 23d parallel of north latitude, between the western boundary of Texas, on the Rio Grande and the eastern boundary of California, on the Colorado, from the best explorations now within our knowledge, does not exceed four hundred and seventy miles, and the cost of the construction, including the purchase of the land, is not more than \$20,000,000.

Actual settlers under existing laws are protected against other purchasers at the public sales, in their right of pre-emption, to the extent of a quarter-section, or 160 acres of land. The remainder may then be disposed of at public or entered at private sale in unlimited quantities.

Speculation has of late years prevailed to a great extent in the public lands. The consequence has been that large portions of them have become the property of individuals and companies, and thus the price is greatly enhanced to those who desire to purchase for actual settlement. In order to limit the area of speculation as much as possible, the extinction of the Indian title and the extension of the public surveys ought only to keep pace with the rapid increase of the population of the Territories.

If Congress should hereafter grant alternate sections to States or companies, as they have done heretofore, I recommend that the intermediate sections retained by the government should be subject to pre-emption by actual settlers.

It is our cardinal policy to reserve the public lands as much as may be for actual settlers, and this at moderate prices. We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States and Territories, and the power of the Union, but shall secure homes for our posterity for many generations.

The extension of the limits has brought within our jurisdiction many additional and populous tribes of Indians, a large proportion of which are wild, untractable, and difficult to control. Predatory and warlike in their disposition and habits, it is impossible altogether to restrain them from committing aggressions on each other, as well as upon frontier citizens and those emigrating into the Territory.

The present system of making them valuable presents to influence them to remain at peace has proved ineffectual. It is believed to be the better policy to colonize them in suitable localities, where they can receive the rudiments of education and be gradually induced to adopt habits of industry. So far as the experiment has been tried it has worked well in practice, and it will doubtless prove to be less expensive than the present system.

The whole number of Indians within our territorial limits were, at the close of the department on the 1st of December, about 325,000. The tribes of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Creeks, settled in the territory set apart for them west of Arkansas, are rapidly advancing in education and in all the arts of civilization and self-government; and we may include in this number the best class of the Indians, a large proportion of which are wild, untractable, and difficult to control.

It will be seen from the report of the Postmaster General that the Post Office Department still continues to depend on the treasury, as it has been compelled to do for several years past, for the means of sustaining and extending its operations. Their rapid growth and expansion are shown by a decennial statement of the number of post offices, and the length of post roads, commencing with the year 1827. In that year there were 7,000 post offices; in 1837, 11,177; in 1847, 15,146; and in 1857 there were 24,500. The length of post roads, including 22,530 miles of railroad, on which the mails are transported.

The expenditures of the department for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1857, as adjusted by the Auditor, amounted to \$11,097,670. To defray these expenditures the amount of revenue received from the sale of stamps, including the balance of the previous year, was \$7,859,539; the gross revenue of the year, including the annual allowances for the transportation of free mail matter, produced \$8,953,951; and the remainder was supplied by the appropriation from the treasury of \$2,230,000, granted by the act of Congress approved August 1st, 1856, and the appropriation of \$566,883 made by the act of March 3, 1857, leaving \$232,763 to be carried to the credit of the department in the accounts of the current year. I commend to your consideration the report of the department in relation to the establishment of the overland mail route from the Mississippi river to California, and the route to be selected with my full concurrence, as the one, in my judgment, best calculated to attain the important objects contemplated by Congress.

The late disastrous monetary revulsion may have one good effect should it cause both the government and the people to consider the expediency of a wise and judicious economy both in public and private expenditures.

For my own part, I have deliberately determined that I shall approve no bill which I have not examined, and it will be a case of extreme and most urgent necessity which shall ever induce me to depart from this rule. I therefore respectfully, but earnestly, recommend that the two houses would allow the President at least two days previous to the adjournment of each session within which no new bill shall be presented to him for approval. Under the existing joint rule one day is allowed; but this rule has been hitherto a constantly suspended one, and it is not until the very last moments of the session, in a large majority of cases, no great public inconvenience can arise from the want of time to examine their provisions, because the constitution has declared that if a bill be presented to the President within the last ten days of the session, he is not required to return it either with approval or with veto, "in which case it shall not be a law." It may then lie over, and be taken up and passed at the next session. Great inconvenience would only be experienced in regard to appropriation bills; but fortunately, under the late excellent law allowing a salary, instead of a per diem, to members of Congress, the expense and inconvenience of a called session will be greatly reduced.

I cannot conclude without commending to your favorable consideration the interests of the people of this District. Without a representative on the floor of Congress, they have for this very reason peculiar claims upon our attention. The expense and inconvenience of a called session will be greatly reduced. I cannot conclude without commending to your favorable consideration the interests of the people of this District. Without a representative on the floor of Congress, they have for this very reason peculiar claims upon our attention. The expense and inconvenience of a called session will be greatly reduced.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Thirty-Fifth Congress—First Session.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8, 1857.

SENATE.

Mr. BRIGHT, from the State of North Carolina, appeared in his seat this morning.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Mr. Allen, their Clerk, informing the Senate that a quorum of the House had assembled, and that the House had completed its organization and was ready to do business, also announcing that the House had passed a resolution for the appointment of a committee, jointly with such committee as may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to wait on the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each house was assembled, and that Congress was ready to receive any communication he might be pleased to make.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

Mr. BRIGHT submitted the following resolution: which was considered by unanimous consent, and agreed to.

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of three members, be appointed, jointly with the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, to wait on the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each house has assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

On motion by Mr. BRIGHT, That the committee be appointed by the President by the Senate.

And Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. BIGLER, and Mr. COLLAMER were appointed.

Mr. HALE remarked that there had been laid on the tables of senators copies of the estimates of appropriations; and as it was probable that the document would be much used for reference, he moved that one copy of the same be bound for the use of each senator; which was agreed to.

NOTICES OF BILLS, ETC.

Mr. REID gave notice of his intention on some early day to introduce a bill making an appropriation for completing the harbor and removing obstructions at the mouth of Cape Fear river.

Mr. CLAY gave notice of his intention on some early day to introduce bills of the following titles:

A bill to detach the port of Selma, Alabama, from the collection district of New Orleans and attach it to the collection district of Mobile.

A bill repealing all laws or parts of laws allowing bounties to vessels employed in the bank or other fisheries.

Sundry papers were withdrawn from the files of the Senate for the purpose of being referred to the Court of Claims.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

Mr. BRIGHT, from the joint committee appointed to wait on the President of the United States and inform him that the two houses of Congress were ready to receive any communication which he might be pleased to make, reported that the committee had discharged that duty, and the President had replied that he would immediately communicate with each house of Congress in writing.

Shortly afterwards the annual message of the President was received, and was read by the Clerk. When its reading had been concluded, which occupied nearly two hours.

Mr. DOUGLASS submitted an order for the printing of the usual number of the President's message and accompanying documents, and also for the printing of fifteen thousand extra copies thereof for the use of the Senate.

In submitting the above motion, Mr. D. remarked that he concurred cordially and heartily in the views of the President therein expressed, with the exception of that portion relating to Kansas and the action of the Leocompton convention; and that he would express his views, and give the reasons why he believed that the people of Kansas had not been left, as the organic act declared, perfectly free to form and regulate their institutions in their own way.

Mr. GWIN gave notice of his intention to move for the printing of the usual number of copies of the message and documents to be printed, and also fifteen thousand extra copies thereof, the work to be done by the printer to the Senate at the last Congress, at rates not exceeding those established by existing laws; and also that all other orders for printing to be met by the Senate.

Mr. STUART concurred with Mr. DOUGLASS in what he had said respecting the message. While the principal topics in the message had been treated in an able and satisfactory manner, he must dissent from the conclusions of the President in regard to Kansas matters. He believed that the principles of the organic act had been violated by the Leocompton convention, and that in no event could the people of the Territory be now left, as the organic act declares they should be, perfectly free to form and regulate their own institutions in their own way.

At a future day he desired to be heard on this subject at some length, and in his action hereafter, he would insist, to the extent of his ability, that the people of Kansas should be treated like all others—should have the fullest and freest opportunity to form and regulate such institutions as they may see fit to live under; whether they were in accordance with those of his own State, or against those of his own State, would not at all affect his action.

Mr. DAVIS was understood to concur in the views of the President concerning the Kansas question, but said he should await the extended remarks of the senator from Illinois before he expressed his own views.

Mr. BIGLER gave notice that he should defend the position assumed by the President to the best of his ability, and should reply to the senator from Illinois when he should make his speech.

Mr. PUGH hoped that portion of the documents in reference to Kansas would be printed as soon as possible.

Mr. DOUGLASS accepted the substitute for his resolution offered by Mr. GWIN.

troubles, and hoped it would be understood that on this topic the American Congress was substantially unanimous. It might be taken for granted that the President had seen the Senate a body of information sufficient to guide and direct its judgment on that matter. He hoped, therefore, for their information, as well as for that of the public, that the Senate would allow the documents to be printed as speedily as possible. If he understood the position of the President correctly, namely, that the Leocompton convention being a legitimate convention, its action, be it what it may, is to be respected by the Congress of the United States—he entirely concurred with the President in that opinion.

Mr. TRUMBULL took issue with the President, and contended that the Leocompton convention had no authority whatever. He went on at some length to support this view of the case.

Mr. BROWN regarded this as an important matter, one requiring deliberation before a decision was arrived at; and, with a view of enabling that deliberation to be attained, he moved that the Senate adjourn; which was agreed to; and accordingly.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. HOUSTON rose to a privileged question, moving that, in order to complete the organization of the House, they proceed to the election of a public printer. The decision of the House was in the affirmative.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that the Senate had appointed a committee to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of the two houses has assembled, and are ready to receive any communication which he may be pleased to make.

THE PUBLIC PRINTER.

Mr. CLEMENS, by consent, made a personal explanation. He first read the correspondence which had taken place between Mr. FAULKNER and himself. Mr. FAULKNER, it appears, wrote to Mr. CLEMENS, saying he understood him in certain as broadly insinuating that he was possessed of some facts calculated to impeach the character of Mr. Wendell, the printer to the House; and Mr. FAULKNER inquired of his colleague what were the facts, and suggested the propriety of authorizing him, (Mr. FAULKNER), although not acting at the instance of, or as the friend of, Mr. Wendell, of submitting the statement of Mr. CLEMENS to the last-named gentleman.

Mr. CLEMENS (as the reporter learned from the correspondence as it was read by that gentleman to the House) consented and empowered Mr. CLEMENS to submit the statement of Mr. Wendell. In this statement Mr. CLEMENS says that on Saturday last he was accosted by a person whom he had an acquaintance of some years' standing. At the close of a somewhat protracted conversation, he said he was interested in procuring the printing for Cornelius Wendell. He suggested that a pecuniary consideration could be secured to his (Mr. CLEMENS) mother, in two contingencies, namely: first, that he should cast his vote for Mr. Wendell, and secondly, that he should absent himself from his seat at the time of voting. It was sufficient to say, Mr. CLEMENS referred him to a section in the act of Congress of 1853 providing pains and penalties for corrupt approaches to members of Congress, and to him that he had mistaken the man.

The person said that if Mr. CLEMENS had the power to ruin him, and begged to be spared from the exposure of the infamy. The person has never been a citizen of Virginia. Mr. FAULKNER submitted the statement to Mr. Wendell, who replied that he had no knowledge of the facts alluded to other than those alluded to in that paper. So far as the inference was sought to be drawn that any person had approached Mr. CLEMENS in an improper manner by his authority or in his behalf, he solemnly denied the allegation, and protested against any such inference being based on a nameless author. If Mr. CLEMENS or any other member had charges to make against him, he would be prepared to meet them. He had never, directly or indirectly, authorized any person or agent to so act with members as to secure their votes for him.

Mr. CLEMENS said that up to this moment he did not know Cornelius Wendell, nor did he know him by sight. He had no purpose to accomplish, no end to subserve, except to discharge his duty to himself and country. In conclusion, he remarked that, unprincipled as would be the person who approached him, he would not expose him on account of his family. He accepted the statement of Mr. Wendell, so far as he denies all complicity or knowledge of the proposition which was made to him, (Mr. CLEMENS).

The President's annual message was received and read. Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, moved that a committee be appointed to inquire into the prices paid for public printing, etc.; and that, until such committee make their report, the election of printer be postponed.

Mr. HOUSTON offered a resolution that the House proceed to the election of a printer, with a proviso that the House retain the right to modify the existing law on the subject of public printing as they may see proper—the printer receiving the contract on that condition.

After debate, without coming to a conclusion upon the subject, the House adjourned.

OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, December 8, 1857.

Information has been received at this department from Hugh Keanan, esq., the United States consul at Hong Kong, of the death of Mrs. Keanan, who died at that place, on May last.

Dec 9-57

MARRIED.

On Tuesday morning, December 8, 1857, at Salem, Fairfax county, Virginia, by the Rev. Mr. WILLIAM B. COLLINS, of Portsmouth, Virginia, were united in holy matrimony, by mutual consent, Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. Wm. B. Rixson, of Norfolk, and Portsmouth papers please copy.

CARUSI'S SALOON.

MISS JULIANA MAY Respectfully announces to her friends and the musical public that she will give a

LAST CONCERT

(Previous to her departure for Baltimore, Philadelphia, and the South) on

Monday Evening next, December 14,

Upon which occasion she will be assisted by eminent talent.

Tickets \$1 each, unless secured without extra charge. Particulars in future advertisements. The sale of tickets will commence on Friday morning at the music store of Mr. Davis and Mr. Metzger.

Dec 9-57

Miss May's Last Concert.

THE sale of tickets for the Farewell Concert of this distinguished vocalist will commence on Friday next. The performance will be on Tuesday evening, December 14th, at 7 o'clock, at Mr. Davis's music store, and those to the right at Mr. Metzger's.

Tickets \$1, and no extra charge for second seats. Commence at 7 o'clock. Dec 9-57

NORTHWESTERN VIRGINIA FLANNEL.—One of the very superior articles for warm shirts and under shirts and drawers. 300 pieces other white and colored flannel, from medium up to extra super. Families seeking outfits of black will find our stock ample throughout the year.

Finest goods. The vast amount of "pure linen goods" annually passing through our hands enables us to offer the very best fabrics at the prices usually charged for the inferior grades. The unusual and constantly large supply we have in store presents great inducements to purchasers.

Our western and eastern correspondents send us new supplies daily. Wholesalers and retailers most cordially invited to examine our stock. If not met on our premises, we will call on you. We are not opening any new bills. Good articles, low prices, and fair dealing may be relied on in all cases. Dec 9-57

FELDY & BROTHER, Central Store, "west building," Opposite the Central Market.

TO BE FURNISHED ROOMS OF CONGRESS AND OTHERS.—We have for sale, in our store, the following:—Four parlor, with best goods and furniture. The most important business of each session is generally crowded into his last hours, and the alternative presented to the President is either to violate the constitutional duty which he owes to the people, and approve bills which, for want of time, it is impossible he should have examined, or by his refusal to do this, subject the country and its institutions to great loss and inconvenience.

As a practical business man, the President is generally crowded into his last hours, and the alternative presented to the President is either to violate the constitutional duty which he owes to the people, and approve bills which, for want of time, it is impossible he should have examined, or by his refusal to do this, subject the country and its institutions to great loss and inconvenience.

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