

CONGRESSIONAL. Thirty-Fifth Congress—First Session.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr. HUNTER desired to be excused from serving upon the select committee appointed yesterday to consider the French spoliation bill, as he had so much other business upon his hands that he had little time to devote to that subject.

Mr. TOOMBS made a similar request. Mr. DAVIS and Mr. FESSENDEN hoped that the request would not be granted, remarking that other senators were equally pressed with business upon the various standing committees; and as the subject of French spoliation was an old one and very well understood, there would be very little labor required beyond draughting the report.

The question being taken, the Senate refused to excuse either of the senators.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, &c.

Mr. MASON presented the petition of Thomas G. Clinton, praying that the salary of the President of the United States may be increased; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. WILSON presented the petition of citizens of Massachusetts, praying that the provisions of the bounty-law of March 3, 1855, may be extended to the privateers of the year 1812, which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. SIMMONS presented the petition of Edwin M. Chaffee, praying an extension of his patent for preparing India rubber and applying it without the use of a solvent; which was referred to the Committee on Patents and the Patent Office.

Mr. BENJAMIN presented the petition of Joseph Boyne and the petition of Camille St. Amant and others, praying the confirmation of their titles to certain tracts of land in the State of Louisiana; which were referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

Mr. KING presented numerous petitions, praying indemnity for property destroyed by the enemy on the Niagara frontier during the war of 1812; which were referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. GAMERON presented one hundred and six petitions, very numerous and signed by citizens of Philadelphia, remonstrating against the location of the new office of the Commissioner of Public Lands by the Bank of Pennsylvania; which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. SEBASTIAN presented the memorial of the registrar and receiver of the land office at Helena, Arkansas, praying an extension of his term of office; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. BROWN presented the memorial of A. L. Bleeker and his associates, praying that the Postmaster General may be authorized to contract with them for the conveyance of the mails between Panama and Valparaiso; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. PUGH presented a petition of citizens of Portsmouth, Ohio, praying that a national bank may be chartered, the revenue laws so adjusted as to yield sufficient for the expenses of the government, and yield protection to our own labor and capital, and that the proceeds of the sales of the public lands may be divided among the States; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. BIGLER, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the memorial of W. S. Munday, J. Knox Walker, James M. Davidson, Joel J. Jones, and 37 others, members of the Tennessee legislature, praying for protection to the overland mail-route through Arkansas, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same, and that it be referred to the Committee on Territories; which was agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of James Hudgins, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same, and that it be referred to the Committee on Pensions; which was agreed to.

Mr. D., from the same committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Nathaniel Champe, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same, and that it be referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims; which was agreed to.

Mr. CLAY, from the Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill to detach Selma, in the State of Alabama, from the collection district of New Orleans, and make it a port of delivery in the collection district of Mobile, reported it without amendment, and recommended its passage; and it was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED.

Mr. BROWN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Printing: Resolved, That five hundred additional copies be printed for the use of the Commissioner.

INCREASE OF DUTIES AND HOME VALUATION. The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the following resolutions, which were submitted by Mr. CARRIERS on the 19th ult: Resolved by the Senate, That in consideration of the financial condition of the country and its industrial interests, as well as of the wants and embarrassments of the treasury of the United States, the rates of duty levied under the tariff act of the 3d of March, 1857, ought to be materially increased.

Resolved, further, That experience having demonstrated that the present mode of assessing the dutiable value of imported goods is productive of monstrous frauds, in the various articles to the government and the honest importer, a system of home valuation ought to be immediately substituted therefor.

Mr. CRITTENDEN remarked that since those resolutions were introduced a bill had been passed authorizing the issue of treasury notes. He thought it inadvisable that when Congress incurred an indebtedness of twenty millions of dollars, they should also provide the means of paying that indebtedness. It was a very easy thing to contract debts; it was a very easy thing to replenish an exhausted treasury by such means, but a very hard one to discharge them. He thought it was dangerous to go too far in that direction, and of being involved in debt beyond the ability of the country to extricate itself.

He did not believe the present revenues of the country would afford an adequate amount, and therefore had introduced the proposition to increase the rate of duty. If the duties on woollen and cotton goods should be increased 5 per cent., he thought that would be sufficient to afford all the protection which was necessary. There had never been a time when the labor of the country stood more in need of encouragement than now. He alluded to the case of an iron manufacturer in Pennsylvania who had been compelled to close his works and discharge all his hands, (1,700 in number,) who were, many of them, left in a destitute condition; and this was but one case out of many.

In reference to the proposition to substitute a system of home valuation, he thought experience was the best guide in such matters; and experience had clearly shown that the present system was productive of gross frauds. The propositions were both so plain as hardly to require any explanation; and he would therefore content himself with asking for a vote of the Senate upon the subject.

Mr. HUNTER said that this was a very interesting subject; but, since all revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives, he could see no good end likely to be attained by continuing the discussion of it; and he therefore withdrew to lay the resolutions on the table. He, however, moved that motion at the request of Mr. FIDELIX, who moved that the resolutions be amended by adding at the end of the first resolution the words, "and all notes of banks of issue be taxed," and at the end of the second resolution the following: "And experience having demonstrated that the present law of small taxes upon banks is injurious to every industrial interest, a tax upon bank notes should discriminate against those of small denomination."

Mr. CLAY moved to lay the resolutions and amendment on the table; which was agreed to.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. PUGH asked and obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce a bill to grant the right of pre-emption in certain lands to the Indiana yearly meeting of the Society of Friends; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. MAILLORY asked and obtained leave to introduce a joint resolution to extend the operation of the second section of the act approved January 16, 1857, entitled "An act to amend an act entitled an act to promote the efficiency of the navy," which was read twice and considered as in committee of the whole. Mr. M. explained that by the terms of the act of last session the time for the restoration of retired or dropped naval officers in certain cases was limited to one year from the passage of the act; but as all the cases could not be disposed of in that time, it was desirable to extend it for three months, or until the 15th of April, 1858; which would be the object of the joint resolution. He hoped there would be no objection to putting it on its passage immediately.

Mr. FESSENDEN expressed a wish to examine the

matter, and at his request the further consideration of the subject was postponed until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. SEWARD gave notice that he should to-morrow, on some early day thereafter, ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the acts which regulate the registry and license of vessels, so as to relieve the owners of vessels constructed chiefly to navigate canals, but which also enter into lake waters.

EFFICIENCY OF THE NAVY.

The resolution submitted some time since by Mr. Stowell, calling on the President for copies of the records of the proceedings of the several naval courts of inquiry, or organized under the act of Congress approved January 16, 1857, to amend an act entitled an act to promote the efficiency of the navy, was taken up, and, after a brief discussion, on motion by Mr. BAYARD, it was ordered to lie on the table.

After the consideration of executive business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. J. GLANCY JONES, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the military Academy for the year ending 30th June, 1859; which was read twice and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois, presented certain papers relating to the contested-election cases from Ohio and Nebraska; which were respectively referred to the Committee of Elections, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back a bill further to amend an act to provide for the better security of lives and passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and for other purposes, and its further consideration was postponed until the first Tuesday in February next.

Mr. COBB, of Alabama, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following resolution: Resolved, That five hundred copies of the report of the Commissioner of Public Lands be printed for the use of the Land Office.

After a brief colloquy between Messrs. COBB, LETCHER, and JONES of Tennessee, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. WHITELEY, of Delaware, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported the report of the committee on the location of the Agricultural Academy for the use of the members of the House of one hundred thousand extra copies of the Agricultural Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the year 1856.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, opposed the resolution. Mr. WHITELEY, of Delaware, said that the committee had instructed him to report the resolution, because every member of it, and he believed every member of the House, were receiving from their constituents every day letters by the bushel asking for these reports.

Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, raised a point of order that the Committee on Agriculture could not report upon a subject that had not been referred to it.

The SPEAKER decided the point to be well taken, and accordingly the resolution was not received.

Mr. FAULKNER, of Virginia, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to supply an omission in the enrollment of a certain act therein named; which was read twice and committed.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the following resolutions: Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to this House, if not incompatible with the public interest, all the correspondence which has passed between the State and the government of Paraguay in a manner relating to our differences with that government.

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to this House, if not incompatible with the public interest, such correspondence as has passed between the Department of State and our minister near the government of Brazil, in relation to the opening of the Amazon river and the contracting of a reciprocity or other treaty.

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to this House, if not incompatible with the public interest, all correspondence which has passed upon the subject of our relations with Spain not heretofore made public.

Mr. ZOLLICOFFER, of Tennessee, moved to amend the resolution so as to include in the call New Granada and Paraguay.

The amendment was agreed to, and the resolution adopted.

Mr. ZOLLICOFFER, of Tennessee, from the Committee on Territories, reported a bill for the relief of Richard H. Wakeman; and it was read twice and committed.

Mr. CRAIG, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Thos. Miller; and it was ordered to be placed on the private calendar.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, from the select committee appointed under a resolution of the House of the 19th ult., to investigate the conduct and accounts of the late Clerk, submitted a report, accompanied by a resolution asking for authority to employ a stenographer to act as clerk.

THE NEUTRALITY LAWS.

On motion of Mr. J. GLANCY JONES, of Pennsylvania, the House then went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union (Mr. PIERCE, of Missouri, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the President's annual message, the question being first on the motion of Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee, that the amendment of Mr. CRITCHFIELD, of Mississippi, be referred to a select committee.

Mr. MAYNARD stated that he would change the direction of his motion to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. SICKLES, of New York, addressed the House at considerable length on the resolutions. The administration and the conduct of eminent officers in the public service had been denounced without facts, without a record before them, but with a very imperfect knowledge of the state of things, and in advance of that reputation which they had made upon the field of battle. He thought it would enable the House to come to an intelligent conclusion upon a grave public question. He should content himself at this time by putting upon record his dissent from some of the propositions which had been advanced, to which he could not give his approval, and to which he did not believe the House would ever concur. If they had been listening to a discussion in a House of Representatives convened by Mr. President Walker in Nicaragua, they could not have listened to arguments more peculiarly in unison with his peculiar theory of government as illustrated there, or more in conflict with the policy and history of our government, which they were forced to listen to, than those which were presented to them.

They were told that the neutrality act of 1818 was inconsistent with the theory of our government and at war with the principles of our people. As he had read the history of his country, he had taught himself to believe that the policy embodied in the neutrality act was the policy handed down to us by our fathers, and embodied in our constitution, from the administration of Washington to the present day. He had supposed that the whole country sustained the President in not permitting either its own citizens, or citizens who were the representatives of any power, great or small, to compromise the neutrality of the United States with reference to any nation or people with whom we were at peace. It had been said that the Executive had no authority to send the naval force upon the high seas to capture those who had violated our laws; that his authority could not be extended beyond the marine league. Had gentlemen forgotten the treaty for the suppression of the slave trade on the coast of Africa, which its principles required, where we had entered into express stipulations to send a squadron of not less than eight guns for the purpose of exercising a police over those waters—a police not limited to those waters, but extending all over those seas, for the purpose of breaking up that traffic in slaves? It was a notorious fact that immediately upon sending the expedition of Walker had commenced hostilities. When persons emigrated to the Pacific or to Central America for the purpose of taking their residence there, so far from punishing the act as a crime, he would encourage them; for he thought that the time had arrived when it was our duty to disseminate our institutions among that people. But expeditions like that which had recently been sent there were not calculated to promote the interests of the people of the United States; so far as they are connected with the interests of Central America. Every accusation made by Walker and his followers against Commodore Paulding was to be taken for truth, but nothing was to be assumed in favor of a grant and faithful officer, who had always heretofore discharged fully and faithfully every duty confided to him.

In reference to the act of Commodore Paulding, he had no idea, nor did Commodore Paulding in the letter do so by his instructions, nor would he care for a moment that such a step should be regarded as a precedent to be followed by officers in command either on land or on sea. There could be no question that in a technical point of view his act was illegal; there could be no doubt that he had exceeded his instructions; but there was a wide difference between justification and the denunciation and

disgrace which had been invoked on his head. He had, undoubtedly, acted with what he believed to be the spirit of his instructions.

One government had made a pledge before the whole world that it disavowed those expeditions; that it regarded them as against our laws and the laws of nations, and it had pledged its faith that it would exert its whole power to arrest them and prevent a consummation of their objects. Should the faith of our government be established, or should it be said that we were not sincere in these pledges—false in these professions; that those expeditions were condemned on paper, but encouraged in fact?

Mr. HISS, of Ohio, read a speech in opposition to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Dred Scott case, contending that it was unjust.

Mr. HASKIN, of New York, said that at a proper time he would go as far as any member in favor of a suspension of the neutrality laws, but he would not do this for the reasons assigned by the gentleman who had addressed the House yesterday. The gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. CRITCHFIELD] had said that the act of the government to interfere between individuals, when they applied his doctrine to an armed expedition fitted out by individuals against a neighboring country, he would not go with him for a repeal of the neutrality laws. In his opinion, Commodore Paulding, under the law of nations, had a right to go without the marine league—had the right to capture these men and bring them home. Many might doubt his right to go on the land of Nicaragua, but if an inchoate treaty existed between this government and Nicaragua, by which we were to protect the transit route, he would say that it behooved the American Congress to sustain him. There was no parallel to this outrage committed by Walker.

He said it was unjust in comparing the history of these two men to say that Gen. Walker was a better man than Commodore Paulding. He then drew a parallel between their histories, concluding by saying that no act had been done under this administration which had reflected more honor and credit on the country than the arrest of Walker.

He was a national filibuster and against individual filibusters. The act of Walker was petty larceny; he was in favor of a national grand larceny. [Laughter.]

Mr. STEPHENS, of Georgia, asked that an account be taken on Commodore Paulding further than the act warranted.

After a brief colloquy, in which Messrs. STEPHENS, HASKIN, and BOOCOCK participated.

Mr. GILMER, of North Carolina, said he arose simply to express his sympathy with the gentleman from New York [Mr. HASKIN], who had spoken in behalf of Commodore Paulding. He conceived that when the whole thing was understood—when they obtained the information they desired, and the instructions under which Commodore Paulding had acted, it would not amount to a thing in which there could be any cause. He had no doubt, from what he had learned, in the message that he had acted under instructions.

After a brief colloquy between Messrs. GILMER and STANTON of Ohio, in reference to the authority of the government to arrest a person charged with crime who had fled from the State.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Massachusetts, obtained the floor; and, without taking any action on the message, the committee rose, and the House resumed its session.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Illinois, moved that the vote by which the House postponed the further consideration of the bill in relation to the increased safety of passenger-carrying vessels in whole or in part by steam until the first Tuesday in February next be reconsidered; pending which.

At twenty-one minutes past 2 o'clock, the House adjourned.

PETITIONS, &c.

By Mr. FLORENCE: Sundry memorials remonstrating against the location of the post office in Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania Bank building; referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

By Mr. PHILLIPS, of Pennsylvania: Remonstrances against the proposed location of the new post office in the city of Philadelphia; referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

By Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania: Twenty petitions from the city of Philadelphia against using the Bank of Pennsylvania as a post office site; referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.—The Portsmouth (N. H.) correspondent writes that an interesting picture of the manner in which the Ohio river is invading the city and lands in the vicinity, sweeping away whole acres of land and blocks of locks, threatening a widespread destruction. The Tribune says:

"It has worked off several acres of bottom land to the steep bank, and worked its way down to Fifth street, taking all of Fifth street between Jefferson street and the city limits on the west, and is now cutting across to the west end of Fourth street. Six blocks, containing twelve city lots, that originally fronted upon Fifth street, are now washed by the river, which is taking them off at the rate of a foot per day. In a few days a considerable number of square yards drop off at once. In fact, the most of two blocks is already gone, and at the northeast corner of Fourth and Madison streets the river is but a few feet from Fourth street."

Only seven yards of ground lie between the building of the boiler yard and the river. At the rate this river has been cutting its way down, it will be submerged, unless removed. Only about forty yards of ground intervene between the depot buildings and the river. At the same rate this ground is now disappearing, in three or four months the very chambers of the depot will be washed away, and the river will be in every obscure crevice that the evil increases in force as it progresses. The more the channel of the river works in towards the bank resting upon quicksand, the more force it gains and the harder it will be to stop its inroads."

ORIGIN OF OUR FELLOWS.—It has been supposed by many that the origin of the society of Odd Fellows, or rather the organization of that association, was of comparatively modern date. It will be somewhat surprising, however, says the Cincinnati Times, "to learn that its origin dates as far back as the time of Nero, and that the members of the society were the Roman knights. At that time they were called 'Fellow-Citizens.' The present name was given them by Titus Cass, twenty-four years afterwards, and they were so called from the singular character of their meetings, and from their knowing each other by night or day by means of mystical signs and language. The society was first introduced into America by the Rev. John Rogers, who, in 1793, brought with him a dispensation, engraved on a plate of gold, bearing different emblems of mortality. In the fifth century the order was established in the Spanish dominions, and in Portugal in the sixth century. It did not reach France and England until the eleventh century. It was then established in the latter country by the Rev. John Rogers, assisted by five knights from France, formed a grand lodge in London. This ancient fraternity has now its lodges in every quarter of the globe, and by its usefulness and benevolent character, commands the respect and countenance of all who are acquainted with its nature and purposes. Those upon whose invitation he resided in the affairs of the Middlesex Manufacturing Company of Massachusetts, of which Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Boston, of the firm of Lawrence, Stone, & Co., was the treasurer and chief financial manager. The house of which he was the head were the agents for this corporation. Its suspension made it necessary to examine minutely into Mr. Lawrence's management of the financial affairs of the manufacturing company. In the report of the investigating committee we find the following statement:

"It appears that they [Lawrence, Stone, & Co., as agents of corporations] had secured the passage of the tariff of 1857. Of this startling amount \$8,000 was distributed by the New York house for printing, editorial services, travelling expenses, and other charges, which appear to be legitimate and proper. No satisfactory explanation has been as yet afforded of the application of the balance."

This report emanates from a committee of the stockholders, and its reliability cannot be questioned. What has become of the \$79,000 unaccounted for, and in what way could it have been disbursed to aid in the accomplishment of the object mentioned? Was there an unseen power at work in the halls of Congress shaping the legislation of the country to accomplish private ends? These are questions that involuntarily suggest themselves to every person here in the federal capital, where the reduction of the tariff act is effected.

The tariff act of 1857 passed through the forms of legislation in this way. A bill was reported in the House of Representatives from the Committee of Ways and Means, the prominent feature of which was a very considerable increase in the number of

WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 7, 1858.

Mr. ISAAC E. JAMES, of Philadelphia, in our general traveling agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by JAMES DUNN, J. H. HENRY, EDWARD W. WILBY, JOHN K. IRVING, E. A. EVANS, R. S. JAMES, T. ANDREWS, D. A. DAVIS, R. T. ROBERTS.

Mr. C. W. JAMES, No. 1 Harrison street, Cincinnati, Ohio, is our general collecting agent for the Western States and Texas, assisted by H. J. THOMAS, WILLIAM H. THOMAS, THOMAS M. JAMES, DR. A. I. COLLIER, GEORGE MORRIS, and ROBERT LEAKE. Receipts of either will be good.

Mr. GEO. W. DEAY is authorized to collect money due the Union Office for subscriptions and advertisements in the District of Columbia.

We understand that there will be a morning reception at the Executive Mansion on Saturday next, commencing at one o'clock, and on every succeeding Saturday during the season.

The evening receptions will commence on Tuesday next at eight o'clock, and will take place on each alternate Tuesday.

CONGRESS—WEDNESDAY.

SENATE.—Mr. Hunter and Mr. Toombs both asked to be excused from service on the select committee appointed yesterday to consider the subject of French spoliation; but the Senate did not think proper to grant their request. The resolutions introduced on the 19th ult. by Mr. Crittenden in relation to an increase of the duties on imported goods, and a system of home valuation, were taken up; and after a few remarks thereon by Mr. C. and others, on motion by Mr. Clay they were ordered to lie on the table. The bill to detach Selma, Alabama, from the collection district of New Orleans, and make it a port of delivery in the collection district of Mobile, was considered and passed. Mr. Mallory introduced a joint resolution to extend the time for the restoration of retired or dropped naval officers in certain cases to the 15th day of April, 1858; which was considered and postponed until to-morrow. After a long executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. Jones, of Pennsylvania, reported from the Committee of Ways and Means the annual appropriation bill for the support of the Military Academy. On motion of Mr. Clingman, of North Carolina, resolutions were adopted calling upon the President for certain correspondence with the governments of Paraguay, Brazil, Spain, and New Granada. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the reference of the President's message to the standing committees; and when the discussion on the neutrality laws and Walker's expedition to Nicaragua was resumed, Mr. Sickles of New York, Mr. Bliss of Ohio, Mr. Hoock of Virginia, Mr. Stephens of Georgia, Mr. Boock of Virginia, Mr. Gilmer of North Carolina, and others participated in the discussion. Without final action on the question of reference, the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

ALL QUIET IN KANSAS. The St. Louis Republican of the 3d instant contains the following despatch from Booneville, received the day previous: "ALL IS QUIET IN KANSAS TERRITORY." This was forwarded by Captain E. N. Tracy, of the steamer Isabella, who left Leavenworth on the 31st ultimo, six days later than the assumed date of the false despatch received by us on Monday. We would remark, in this connection, that the bogus news was only forwarded by telegraph, while the genuine news of later date reaches us by the mails, the agent at St. Louis not thinking the latter worth forwarding. It gives us great pleasure to learn that quiet prevails in the Territory.

A DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FROM KENTUCKY.

We are advised by telegraph that ex-Governor L. W. Powell was elected to the United States Senate by the legislature of Kentucky on Tuesday last, for six years from the 4th of March, 1859. This is, indeed, a gratifying result, and is the first fruits of the democratic victories of 1856 and 1857 in the good State of Kentucky, the home of our distinguished Vice President. Governor Powell has not been a member of either house of Congress, but as governor of Kentucky, the sole democratic interruption to a long line of opposition governors, his name and reputation became familiar to the country.

HAVE WE CORRUPTION AMONG US?

The financial pressure of the past five months has disclosed to the world the unfaithful manner in which several large business and financial establishments in this country have been conducted, and revealed an extent of mismanagement and want of integrity not even suspected so long as the financial world moved smoothly on. Every branch of business has suffered embarrassment, and the storm will work at least one good result: it has winnowed the solvent from the insolvent houses, and compelled the latter to make an exhibit of assets and to submit to close investigations into their management. The disclosures furnish a lesson for the future which all should heed who have any regard for the value of their property.

Our attention has been especially attracted to this subject by the report recently published of the committee of investigation appointed to examine into the affairs of the Middlesex Manufacturing Company of Massachusetts, of which Mr. Samuel Lawrence, of Boston, of the firm of Lawrence, Stone, & Co., was the treasurer and chief financial manager. The house of which he was the head were the agents for this corporation. Its suspension made it necessary to examine minutely into Mr. Lawrence's management of the financial affairs of the manufacturing company. In the report of the investigating committee we find the following statement:

"It appears that they [Lawrence, Stone, & Co., as agents of corporations] had secured the passage of the tariff of 1857. Of this startling amount \$8,000 was distributed by the New York house for printing, editorial services, travelling expenses, and other charges, which appear to be legitimate and proper. No satisfactory explanation has been as yet afforded of the application of the balance."

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The tariff act of 1857 passed through the forms of legislation in this way. A bill was reported in the House of Representatives from the Committee of Ways and Means, the prominent feature of which was a very considerable increase in the number of

articles on the free list. These articles were principally those used by manufacturers, and it was well understood that this feature was introduced for their especial benefit. After considerable backing and filling by the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, who had the management of the bill, it struck the House by a vote of 110 to 84—nearly a strict party vote—the black republicans sustaining the bill, and the democrats and a few others voting against it. Previously a substitute had been offered by Mr. Lecher, of Virginia, simply reducing the rates of duty without making any material changes in the articles embraced in the different schedules. It received 74 votes, and was lost by a vote of 112 against it. When the bill reached the Senate, a substitute was agreed to—substantially that previously offered in the House by Mr. Lecher. When it was returned to the House for its concurrence the Senate's amendment was rejected, a committee of conference asked for, and the bill as it now stands was the result. The following is the vote in the House upon the substitute of the Senate:

YEAS—Messrs. Aiken, Handy, S. Bennett, Boock, Burnett, John P. Campbell, Carle, Caskie, Chingman, Williamson, R. W. Cobb, Craig, Crawford, Davidson, Deaver, Dowdell, Edmundson, Elliott, English, Evans, Faulkner, Foster, Thomas J. D. Fuller, Garrett, Goode, Greenwood, Sampson W. Harris, Thos. L. Hill, Houston, George W. Jones, Kelly, Kibbett, Letcher, Lumpkin, Mace, Samuel S. Marshall, McMillin, McQueen, Smith Miller, Mison, Mott, Orr, Peck, Pullin, Powell, Puryear, Quitman, Rufin, Seward, Shorter, William Smith, Spinner, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor, Thurston, Walker, Warner, Watkins, Wells, Wheeler, Williams, Winslow, Daniel B. Wright, and John V. Wright—63.

NAYS—Messrs. Albright, Allison, Ball, Barbour, Barclay, Benson, Bingham, Bishop, Bradshaw, Brenton, Broom, Bufington, Burlingame, James H. Campbell, Lewis D. Campbell, Caruthers, Chaffee, Bayard Clark, Ezra Clark, Clawson, Colfax, Comins, Coyode, Cragin, Curbuck, Danrell, Henry Winter Davis, Dean, De Witt, Dick, Dickson, Dodd, Durie, Eberhage, Eastly, Flaeger, Florence, Henry M. Fuller, Galloway, Grainger, Robert B. Hall, J. Morrison Harris, Harrison, Haven, Hodges, Hoffman, Holloway, Thomas R. Horton, Valentine H. Horton, Howard, Kelley, Kennett, Kirk, Knapp, Knight, Knowlton, Knox, Kunkel, Humphrey Marshall, Mcarty, Killian Miller, Millward, Moore, Morgan, Morrill, Murray, Norton, Andrew Oliver, Parker, Pennington, Perry, Pettit, Pike, Pringle, Puckner, Ricard, Robbins, Roberts, Sabn, Sage, Sapp, Scott, Simmons, Stanton, Stranahan, Tappan, Thoburn, Todd, Thorton, Tyson, Underwood, Wade, Wakeman, Walbridge, Waldron, Cadwalader C. Washburne, Elihu B. Washburne, Israel Washburn, Watson, Welch, Whitney, Wood, Woodruff, and Woodworth—105.

We have been thus particular in referring to the votes by which the tariff was amended in order that it may be fully understood by whom it was passed. The substitute voted for by the democratic members of Congress was regarded as inimical to the interests of the manufacturers; the bill, with an enlarged free list, was the one they desired to have adopted. If, then, money was used anywhere in Congress to obstruct its passage, it must have gone to those who sustained it. The report of the investigating committee justifies such an inference. Yet such an inference we are fully persuaded does gross injustice to many persons, and the only way in which the honest can be separated from the corrupt is for Mr. Lawrence to make a full confession of the use to which the \$79,000 was put, and to name the individuals who received it. Justice to the innocent, who cannot now be distinguished from the guilty, requires this at his hands. Or if he shall be unable of his own knowledge to give such explanation, we suggest that his copartners, Mr. Stone and Mr. Slade, who were in Washington while this bill was under consideration, and took a most active interest in its passage, be called upon to divulge what they may know concerning the matter. We desire that the general integrity of Congress shall be vindicated before the country by singling out those members of the last Congress, if there were any, who sustained the tariff amendment through corrupt considerations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE. We observe that some of our contemporaries announce the passage of resolutions of a certain character by a State convention of New Hampshire held on Tuesday. It was not a convention, but a meeting of the democratic State committee, who adopted three resolutions upon the political questions of the day. The first endorses the Kansas-Nebraska bill; the second expresses the opinion "that no constitution ought to be imposed upon them [the people of Kansas] or the people of any other Territory, until it has received their express approval;" and the third, fully sustaining and endorsing the administrative government.

CONFESSING THEIR TRUE CAUSE. In his message to the late special session of the Kansas legislature, the true cause of the recent excitement in that Territory is thus stated by Acting Governor Stanton:

"At the election for delegates to the convention, on the 15th June last, the great body of the people refrained from voting. That refusal of the majority to go to the polls was too unfortunate to be now denied. It has produced the evils and dangers of the present crisis. It has created the present profound excitement."

The Kansas Herald of Freedom unites in this admission, and does not even lay any stress upon the disfranchisement of fifteen counties, the new fact dwelt upon at length by Gov. Walker. On the contrary, it admits, with Mr. Stanton, that the disfranchised counties contained very few inhabitants, and claims that the abolitionists could have elected their