THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1858.

SENATE.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. SEWARD presented joint resolutions of the legislature of New York, complaining that the muskets furnished by the federal government to the military forces of the State are of an old pattern and of an unserviceable quality, and that the issue of such arms continues, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the State and the fact that there are arms of the latest and most approved models in the United States arsenals, and as the State has improved her military system with great care and attention, and holds in readiness to serve the republic a large and reliable force, disciplined and equipped according to act of Congress, they therefore instruct their senators and request their representatives in Congress to urge the passage of a law granting to the militia of the State arms of the greatest efficiency, and to greatly increase the quantity of arms issued, and also the passage of a law to improve the organization and discipline of the militia of the several States; which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. S also presented joint resolutions of the legislature of New York in relation to granting pensions to the surviving soldiers of the Indian wars from 1791 to 1795; which were referred to the Committee on Pensions, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BROWN presented joint resolutions of the mayor and councils of Washington city, in relation to the opening and grading of Massachusetts avenue, from 12th street west to the northwestern boundary of the city, and in relation to the propriety of lighting certain streets with gas; which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. MASON presented the petition of Dr. R. F. Mason, of the United States navy, praying to be allowed the difference of pay between assistant surgeon and passed assistant surgeon, from the date at which he passed his examination to the date at which he was actually entitled to it; which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SEBASTIAN presented a memorial of citizens of Arkansas, praying the establishment of a mail route from Fort Smith, in that State, to Albuquerque, in New Mexico. Also, a memorial from steamboat owners, officers, and pilots, and other citizens of Napoleon, Arkansas, praying the establishment of a board of inspectors of steamboats at Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, presented several petitions in favor of the passage of the homestead bill; which were laid on the table.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. SEBASTIAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Livingston, Kinkead, & Co.; which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Major Jeremiah Y. Dushiell, paymaster in the United States army; which was read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. DOOLITTLE, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of David Gordon, reported a joint resolution devolving upon the Secretary of War the execution of the act of Congress entitled "An act supplemental to an act therein mentioned," approved December 22, 1854; which was read and passed to a second reading.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

On motion by Mr. HALE, a resolution was adopted, directing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the Military Asylum, near Washington city, D. C., and resorting to some other means of providing for the inmates of that institution.

BILL PASSED.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill from the House of Representatives to authorize and direct the settlement of the accounts of Ross Wilkins, James Wetherell, and Solomon Sibley; which was read a third time and passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr COLLAMER asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill in relation to the duties of postmasters; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. BIGGS asked and obtained leave to introduce a bill to execute the treaties of 1817 and 1819 with the Cherokees, by making provision for the reservation under the same; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ADMISSION OF KANSAS.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of the State of Kansas into the Union.

Mr. WADE resumed his remarks in opposition to the bill; but before proceeding—

Mr. BRODERICK asked leave to make a remark. When the Senate adjourned on Saturday, he stated that he thought Mr. DOUGLAS would be in his seat to-day; but he had seen that senator since and was informed that his physician had forbidden him to leave his room. He would, however, endeavor to be here to-morrow or the following day. While he was up, Mr. B. took occasion to call the attention of the Senate to a paragraph in the New York Herald of yesterday, in which it was stated that "Mr. BIGLER promptly rebuked the senator from California for his impertinence." Mr. BRODERICK said he had never been rebuked here; and if the man who wrote that paragraph was present on the occasion referred to, he had penned a deliberate falsehood. He presumed the editor of the paper would correct the statement when he found out its falsity.

Mr. BIGLER desired to set himself right. As to the paragraph in the New York Herald, he knew nothing about it, and no senator could be held responsible for what was said in the newspapers. He had come into the Senate chamber on Saturday after the question had been debated at some length, and without a precise knowledge how the subject had come up, or what had been said about it. He, therefore, made his remarks on Saturday under a mistaken apprehension of what had been said; for if he had known what had occurred, he should not have felt required to take notice of the subject. He then rose merely for the purpose of defending himself, and not with any purpose of attacking the senator from Illinois in his absence. When that senator and himself should discuss this question face to face, if an opportunity should ever be afforded them to do so, Mr. B. had no doubt but that the senator from California would be satisfied that the difference between himself and Mr. DOUGLAS was merely a difference of opinion.

Mr. WADE argued that the Topeka constitution was just as legal as the Lecompton constitution; but still those who had advocated the former instrument were called rebellious. If they were rebels, Mr. W. said he was one too, and so were a majority of the last House of Representatives, who had voted to admit Kansas under that constitution.

Mr. W. admitted that the slavery question was the one of paramount interest to the people of Kansas, but still he contended that the whole constitution ought to have been submitted.

Mr. BIGGS asked him whether, in case the whole constitution had been submitted, and the people had voted to retain the slavery clause, he would have voted to admit Kansas under that constitution?

Mr. WADE replied frankly, that he never would do any such thing. He had no idea of doing anything to bring slavery into territory now free; and this Territory had been dedicated to freedom for more than thirty years, under a compact which received the sanction of men of all parties. He would never consent to aid and abet in the attempt to steal this Territory back to slavery. These were his own sentiments, and not to be regarded as the opinions of the republican party.

Mr. BIGGS. I understand their platform to say so, too.

Mr. WADE. Well, sir, you get it from the platform, and not from me. Mr. W. proceeded to advocate the principles of the republican party, as the only hope of freedom, and denied that that party was sectional in its character. Upon the conclusion of his remarks,

Mr. MASON obtained the floor, and proceeded to give a history of the events and causes which have brought the question of African bondage before the country of late years in connexion with the admission of new States. In the early history of this country the question of slavery occasioned no strife or contention. It was to some extent discussed in the formation of the confederation, in reference to the question of political power. Having an existence in several of the States of the Union, it became a *sine qua non* that African slaves should constitute an element of political power. This state of things was acquiesced in, and it was not until 1820 that the first struggle took place, when an attempt was made to exclude a State from admission into the Union unless she would abolish slavery. This was done with the avowed purpose of weakening the political power of the South. The result of that contest was that the State of Missouri was admitted upon a condition unknown to the constitution, which provided that in new States to be admitted hereafter a geographical line should be drawn across the whole territory of Louisiana, and while slavery should be excluded north of it, there was no guarantee that it should be admitted south of it.

Mr. M. traced the progress of the efforts on the part of the North to prevent the expansion of slavery, alluding to the Wilmot proviso as an evidence of that policy. All would recollect that that was denounced as unconstitutional, and the threats which were made not by public men alone, but by primary assemblies of the people who were affected by it, that if that doctrine was persevered in it must inevitably lead to a dissolution of the Union. After a time California was admitted into the Union as a free State; and that was not objected to by Southern men because it was a free State; but it was objected to on account of the machinery used to produce that effect, and because she was violently brought in by the irresponsible act of a majority of the two houses.

The position of the South had been that the constitution *proprio vigore* recognised slavery and protected it in the Territories, and therefore that Congress had no more right to legislate against slavery in the Territories than in the States; but that point was waived in several instances, since the nature of the climate in some of the northern Territories would render slave labor there of little value, and it was not a question of much practical importance.

Mr. M. alluded to the compromise measures of 1850, and expressed the opinion that wherever there was a compromise between the majority and the minority, the result must be to deprive the minority of a portion of their rights. Still the South had always submitted to an amicable adjustment of these questions, trusting that the day would come when the North would be willing to do justice and act with good faith and honor. In 1854 a proposition was made to organize the Territory of Nebraska; but it was deemed advisable to divide that Territory into two parts, and have separate territorial organizations; and a law was passed to that effect. He had been of the opinion that of these two Territories Nebraska would become a free State, and Kansas a slave State. In the Kansas-Nebraska bill the Missouri-Compromise line, restricting slavery, was declared inoperative and void, in accordance with the principles of the compromise measures of 1850; and the correctness of that conclusion was satisfactorily demonstrated by the recent decision of the highest tribunal in the country, which had declared that restriction unconstitutional. From the tenure of their office, which removed them far above the political arena and party strife, and from the purity of their characters, which was above suspicion, the decisions of the judges of the Supreme Court ought to command universal respect; but yet the senator from New York had intimated his purpose of endeavoring to reorganize the Supreme Court, in order to get rid of corrupt men, and in his recent speech had represented them as making a private bargain with the Chief Magistrate of the United States.

Mr. SEWARD stated that he had given notice of his intention to introduce a bill to reorganize the Supreme and circuit courts of the United States, so that the judges should be divided more nearly in accordance with federal population.

Mr. MASON understood the object to be to make it a political court, which would represent political parties, and presumed the senator from New York contemplated having the court so organized that it would be opposed to southern institutions and southern principles.

Mr. SEWARD. I expect that the court will be brought into conformity with the constitution of the United States and the principles of humanity and justice.

Mr. MASON. As the senator understands them?

Mr. SEWARD. As I understand them.

Mr. MASON thought the country would have no difficulty in perceiving what the senator's purpose was. He proceeded to discuss the right of property in slaves, as derived from the common law of England, which established slavery in this country while in a state of colonial dependency; he also contrasted the barbarous condition of the Africans in their own country with their civilized condition here, and thought it must be evident that Providence had some great and useful ends in view in introducing that race on this continent.

We have now a State applying for admission, which is entitled to admission, with a constitution republican in form, against which no argument has been made which might not with equal propriety have been urged against many other States that have been admitted, with the exception of the single question of slavery. But the chairman of the Committee on Territories had announced his intention of offering a substitute, admitting the two States of Minnesota and Kansas together, so that the North and the South should each be served fairly; for it was understood that Minnesota would be a free State, while Kansas would be a slave State. Southern senators were willing to vote for the admission of Minnesota as a free State, notwithstanding all the irregularities in her proceedings. In the first place, she has had no convention at all. The law of Congress provided that there should be a convention; but they have never executed that law. Instead of having a convention, before that body organized, it divided into two parts, and never acted as a convention at all. They afterwards formed a constitution by means of a committee appointed by each of those bodies.

Mr. SEWARD asked whether the senator would say that the majority of the people of Minnesota, or even any portion of them, objected to admission under this constitution?

Mr. MASON replied that he was utterly unaware that a majority of the people, or even any portion of the people of Kansas, objected to being admitted. To be sure, there is said to be some objection to admission under this constitution; but we must not listen to popular clamor, or the voice of an irresponsible mob, for if we attempt to regulate government by that, it will not be regulated by law, but in spite of law. Now there were irregularities in Minnesota; but would the northern senators refuse her admission on their account? That Territory had undertaken to elect two senators and three members of the House of Representatives, who should be senators and members, after the State should be admitted, if the State was entitled to so many members in the other branch of Congress. When a similar proceeding took place in California, it was objected to as utterly irregular and revolutionary; but Congress overruled the objections and admitted the members to their seats. It had been said on the other side, that those members from the North who should vote for this bill would never be heard of again politically; but he believed they were willing to take the responsibility. When he concluded his remarks, it being half past four o'clock, Mr. CLARK obtained the floor.

Mr. GREEN moved to take a recess for two hours.

Mr. STUART said that motion required unanimous consent, and he objected to it.

Mr. TOOMBS denied that it required unanimous consent. It had been done repeatedly by both houses.

Mr. CHANDLER moved that the Senate adjourn.

Mr. BIGLER called for the yeas and nays on that motion; which were ordered.

The question being taken, the motion to adjourn was not agreed to—yeas 17, nays 23—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Bell, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Crittenden, Doolittle, Fessenden, Foster, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, King, Seward, Simmons, Stuart, Trumbull, and Wilson—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Biggs, Bigler, Brown, Clay, Fitch, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Kennedy, Mason, Polk, Pugh, Sebastian, Slidell, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, and Wright—23.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Messrs. Bates, Cameron, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Douglas, Durkee, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Henderson, Hunter, Iverson, Mallory, Pearce, Reid, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Wade, and Yulee—19.

Mr. CLARK then spoke at length in opposition to the bill, citing a great number of cases from law books to prove that the common law of England never recognised the right of property in man.

At six o'clock, p. m., Mr. C. said he felt very much fatigued, and would prefer to continue his remarks to-morrow morning, as he had had nothing to eat since eight o'clock this morning, either bread or water.

Mr. SIMMONS moved that the Senate adjourn.

The motion was not agreed to—yeas 13, nays 22—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Chandler, Clark, Crittenden, Fessenden, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, King, Pugh, Simmons, Wade, and Wilson—13.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Biggs, Bigler, Brown, Clay, Fitch, Green, Gwin, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Mallory, Mason, Polk, Sebastian, Slidell, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, and Wright—22.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Messrs. Bates, Bell, Bright, Broderick, Cameron, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Durkee, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Fitch, Hammond, Henderson, Houston, Hunter, Kennedy, Pearce, Reid, Seward, Stuart, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Trumbull, and Yulee—27.

Several of the above were announced as having paired off.

Mr. CLARK then continued his remarks, replying to the speeches of Messrs. HAMMOND, HUNTER, BENJAMIN, and others on various points. At about eight o'clock he proceeded to refresh himself with a cup of tea, while Mr. GREEN was replying to a question which had been put to him.

At quarter past eight he yielded the floor to Mr. CHANDLER, who moved that the Senate adjourn. The motion was not agreed to—yeas 14, nays 24—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Dixon, Doolittle, Foot, Foster, Hamlin, Harlan, King, Seward, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—14.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Biggs, Bigler, Brown, Fitch, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Kennedy, Mallory, Mason, Polk, Pugh, Sebastian, Slidell, Thomson of New Jersey, Toombs, and Wright—24.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved that the bill and amendments be laid on the table.

Mr. PUGH raised the point of order that the senator from New Hampshire having the floor, that motion could not be made.

Mr. TRUMBULL withdrew the motion.

Mr. PUGH thought the senator from New Hampshire had not been listened to with the attention to which he was entitled; and he hoped some general agreement might be entered into to have a vote taken at a specified time, so that the Senate could now adjourn.

Mr. GREEN said the other side had refused to do that. He asked what time the senator from Ohio would suggest.

Mr. PUGH. Next Monday.

Several SENATORS on the republican side. We will agree to that.

Mr. GREEN said the friends of the bill would agree to any day this week, but not beyond; and the other side of the chamber would not consent to any agreement to take the vote this week.

Mr. CAMERON hoped the majority would agree to fix some reasonable time for taking the vote. Why not agree upon next Monday? The opponents of the bill will consent to that.

Mr. GREEN replied that some of the friends of the senator from Pennsylvania told him, not five minutes ago, that they were not authorized to say that a vote should be taken on Saturday next, or on any other day, until they had had a consultation.

Mr. CAMERON stated that the friends of the bill had had a caucus and determined upon their course, but those on the other side had not had such a conference. If the Senate would now adjourn, by to-morrow morning those on his side of the chamber would have a consultation.

Mr. GREEN was going on to state how the time of the Senate had been trifled away by adjournments from Thursday until Monday, when

Mr. TOOMBS raised a question of order. He was desirous of going on with the public business, and thought this whole discussion was out of order.

Mr. BRODERICK then (at half-past 8 o'clock p. m.) moved that the Senate adjourn; which was not agreed to—yeas 15, nays 23.

Mr. CLARK resumed his argument, and at nine o'clock yielded the floor to

Mr. WADE, who renewed the motion to adjourn. The question being taken, the result was announced—yeas 6, nays 24—no quorum voting.

Mr. PUGH moved that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to bring in the absentees.

Mr. MASON said that it was manifest that a quorum was present, but senators on the other side had declined to vote. He hoped the roll would be called again.

Mr. CAMERON urged that the Senate should adjourn, and give the opponents of the bill a chance to hold a caucus.

The list of absentees was then called, and several senators responded to their names.

Mr. CAMERON stated that he had paired off with Mr. HUNTER; and he was accordingly excused.

Mr. FITCH gave the reason why his colleague (Mr. BRIGHT) was absent; and Mr. SEWARD moved that he be excused.

On that motion Mr. WADE called for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT declined to entertain that motion while a call was going on.

Various motions were made, and discussions on points of order took place, occupying about an hour.

Mr. PUGH said that he should vote against all factious proceedings on either side.

Those absentees who had responded to their names were now called upon to vote on the motion to adjourn; and the result was then announced—yeas 16, nays 24. So the Senate refused to adjourn.

Mr. WILSON moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill until half-past twelve o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. HALE moved that the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to bring in the absent members.

Mr. GREEN moved to lay that motion on the table. After some debate, and several points of order being raised and various appeals from the decision of the Chair, the question was taken, and the motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. TRUMBULL urged an adjournment.

Mr. TOOMBS stated the manner in which the opponents of the bill had endeavored to postpone it, and hoped the majority would be true to their duty to the country, and let factiousness be crushed out. [Applause in the galleries.]

Mr. FESSENDEN said the minority had rights too, and if it was to come to a trial of endurance, they would see how long it would take to crush them out.

Mr. GREEN replied that while it was true that the minority had rights, the majority had responsibilities, and the country would hold them responsible for the manner in which the public business was discharged.

[The foregoing report closed at 11 o'clock, p. m.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. ENGLISH, of Indiana, asked consent to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be requested to inform this House the amount of tolls collected on the Louisville and Portland canal since the United States became the owner of the controlling interest of the stock of said canal company, and what disposition has been made of the money so received, and if any portion thereof has been used for the purpose of enlarging said canal, and that he inform this House how much, and under what law and on what authority the same has been expended; also, that he inform the House of the nature and extent of United States interest in said canal, and whether he has any information of the parties interested in said canal having appropriated, or proposed to appropriate, any of the funds of said canal without the concurrence of Congress, and, if so, under what law and by what authority; and

Resolved, further, That the Committee on Roads and Canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the reduction of the tolls upon the Louisville and Portland canal, and also to inquire what further legislation, if any, is necessary to secure this interest for the United States in said canal.

Mr. MARSHALL, of Kentucky, objected.

Mr. ENGLISH moved that there be a suspension of the rules; which motion was agreed to—yeas 147, nays 42—two-thirds voting in favor thereof.

Mr. ENGLISH said about the year 1825 the legislature of Kentucky incorporated a company for the purpose of erecting a canal around the falls of the Ohio on the Kentucky side. The government of the United States became a subscriber to the amount of $240,000. The canal was finished about the year 1830, and since that time the dividends declared upon the stock belonging to the government had gone to the credit of the United States, and amounted to such a sum as had not only reimbursed the treasury for the amount invested, but also amounted to such a sum as had enabled the government to purchase the entire amount of stock. The original stock of the company only amounted to one million of dollars, and yet there had been exacted from the commerce of that river some three millions of dollars in the shape of tolls, and they found upon examination of the record, that in the year 1833, at which time the government became the owner of all the stock, the tolls amounted to $150,000. The average of tolls received per annum since 1830 would amount to about $100,000 per year. The government of the United States purchased the stock owned by private individuals, and in some instances paid as much as three dollars for one dollar. The government had owned the entire canal for the last three years, and the object he had in view by the resolution was to ascertain what had become of the thousands of dollars which had been collected, and which he was informed had not gone into the treasury of the United States, where it belonged. On the contrary, the company claimed the right not only to collect du[illegible] appropriate the tolls to such purposes as they [illegible] without consulting Congress. His [illegible] deemed expedient, [illegible] to the wants of commerce, and to relieve it of the enormous tax [illegible] on it. object was to make the canal equ[illegible]

Mr. MARSHALL, of Kentucky, replied that the gentleman had made some very wide mistakes. The shares of stock of the company were ten thousand at $100 apiece, and of these shares the United States subscribed twenty-three hundred, and private individuals seventy-seven hundred. About this time gentlemen on the Indiana side of the river commenced petitioning Congress to make a free canal on their side. To accommodate them the legislature of Kentucky passed an act amending the charter of the company, whereby it was provided that they might take the whole proceeds, and thereby make a fund which should be appropriated to the purchase and absorption of the private stock. They were to take this upon condition that when the whole stock had been taken out of private hands it should first be offered to the United States upon the condition that they should make the canal equal to the wants of commerce. If the United States did not take it, then it was to be offered first to the State of Kentucky, and last to the city of Louisville, upon the same condition. The government still holds the twenty-three hundred shares, and never would hold another until they had performed the condition of trust declared in the Kentucky statute. Year in and year out the representative from the city of Louisville asked that an appropriation might be made to make this canal equal to the wants of commerce, whereby the United States would become the proprietors of the work; and year by year gentlemen from Indiana had proposed to accompany it with an addition that the government of the United States should, at the same time, appropriate money to build another canal upon the Indiana side of the river. He had been urged to accept this sort of compromise, but had rejected it, and told the House that there was no necessity for a canal there, and that it could not be made serviceable. If they wanted to do anything, they should raise a committee to examine the books, and if they did so, he had no doubt they would find a satisfactory exhibit for every dollar. He wanted the books examined. They should be brought here, if they desired it.

Mr. COVODE, of Pennsylvania, remarked that the commerce of the Ohio river had been suffering for want of accommodation. So long as the question occupied its present position, there was no probability that this canal would be sufficiently enlarged to allow boats to pass uninterrupted to Pittsburg. There was no probability of accomplishing the great work except by building a dam below Louisville, and thus accommodate both sides of the river, and the entire trade of the Ohio.

Mr. RITCHIE, of Pennsylvania, had no objection to permit the persons who now had the canal to collect the tolls and enlarge it until it was adequate to the purposes required.

Mr. HUGHES, of Indiana, did not see that the resolution struck any blow at the canal, but simply called for information. He should not support it, if he thought it did.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, did not see that the resolution deprived Kentucky of any rights at all. He could not for his life see why there should be any objection to calling for the information proposed by the resolution. It was simply a resolution of inquiry as to the management of the canal. If it had been fairly managed, and there was nothing wrong, they would sustain no injury by the inquiry. He called the previous question.

The previous question was sustained, and the resolution adopted.

THE PENSION BILL.

The SPEAKER stated the business first in order to be the consideration of the bill granting pensions to the officers and soldiers of the war of 1812, and those engaged in the Indian wars during that period.

On motion of Mr. SAVAGE, of Tennessee, the bill was made the special order in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for the 22d, 23d, and 24th days of April next.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced, severally read twice, and appropriately referred:

By Mr. WINSLOW, of North Carolina: A joint resolution in relation to the distribution of certain documents.

By Mr. GILMER, of North Carolina: A bill to prevent the accumulation of an unnecessary surplus in the treasury, and to equalize the grants of land in the several States.

By Mr. KEITT, of South Carolina: A bill asking an appropriation for the completion of the Fort Ridgley and South Pass wagon-road.

By Mr. WRIGHT, of Georgia: A bill to give to citizens of the United States above the age of twenty-one years, male and female, who will settle the same and make improvements thereon, a square plat of one hundred and sixty acres of the public lands free from all incumbrances past, present, and future.

By Mr. CURRY, of Alabama: A bill to constitute the city of Eufalee a port of delivery.

By Mr. HARLAN, of Ohio: A bill to repeal the twenty-fourth section of the judiciary act of September 24, 1789, and the seventh section of an act for the collection of duties, approved March 7, 1853.

Also, a joint resolution directing the payment of certain Mexican volunteers.

By Mr. LEITER, of Ohio: A bill to provide for the election of postmasters by the people.

By Mr. GROESBECK, of Ohio: A resolution for the purchase and distribution of a certain number of the reports of the Supreme Court, with Notes and a Digest by B. R. Curtiss.

By Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky: A bill to provide for the erection of a post office and custom-house at Paducah, in the State of Kentucky.

By Mr. MARSHALL, of Kentucky: A bill to provide for the erection of a post office in Covington, Kentucky.

By Mr. AVERY, of Tennessee: A bill to provide for the construction of a post office, court-house, and pension office at the city of Jackson, Tennessee. Also, a bill to increase the appropriation for a public building in the city of Memphis, and that the same be used for a custom-house and post office. Also, a bill to provide for the construction of a marine hospital at Memphis, Tennessee.

By Mr. SMITH, of Tennessee: A bill to establish a communication by railroad and telegraph between the Atlantic States and California, and for other purposes. Also, certain joint resolutions of the legislature of that State in relation to postal laws, and instructing their senators and representatives in Congress to vote for the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton constitution, and in reference to JOHN BELL.

By Mr. MAYNARD, of Tennessee: A bill to extend the provisions of a certain act granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers in the service of the United States.

By M. ATKINS, of Tennessee: A bill to amend the postal laws of the United States.

By Mr. FOLEY, of Indiana: A bill to provide for the amending of exemplifications of the records and papers relating to lands, and the entry, location, and purchase thereof, remaining in the General Land Office, and fixing the compensation thereof.

By Mr. ENGLISH, of Indiana: A bill to provide for erecting a building at New Albany for a post office, custom-house, and pension office.

By Mr. UNDERWOOD, of Kentucky: Resolutions of the Kentucky Agricultural Society, asking an appropriation of lands for agricultural purposes.

By Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois: A bill to provide for an act making an appropriation for the erection of a building suitable for a court-house, post office, and custom-house at the city of Peoria.

By Mr. SMITH, of Illinois: A bill to amend an act entitled "An act to relieve the purchasers of swamp and overflowed lands approved 2d March, 1855."

RESOLUTIONS.

On motion of Mr. WRIGHT, of Georgia, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads be, and they are hereby, instructed to inquire into the expediency of building a post office at the city of Rome, Georgia, and to repair damages recently sustained by fire.

On motion of Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the granting the change of venue in cases providing for trial in the circuit and district courts of the United States under such restrictions as may be fixed by law, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of the same, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to inform the House if any portion of the military reservation at Fort Ripley, in Minnesota, has been sold; and if so, to state at what price the same was sold, and to whom; and if such sale has been confirmed; and if not confirmed, if any reason exists which will prevent the confirmation of the same.

On motion of Mr. SHAW, of Illinois, it was

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be instructed to furnish to this House a statement showing the amount of public lands in the States of Illinois and Indiana subject to entry at the sum of $1 25 per acre, or at any less price.

On motion of Mr. SHAW, of North Carolina, it was

Resolved, That the Postmaster be requested to inform this House what number of newspapers published in the city of Washington is employed, under existing laws or regulations, to advertise the mail letings, and what amount of compensation is paid to each therefor; also, what number of papers in the several States is employed to advertise the same, and at what price; and whether, in his opinion, the former could not hereafter be altogether discontinued, and the latter curtailed without detriment to the Post Office Department.

And then, on motion of Mr. PHILLIPS, of Pennsylvania, at 20 minutes 4 o'clock, p. m., the House adjourned.

BIDS FOR TREASURY NOTES.

Bids for taking up treasury notes to the amount of $5,000,000 were opened at the Treasury Department at 12 o'clock [illegible] yesterday. The following are the names of the bidders, the amo[illegible] bid for, and the premium demanded:

Name of bidder.	Amount bid for.	Premium demanded.
United States Trust Co., N. Y.	$250,000	6 per ct.
J. R. Langdon, Montpelier, Vt.	25,000	5 "
Do do	50,000	6 "
Do do	50,000	5¾ "
C. Harris, 17 William street, N. Y.	30,000	6 "
Thomas P. Bayly, Norristown, Penn.	10,000	4 "
Philadelphia Savings Fund Society	100,000	4 "
Victor Barcelon, New York	7,000	3½ "
Do do	10,000	3¾ "
Do do	13,000	4 "
Do do	11,000	4½ "
C. Delloncey, Washington	1,000	6 "
Drexel & Co., Philadelphia	1,000,000	5 "
Riggs & Co., Washington	200,000	4 "
Do do	300,000	4½ "
Do do	700,000	4½ "
Do do	100,000	4¾ "
Do do	1,700,000	5 "
Bank Metropolis	50,000	4½ "
Do	50,000	5½ "
Southwark Bank, Philadelphia	100,000	5 "
Suffolk Bank, Boston	50,000	4½ "
Do do	50,000	5 "
Mechanics' Bank, Brooklyn, N. Y.	25,000	4 "
T. J. Abbott, Washington	12,000	5 "
Philadelphia Bank	100,000	4 "
Do	100,000	4½ "
Do	100,000	4½ "
Bank of North America, Philad'phia	200,000	4 "
Trevor & Colegate, New York	200,000	4½ "
Do do	200,000	5 "
Bank of Commerce, New York	1,500,000	5 "
B. H. Field, New York	100,000	4½ "
Do do	150,000	4½ "
Do do	50,000	5 "

The total amount offered was a fraction less than $7,000,000.

Those who at first doubted the wisdom of President Buchanan's policy in regard to Kansas (and it cannot be denied that the number was not very small) now come forward to sustain it. Upon a careful examination of the question, it all its bearings, the President's position meets with general approval among democrats. This could not be otherwise. It is the true plan for putting at rest all agitation of the slavery question, and those who at first thought differently now acknowledge the wisdom of the President's policy and avow their determination to support it. This is seen in the immense demonstrations throughout the Union in support of the administration. Democrats cannot fail to see that there can be but two parties on the Kansas issue, and he who ceases to act with the democratic party on this question must necessarily unite with the black republicans.

[*Ulster (N. Y.) Republican.*

TRIAL TRIP OF THE HARRIET LANE.—The new United States revenue cutter Harriet Lane, built by Mr. Webb, made a short excursion down the harbor yesterday afternoon as far as Fort Hamilton. The Turkish rear admiral (Mohammed Pasha) and suite; Captain Selenoff and Captain Joustchenkoss, of the Russian navy; the Turkish consul, (Mr. J. Hosford Smith;) Captain Engle, United States navy; and other invited guests, were on board. The cutter left the Battery at 2 o'clock, with the design of landing at Fort Hamilton; but this being found impracticable on account of the accumulation of ice on the shore, she cruised around the harbor, and made a short run up the North and East rivers. While in the vicinity of Fort Hamilton a salute of fifteen guns was fired in honor of Mohammed Pasha.

The distance from Whitehall to the Fort, seven miles and seven hundred and sixty yards, was run in thirty-four minutes, against a head wind and tide. The working of the engines was excellent, scarcely any tremor being perceptible. Under a pressure of twenty-two pounds twenty-six revolutions were made; and at ordinary speed the consumption of fuel is but half a ton per hour. The engines on the Harriet Lane are Copeland's inclined, built at the Allaire Works, forty-two-inch cylinders, and seven-feet stroke of piston. The frame is made of boiler iron, securing great stability. The paddle-wheels have a diameter of 22 feet 6 inches, and 8 feet fall. There are two "return-flue" boilers, 24 feet long and 93 inches in diameter, with a pair of furnaces to each, and fitted with Sickle's cut-off, (old patent.) The vessel measures 650 tons.

The officers of the Harriet Lane are as follows:

Commander—John Faunce, late of the Cutter Washington.

Arthur D. Stanford, first lieutenant; Wm. E. Hudgins, second lieutenant; J. Wall Wilson, third lieutenant; Wm. Dunham, chief engineer; James R. Dryburgh, first assistant engineer; Walter Scott, second assistant engineer; Frederick Mowbray, boatswain; Thomas Cole, gunner.

It is expected that the Harriet Lane will go into commission early next week, to be employed in the revenue service, and as a coast guard. She will make another experimental trip in a few days, under government inspection.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

THE MCDONOGH ESTATE.—The New Orleans Picayune publishes the decision of the supreme court of Louisiana, sustaining the decree of the lower court for a partition of the property of the McDonogh estate between the cities of New Orleans and Baltimore. This, we presume, closes the litigation over this large estate. The Picayune remarks:

The importance of this decision will readily be estimated by those who are aware of the extent of the property; the influence its sale will have upon the growth and improvement of New Orleans, and the means the proceeds will give both the Crescent and the Monumental city for most valuable and necessary works that may contribute to wealth, business, and progress. The property, passing into the hands of individuals, will speedily be made productive, and some portions of it become the seats of business activity. Even the annuitants, we believe, will be largely benefited by this disposition of the bequests.

THE MONSTER STEAMER LEVIATHAN.—From an article in the London Times we learn the progress that is making in fitting the Leviathan for sea. The cost of completing her fittings is estimated at $500,000, and the time four months or to the end of July. No less than ten anchors are now required to hold the monster vessel at her present moorings—five at the stem, and five at the stern, and each with lengths of cable attached varying from 40 to 160 fathoms. There are to be six masts in all, three square rigged, and three rigged with fore and aft sails. All these masts will be composed of plates of wrought iron one inch in thickness, and riveted together in the same manner as the sides of the ship, or a steam boiler of the strongest description. They will vary in height from 130 to 170 feet from the keel to the truck; each will be three feet four inches diameter at the deck, and each will weigh from 30 to 40 tons, exclusive of yards or rigging. Each mast rests in a square column of plate iron which reaches direct from the keel to the upper deck, and is rivetted and built into all of the successive decks through which it passes. In case of its ever becoming necessary to cut away the masts, at the base of them all, at about three feet above the deck, will be fixed a peculiar apparatus, which, working by means of a powerful screw, is made to compress two sides of the mast together in such a manner as to completely crush them in, and let the masts fall over the sides immediately. All the main and topmast yards of the square-rigged masts will be also of iron plates. The main yard will be 130 feet long, or about 40 feet longer than the main yard of the largest line-of-battle ships, about four times the strength of any main yard yet constructed, and several tons lighter than if it was made of wood, as is usually the case.

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PALMERSTON CABINET.—HIGHLY INTERESTING SKETCH.

[From the Carlisle Examiner.]

Mr. Milner Gibson is speaking—looking and speaking very much as he did when he used to meet in up-stair rooms of back streets in the Strand, to consult about war on the newspaper-stamp laws. No one would mistake him for a Manchester man—which he certainly is not, though a leader of the Manchester party. There is the leisurely ease and quiet force of the East country gentleman about him, despite his long and close association with the restlessly energetic men of the North. His "tact" is proverbial, and the fortune of the resolution he is now supporting will make it historical. See how his earnest but undemonstrative manner takes with the House, commanding the attention of all, and offending the prejudices of none. There is more cheering when he sits down; and then there is a momentary hush; for the gentleman at his left—and who is none other than Mr. Bright—rises to second the motion. But seven o'clock is not the hour for an orator to address the House; and, moreover, Mr. Bright will not yet risk his lately-recovered health in the excitement of debate. The next speaker is from the ministerial bench—Mr. Baines, son and brother of the great Leeds journalist, but sadly fallen away from the popular side. He speaks but for a few minutes, and says little. From the other side of the table rises Mr. Walpole—with exactly the voice and manner of a popular preacher, before preaching was made the test of physical strength it now is. But he has the excellence so rare in preachers, that of brevity. Sir G. Grey is up the instant that Walpole is down—and sets off, with rapid, energetic utterance to demonstrate that neither has the honor of the country been sacrificed nor the liberty of the subject attacked. But honorable members are too busy by this time, calculating how the division will go, to care about the ministerial defence; and though they sit out the Home Secretary's speech, from respect to the speaker, they flock off to dinner as soon as he is done. Yet, Mr. McMahon, the Irish gentleman who, rising from a back bench below the opposition gangway, is so fortunate as to be singled out by the speaker from a crowd, makes a really interesting and important speech—elegal demonstration of the Sir Matthew Hale maxim, quoted by Milner Gibson, that "conspiracy is a net to catch doves as well as hawks." He refers to a number of law-books, in support of his