THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

First Session.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1858.

SENATE.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* laid before the Senate a report of the Secretary of the Navy, communicating, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate, information as to the condition of the United States ship Franklin; which was read and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

MEMORIALS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Mr. SEWARD presented a petition of citizens of Canajoharie, New York, praying the enactment of a general bankrupt law for the relief of insolvent debtors; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also, two petitions of citizens of the State of New York, praying the enactment of a law granting pensions to the soldiers of the war of 1812 and to the widows of those deceased; which were referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Also, the petition of Henry R. Schoolcraft, for twenty-two years superintendent of Indian affairs on the frontiers of the United States, praying for an adjustment of his accounts with the United States, which has been long delayed; which was referred to the Committee of Claims.

Mr. FOOT presented four petitions of inhabitants of Vermont, praying the establishment of a mail route from Castleton to Sudbury, in that State; which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. IVERSON presented the memorial of William M. Varnum, agent of the State of Georgia, praying that the proper accounting officers of the treasury be authorized to ascertain and pay the amount due that State for money advanced in the suppression of Indian hostilities; which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. BIGLER presented a memorial from Amos Kendall, supplementary to the memorial presented the other day from the Magnetic Telegraph Company and the New England Union Telegraph Company; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED.

Mr. HOUSTON submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Resolved, That there be printed in pamphlet form, for the use of the Senate, one thousand copies of the addresses made by the members of the Senate and members of the House of Representatives upon the occasions of the deaths of the Hon. A. P. Butler, of South Carolina, Hon. James Bell, of New Hampshire, and Hon. Thomas J. Rusk, of Texas, late senators of the United States, and that the printer of the Senate be directed to prepare them in a similar manner to the eulogies on the life of the Hon. John M. Clayton.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE.

Mr. FOSTER, from the Committee on Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Noah Smith, late a private in the army of the United States; which was read and passed to a second reading.

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. STUART rose to a question of privilege of an important character. On inquiry he had learned that the bill for the admission of Kansas into the Union as a State, although acted upon by the Senate on Friday last, had been ever since retained here, and had not been sent to the House of Representatives, upon the motion of the senator from Louisiana, [Mr. SLIDELL,] who had stated that he reserved his right, as a member of the majority, to move to reconsider the vote on disagreeing to the House amendment. Mr. STUART understood that the right of a senator was simply this: he could move a reconsideration within two days of actual session after a vote was taken, but no motion could be made to reconsider after the bill or paper had gone out of the possession of the Senate. This, however, gives no senator a right to retain a bill in the possession of the Senate. There had been a courtesy exercised upon this matter hitherto, and he thought it was a very proper one, to authorize the retention of a bill until a senator who desired it could have an opportunity to make his motion to reconsider; but if the Senate should now adopt the idea that upon the mere suggestion of a senator any bill could be retained here for two days after it had been acted upon, it must be manifest that it would be within the power of a single senator to defeat any measure which might pass the Senate within two days of the end of a session. The Senate having ordered this bill to be sent to the House of Representatives with a notification of the action of the Senate thereon, that order must be executed unless there is some rule or order of the Senate to prevent it.

Mr. SEWARD understood the senator from Michigan to say that this bill had been retained on the motion of the senator from Louisiana. He wished to inquire whether that motion had been made in open Senate.

Mr. STUART replied that it was not. It was a request communicated to the Secretary in writing.

Mr. SLIDELL said that, with the permission of the senator, he would explain that, for reasons satisfactory to himself, he had seen proper to retain the bill, conceiving that he had a right so to do, under the rules of the Senate. He was proceeding with his remarks, when

Mr. STUART claimed the floor, not having yielded it, and desired to conclude his remarks. He thought the business of the Senate would be jeopardized if such a practice as this were to be allowed to prevail, and moved that the order of the Senate made on Friday last, to communicate the Kansas bill to the House, should be executed at once.

Mr. SLIDELL read the twentieth rule of the Senate, which provides that "when a question has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move for the reconsideration thereof; but no motion for the reconsideration of any vote shall be in order after a bill, resolution, message, report, amendment, or motion, upon which the vote was taken, shall have gone out of the possession of the Senate, announcing their decision; nor shall any motion for reconsideration be in order, unless made on the same day on which the vote was taken, or within the two next days of actual session of the Senate thereafter."

Mr. S. contended that in the present case no order had been made by the Senate to send the bill to the House; and if the contrary appeared on the Senate journal, it was a work of supererogation on the part of the Clerk. The bill then being in the possession of the Senate, what were his rights? He did not feel bound to give his reasons for the course he had pursued in regard to this matter; they were satisfactory to himself; but, as a senator, he had a right to move a reconsideration if he thought proper. Whether he should do so or not, he could not say; it might depend somewhat upon events which might occur in the course of the day; but, having a right to retain the bill in order to exercise the privilege of moving to reconsider, he intended to exercise it.

Mr. STUART thought the error of the senator from Louisiana was as to the construction of the rule. When a senator makes a motion to reconsider, the bill being then in the possession of the Senate, it must be retained until the question is decided, because that is a motion which he has a right to make. But if, because he has a right to make a motion to reconsider, he has also a right to retain a bill, and after all not make the motion, the effect is to put the control of the business of the Senate into the hands of a single individual.

Mr. BAYARD argued that this was a matter entirely within the discretion of the Secretary. One thing was certain, that bills had been retained repeatedly on the suggestion of a senator that he wished to examine the matter or move a reconsideration. If the Secretary thought proper to comply with that suggestion, and retain the bill, he could do so; but it was equally within his power to decline to do so, and send it to the House; and, if the Senate should pass a vote to that effect, it may be recalled from the House before they act upon it. The senator from Michigan had a right also to move that the bill should be sent to the House immediately, and it was for the Senate to decide whether they would make that order or not.

Mr. DOUGLAS regarded this as a very grave and important question. His understanding of the matter was that it was the imperative duty of the Secretary of the Senate to proceed immediately, or as soon as practicable, to communicate to the House the result of the action of the Senate on a bill, and to request their concurrence in any amendments. The Secretary had no right to delay the performance of this duty at the request of any member of the body. It had been done to some extent hitherto as a matter of courtesy simply, and not of right, when a senator came to the conclusion that he had voted wrong, and desired to examine or reconsider his action——

Mr. SLIDELL, interrupting, remarked that perhaps that might be his case. (Laughter.)

Mr. DOUGLAS trusted, for the reputation of the senator, and the good of the country, that such was the case. He went on to argue that no one member of the Senate could discharge the Secretary from the obligation to perform his duty, and send the bill to the House.

The PRESIDENT *pro tem.* stated that the Secretary had acted in this matter under his advice and direction, and that he alone was responsible for the delay in the present case. He believed he had acted in conformity with the usual practice when a senator desired to move to reconsider the vote on a bill.

Mr. BRIGHT stated that the course pursued by the Chair was in accordance with the usage of the body.

Mr. CRITTENDEN thought this action was unprecedented and unwarrantable. He never before knew the Secretary to keep a bill back for two days at the request of a senator.

Mr. SEWARD made a speech to prove that Mr. SLIDELL had asserted a right which he could not maintain.

Mr. DOUGLAS hoped that this question would be postponed, so as to proceed with the consideration of the Minnesota bill.

The CHAIR decided that this question, being one of privilege, took precedence over the special order.

Mr. HALE expressed his views on the question in a characteristic speech, saying that he should not care if the Kansas bill did not reach the House before the adjournment of Congress.

Mr. IVERSON moved to lay the motion of Mr. STUART on the table; which was agreed to—yeas 26, nays 24—as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Bayard, Benjamin, Biggs, Bigler, Bright, Brown, Clay, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Hunter, Iverson, Johnson of Arkansas, Johnson of Tennessee, Jones, Kennedy, Mallory, Polk, Pugh, Sebastian, Slidell, Wright, and Yulee—26.

NAYS—Messrs. Broderick, Cameron, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Crittenden, Dixon, Doolittle, Douglas, Durkee, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Houston, King, Seward, Simmons, Stuart, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson—24.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING—Messrs. Bates, Bell, Davis, Evans, Henderson, Mason, Pearce, Reid, Sumner, Thompson of Kentucky, Thomson of New Jersey, and Toombs—12.

Mr. STUART read from Jefferson's Manual, and, in accordance therewith, insisted that the order of the Senate should be carried out.

Mr. IVERSON protested against the execution of the order, denying that there was any order to send the bill to the House before the expiration of the three days allowed for reconsideration.

Mr. PUGH called for the special order, inasmuch as the other question had been laid on the table.

The CHAIR stated that he understood the vote of the Senate laying the motion of the senator from Michigan on the table to be a virtual instruction on the part of the Senate that the bill should not be immediately transmitted to the House.

Mr. SEWARD appealed from the decision of the Chair.

Much confusion prevailed, in reference to the decision of questions of order, when, at length,

Mr. BRIGHT, in order to bring the question immediately before the Senate, moved to reconsider the vote by which the Senate disagreed to the House amendment to the Kansas bill.

Mr. YULEE moved to postpone the further consideration of that subject until to-morrow, and that it be the special order for one o'clock; which was agreed to.

Mr. HALE was as anxious to stanch the wounds of bleeding Kansas as he had ever been, and moved to postpone the Minnesota bill, which was the special order, so as to proceed immediately to the consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote on the Kansas bill.

The question being taken, the motion was not agreed to.

ADMISSION OF MINNESOTA.

The consideration of the Minnesota bill having been resumed, a colloquy ensued between Messrs. FITCH and DOUGLAS in reference to the course of the latter—Mr. FITCH alleging that Mr. D. had not on all occasions urged the consideration of the Minnesota bill with so much zeal as he might have done, and Mr. D. denying the charge and exculpating himself from censure.

The CHAIR called both gentlemen to order, as the matter was of a personal character, and had no reference to the question before the Senate.

Mr. PUGH proposed an amendment to the preamble, making it read like the preamble in the bill for the admission of California; but, after explanations had been made, he withdrew the motion.

Mr. DOUGLAS moved to strike the words "in pursuance of said act of Congress" out of the preamble, so that it would read—

"Whereas an act of Congress was passed February 20, 1857, entitled 'An act to authorize the people of the Territory of Minnesota to form a constitution and State government preparatory to their admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original states;' and whereas the people of said Territory did, on the 29th day of August, 1857, by delegates elected for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and state government, which is republican in form, and was ratified and adopted by the people, at an election held on the 13th day of October, 1857, for that purpose," &c.; therefore—

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY announced his intention to vote against the bill, on the ground that the constitution of Minnesota contained provisions at variance with the constitution of the United States, and principles destructive of the rights of the southern States, and in conflict with the doctrines of the American party. That party were of the opinion that alien suffrage and squatter sovereignty must be repudiated, and he could not admit the right of a State to make those persons citizens whom the constitution of the United States declares not to be citizens.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, entered his protest against the doctrines enunciated on this occasion by the senator from Maryland. He thought the several States had a right to declare, each one for itself, who should be citizens within its limits.

Without taking the question on the bill,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. FENTON, of New York, presented certain joint resolutions of the legislature of that State; which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ROBBINS, of New Jersey, presented certain joint resolutions of the legislature of that State; which were referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL.

On motion of Mr. LETCHER, of Virginia, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. BOCOCK, of Virginia, in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the army bill.

Mr. PHELPS, of Missouri, in reply to the charges made by Mr. LOVEJOY in relation to the increased expenses of the War and Navy Departments, read a statement showing the cost of maintaining the army and navy for the two years ending June 30, 1856, and June 30, 1857. The cost of the navy was upwards of seven millions of dollars per annum, and of the marine corps about half a million. The cost of the army, including the army proper, the Military Academy, and the arming and equipping of the militia, was between thirteen and fourteen millions per annum. The mistake of Mr. LOVEJOY was occasioned by his confounding the money expended for the construction of military roads, forts, and the improvement of rivers and harbors, &c., with that expended for the maintenance of the army and navy.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, of Kentucky, caused a number of official documents to be read in relation to the purchase of horses for the use of the government, contracts made by government officers, &c.

Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, reviewed the entire bill, objecting to many items as extravagant and unwarranted.

Mr. GROW, of Pennsylvania, was unable to see why one-half of the amount required for the expenses of the government—its regular yearly appropriations—should be passed in the way of a deficiency bill. He was opposed to appropriating a deficiency for any expenses to occur in the future. He held that the officers of the government were bound to keep within the regular appropriations, or else they would have no control over them.

Mr. DOWDELL, of Alabama, said the large expenses of the army for transportation could not have been foreseen, hence the large amount included in the deficiency bill. He was willing to act upon any plan that would prevent this evil, but he did not believe that it could be entirely prevented. He defended the appropriation for extra compensation of the clerks, contending that a law should be passed, (for their guidance hereafter,) giving them a fixed salary.

Mr. HOUSTON, of Alabama, stated that as the bill stood he should be compelled to vote against it. He objected to the 3d section of the bill, which provides for the payment by the clerk of the House of the allowances authorized by the House during the last session. He contended that there was no rule of the House, no law, that justified the item of additional appropriation for the reporters.

Mr. SHERMAN, of Ohio, opposed the bill.

Mr. DAVIDSON, of Louisiana, thought they were called upon to carry out the acts of a former Congress which he he considered just as binding as any laws which had been passed during the present session. He was in the last Congress and was one of those who voted against the resolution referred to in debate, but after it was passed he thought it was obligatory upon the secretary to pay it.

Mr. GARNETT, of Virginia, thought the tendency of the executive branch of the government was towards the gradual absorption of all power. To some extent, these deficiencies were unavoidable, but he was opposed to the system—the positive and increasing system—of carrying on this government, not under regular appropriations, but under a system of deficiencies; that the Executive, when he failed to get an appropriation, should come the next year and tell them that they must appropriate ten or twelve millions more, or the good faith of the government would be broken. If they were to go on with these large deficiencies, before the close of Congress they would have another loan bill before them.

Mr. MASON, of Kentucky, said his main objection to the bill was that it was a kind of omnibus bill, in which certain items were placed together, so that those who were disposed to support the army and navy were compelled to swallow those things to which they were opposed.

Mr. SEWARD, of Georgia, said ever since he had been in Congress he had been opposed to the whole system of legislation in this country. [Laughter.] The appropriation of money to pay the clerks and employes about the House he considered a question of good faith on the part of the House, and they could not, consistently with its own reputation, decline this appropriation without endorsing the odious doctrine of repudiation. Their compensation, instead of being too much, ought to be equal to that of the Speaker. The clerks did more than their duty in hunting up documents, examining the journals, and going outside of their duty for the accommodation of members, and yet they were to be made victims of by the very men who received this kindness at their hands. He did not care what became of the army item, because he did not believe it was necessary to get into difficulty with Brigham Young.

Mr. BURNETT, of Kentucky, concurred with Mr. GARNETT that there was a growing tendency on the part of the government to absorb all the powers of legislation. They found that the evil of deficiency bills was growing, and unless checked by the legislative department of the government there was no telling where it would lead. He was not opposed to supporting the expedition to Utah, but he did not think that the appropriation necessary for that purpose should be put into a deficiency bill. He opposed the proposition of granting extra compensation to faithful clerks. If the pay of their clerks and employés was not enough let it be increased, but they had no right to appropriate money to them by a resolution as a bonus, for it amounted to nothing else.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Louisiana, said although he was not opposed to paying the appropriation proposed to be made to the clerks and employés, he objected to the bill as involving a principle which was the foundation of unnumbered evils. The theory of the government had been well expressed by Mr. GARNETT. It was intended that Congress should carry on the public business with knowledge, should make provision for what is to be done, and regulate the expenditures of the government. It was not designed that the executive branch of the government should go further than to execute the laws. In case of emergency, it was the duty of the Executive to call Congress together, so that it could be provided for; but this bill contemplated an entirely different course. He would vote to make any appropriation which was necessary to carry on the war with Utah, but he would not sanction an appropriation which implied the right of the President to inaugurate a new policy when there was no public necessity, and when there was nothing to prevent his calling upon the constitutional power of the government for the purpose of setting in judgment upon that policy; and he did not believe that anything had transpired in Utah that made it necessary for the Executive to act in such hot haste.

Mr. TAPPAN, of New Hampshire, said the great reason for his opposition was that, in voting for the bill, he was called upon to endorse an executive war which did not have the co-operation of the legally-constituted war-making power.

The committee then rose, and general debate terminated.

Mr. LEITER, of Ohio, gave notice that he should offer a substitute for the police bill for the city of Washington when it should again come up for consideration.

And then, on motion of Mr. HOPKINS, of Virginia, at half-past four o'clock, p. m., the House adjourned.

PETITION.

By Mr. HATCH: The petition of C. Wieckman, Michael Rechtenwault, and two hundred others, of Buffalo, N. Y., that the public lands should cease to be source of public revenue, and confined to actual settlers and cultivators of the soil in limited quantities.

COURT OF CLAIMS.

TUESDAY, *April* 6.—Judge Scarburgh delivered the opinion of the court in the case of Logan Hunton, adverse to the claim.

The claim in this case was principally for fees for services, as district attorney of Louisiana, in the prosecution of Lopez and others. The fee charged in five cases was $5,000, and for the petitioner it was insisted that the bill had been taxed and allowed by the district judge under the act of 1789.

The court decides that the allowance by the court is restricted by statute; that the fees of the district attorney of Louisiana are to be determined under the act of March 3, 1841, and by the then existing usage and practice, and that at the date of the passage of this act there does not appear to have been any existing usage and practice to support the charges made.

Judge Scarburgh also delivered the opinion of the court in the cases of John L. Wirt and Charles Wilks. These were claims for damages occasioned to the houses of the claimants by the alteration of the grade of North Capitol street. The court decides that the government is not liable for such damages.

The court then adjourned until 12 o'clock to-morrow.

GLEANINGS FROM THE MAILS.

Green peas have made their appearance in the market at Savannah, Georgia. The severe weather in February caused them to appear later than usual. They were then in the pod.

The Savannah Republican states, "from information derived from a reliable source, that the banks of Savannah and Augusta have resolved, *unconditionally*, to resume specie payments on the first day of May proximo."

It is stated that Mrs. McMicken, who died recently at Cincinnati, bequeathed $300,000 for the purpose of founding a first-class university in that city, and $10,000 for the benefit of the Farmers' College.

Lord Rosse, of Ireland, undertakes to predict that the approaching summer will be the hottest we have ever had. Lord R. has a big telescope, but it looks into *space*, not *time*. He knows no more about next summer than other people—that is to say, he knows nothing.

The last legislature of Florida having provided for the construction of a canal connecting the waters of the St. John's with those of Indian river, Gov. Perry has appointed commissioners to survey and lay out the work, and they will speedily commence their task. When this work is completed, Florida will have a continuous line of inland navigation for steamboats parallel to the Atlantic sea-shore for nearly her entire eastern coast; and when the Fernandina and Cedar Keys railroad is finished she will have an iron way connecting an Atlantic with a Gulf port through the upper portion of the peninsula.

The Indianapolis Journal of Wednesday says that on opening a safe the day before belonging to the old office of the treasurer of State, which had not been opened for years, there was found within $22,000 in bills on the Bank of Millington, Maryland, and the Binghamton Bank, New York. This batch of bills, it appears from a memorandum found with them, was "deposited for safe-keeping."

The last census of France—that of 1856—shows the male population to be 17,793,964, of whom 9,972,233 are single, 6,687,223 married, and 836,509 widowers. The fairer portion of the human race is represented by 17,988,206, of whom 9,351,795 are single, 6,948,825 married, and 1,687,583 widows. The agricultural population amounts to 20,351,628 souls.

The first railway in Turkey, that from Smyrna to Aidin, which will be about seventy miles in length, and which will open out the rich plateau of Asia Minor, has been begun under what appear to be very favorable auspices, considering the novelty of the undertaking and the various problems which had to be practically solved. The Turkish government and the local authorities have shown the best disposition to promote the work, and to prevent extortionate demands for the requisite land; the natives, after a little instruction, making such good "navvies" that no foreign labor will be required; and the middle class willingly become shareholders.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—While the Emperor Louis Napoleon is said to have issued orders for the French navy to be placed on a war-footing, the British government has instituted an examination into the coast defences of England, with a view to their being strengthened. Malta, also, is to be rendered, if possible, stronger than ever. So that both nations are adopting the precautionary maxim—"in time of peace prepare for war!"

A London letter-writer says: "I have just returned from a visit to the Leviathan. She is moored directly opposite where she was built. There is no machinery in her yet; in fact she is a mere skeleton. From inquiries on board I could not learn when she would be finished. I do not think it possible to get her ready for sea before August, and to have her ready by that time will require night and day labor incessantly. There are very few men at work on her now."

The Ohio legislature have agreed to hold an adjourned session, commencing in January next. The biennial session system does not work well in Ohio, and every legislature, with one exception, has disregarded it. It is proposed to amend the constitution, and go back to annual sessions.

A meeting of citizens was held in Philadelphia on Monday night for the purpose of considering the possibility of securing the Collins steamers for the establishment of a line of steamers between Philadelphia and Liverpool. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter.

The American municipal ticket of Annapolis, Maryland, has been elected by an average majority of twenty-five.

BANK STATEMENTS.

New York City.

	March 27.	April 3.		
Loans	$107,095,412	$110,588,354	Inc.	$1,492,942
Specie	30,929,472	31,530,000	Inc.	600,520
Circulation	6,892,231	7,232,342	Inc.	340,101
Nominal deposites	90,614,098	93,560,149	Inc.	2,945,051
Undrawn deposites	74,201,709	76,023,175	Inc.	1,821,466

Philadelphia.

	March 29.	April 5.		
Loans	$21,020,198	$21,657,152	Inc.	$632,954
Specie	5,661,782	5,937,597	Inc.	275,815
Due from banks	1,669,323	1,776,331	Inc.	114,545
Due other banks	2,945,185	3,056,181	Inc.	110,996
Deposites	13,261,599	13,422,318	Inc.	220,719
Circulation	2,296,444	2,647,219	Inc.	350,765

New Orleans.

	March 20.	March 27.		
Specie	$10,897,808	$10,917,636	Inc.	$19,770
Circulation	6,634,454	7,058,240	Inc.	413,815
Deposites	15,765,084	15,792,554	Inc.	27,470
Short loans	16,937,923	16,157,998	Inc.	2,079,074
Exchange	8,776,621	8,880,798	Inc.	104,177
Due distant banks	1,172,552	1,271,084	Inc.	98,532

THE WHEAT CROP.

Throughout over a dozen counties in the State of Illinois, (along the Illinois Central railroad,) besides the counties of Knox, Davies, and Pike, in Indiana, the appearance of the growing wheat crop is favorable. The two most trying months are past, and a very large yield of wheat is likely to be had this season. The fields between Lasalle and Bloomington, and further south, from Centralia to Vincennes and Washington, Indiana, are particularly green and well covered. A large portion of the old crop is still in the hands of farmers, and a disposition is evinced to accept the present ruling rates, which is causing great activity in trade over the whole country.

We are pleased to learn that the growing wheat crop throughout all this section of the country is in a remarkably promising condition. None of it is winter-killed; there is no appearance of bug, and all is healthy and vigorous.—*Fredericksburg (Va.) Recorder.*

THE WHEAT.—An intelligent farmer who has been looking about recently, informs us that he has never known the wheat fields of Southwestern Ohio to present at this season of the year so promising and brilliant an appearance as at present. The winter has not injured the wheat in the West, and there is a glorious prospect for an early and bountiful harvest. Just now there are more signs of spring in the country than last year on the first of May.—*Cincinnati paper.*

WHEAT.—This crop is said to be looking very well in this vicinity, though suffering some just now from want of rain.—*Dan. Register.*

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

YET ANOTHER MURDER.—A cold-blooded murder was yesterday afternoon added to the metropolitan chronicle of crime. Mr. Thomas Berry, the victim, called at the house of his wife's mother, (on Pennsylvania avenue, between 1st and 2d streets east,) to visit his wife, and to change his clothes. While there he was attacked by two Messrs. Devlin, (brothers of his wife,) and by a third person whose name is unknown, and was cruelly murdered. The brothers Devlin were arrested, and, after examination before Justice Goddard, were committed to jail. The testimony was full and conclusive.

It appears from the evidence that Mr. Berry, about two years since, seduced the sister of the Devlin's, but afterwards married her and removed to Ohio. He returned to this vicinity a few weeks since, and had commenced getting up a business directory of Washington. The Devlins have never forgiven him for the wrong done their sister, and have often threatened that they would sooner or later be revenged upon him. They had also warned him never to come near their mother's house.

When they found him there yesterday afternoon they at once attacked him. He retreated into the yard, and they followed him, accompanied by another man. The elder brother (John T. Devlin) caught him, threw him down, and held him fast, until the younger one struck several fatal blows with a dirk-knife at his heart, causing almost instant death. The affair caused a great excitement on Capitol Hill, and it was at one time thought that Judge Lynch would open his court for the summary punishment of the culprits.

THE NATIONAL HOTEL DISEASE OF 1857 is just now freely discussed in the newspapers, and the opinion advanced in the *Union* at the time of the epidemic appears to be gradually gaining ground. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Enquirer, in a recent letter, says:

"Day after day new revelations are being made concerning the fatal National Hotel disease of last winter. So far, every well-authenticated case tends to confirm my theory, published in my letters long ago, viz: that a mineral poison was administered, (whether designedly or not I did not pretend to say,) probably in the sugar used at the table. I particularized that article, because arsenic could be more readily concealed in that than in almost anything else in general use. Now, the developments of the past year, of which I have kept careful watch, show, first, that the sufferers have failed to recover so long as they were treated for any ordinary or extraordinary disease, but that as soon as their medical advisers admitted the possibility of the presence of mineral poison, and directed their efforts towards its eradication from the systems of their patients, they began to mend, and finally got well; secondly, that all those affected were in the habit of drinking tea or coffee, or both, and that those who escaped, and who were at the meals on those days when the attacks dated, either drank neither, or if so, used no sugar. I have conversed and corresponded with many of the sufferers, and have noted, I suppose, all the recorded cases, and as yet have not met a single instance that cannot be included in one or the other of these categories. That there was no local cause for the apparent epidemic is abundantly certain. The house stands where it did, and under precisely the same circumstances, and, though crowded to overflowing since it was reopened, there has not been the slightest appearance of the disease."

THE FRANKLIN FIRE COMPANY, one of the oldest and most respectable organizations in this city, has, by vote, closed its engine-house, and will not at present attend fires. The reason of this is an accusation brought against the company of having behaved improperly while at Alexandria on Sunday last, attending the funeral of one of its members. This misconduct, the company assert, is not to be attributable to them, but to an association of Washington rowdies, known as "Rams," who were in Alexandria at the same time. An investigation has been commenced, and we are assured that the fair fame of the Franklins will in no way be tarnished when the facts of the last Sunday's affair are made known. An authoritative disavowal of any misconduct on the part of the company will probably appear in the Alexandria papers of to-day.

BALTIMORE has the credit of having furnished a large proportion of the rowdies who have, within a year or so, introduced "plug-ugly" manners into this previously quiet city. This can be proven by our police records, and we were somewhat astonished, on Friday last, to find the Baltimore Patriot denouncing this metropolis on account of the "outrage, violence, and murder" committed here by visitors from the monumental city.

We find in the Baltimore Patriot of last night an article which gives an idea of the state of things there. It bears the following heading, which gives an idea of the crime which it chronicles:

"*Outrageous Attempt to Break into a House.—Three of the Perpetrators Shot.—One Dead, and Another Supposed Mortally Wounded.*"

CONGRESS is evidently disposed to take measures for preserving order in the District of Columbia. It will be seen by the report of yesterday's proceedings in the House that notice has been given that a new bill will be introduced into that body, which will provide for the establishment of commissioners of police on the New York plan. This divides the responsibility, and cannot prove as efficient as the system recommended by Senator Brown and Mr. Goode, which give the police a responsible head. This is what is especially needed at the present time.

DISMISSED.—Mayor Magruder has very properly dismissed J. M. Carrico, the watchman who witnessed the attempt at assassination on Capitol Hill but did not disclose it until a week afterwards. We have good reason to believe that in other instances the Mayor has not sanctioned dereliction of duty on the part of the nominal police.

MRS. SLOAN'S BENEFIT.—In consequence of the reception at the White House last evening there was but a slim attendance at the Theatre on the occasion of the benefit of Mrs. Sloan. The performances, however, were quite in keeping with the reputation which the present popular company sustain with the theatre-going population of Washington. Mrs. Sloan is deservedly a great favorite, and we can only express the wish that a more substantial token of approval of her efforts may be vouchsafed to her before she leaves Washington than that of last night. Certain it is that she merits it.

MAYORALTY CONVENTION.—Last night meetings of the anti-know-nothing voters of the city were held in the several wards to select delegates to the mayoralty convention. We give the names of such delegates as were handed to us:

Fourth Ward.—Dr. C. Boyle was chosen president, and B. J. Semmes, esq., secretary. The following delegates were selected: Edward Simms, F. W. Birch, J. F. Coyle, J. Reese, and W. P. Mohun.

Seventh Ward.—The meeting for this ward was held at Potomac Hall. Mr. Charles Allen, the secretary, informs us that the following delegates were chosen: E. M. Clarke, Peter Hepburn, sr., John T. Cassel, Jas. E. Johnson, and H. A. Clarke.

MR. E. R. COATES, of Philadelphia, a fine scholar and writer, and a pleasing speaker, will read an original poem at Temperance Hall this evening. A portion of the proceeds are to be devoted to the orphan asylums.

THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY COMPANY have elected the following board of directors: James F. Halkday, G. J. Abbott, W. Q. Force, J. W. Thompson, Lewis Clephane, Z. W. Denham, Alexander R. Shepherd.

THE REPORT in the *Star* of the visit of a gang of disorderly fellows to the City Hall during the meeting of the citizens' patrol committee is perfectly correct. We cannot imagine what motive a city official can have in attempting to excuse such misconduct, and do not believe that he, or other officials, will find it an easy matter to "muzzle the press."

THE OPERA will be a centre of attraction for the fashionable and music-loving at the metropolis during the short season of four nights. Those wishing good seats will do well to secure them without delay.

APPOINTMENT.—William V. H. Brown, a third-class clerk in the General Land Office, has been appointed principal clerk of the public lands in that office under the act of 4th July, 1836. This appointment does not, of course, conflict with the position or duties of the chief clerkship of the General Land Office, now so ably filled by Joseph S. Wilson, esq.—the duties of the principal clerk of public lands not being defined by law, but such as may from time to time be prescribed by the Commissioner.

SOME RAIN.—The New Orleans papers of the 31st of March all contain notices of a flooding rain in that city on the previous day. The Crescent thus describes it:

"The rain in the morning was one of those which may be properly termed a deluge. It is hardly enough to say that the water fell in torrents. It was an immense douse of water; a perfect crevasse of a celestial ocean; the downfall of a universal cataract, heavy, roaring, and appalling, almost as a hundred Niagaras; the wind all the while battling the falling flood with hurricane fury, and creating a roar above which nothing could be heard; nothing, save the booming of the electric batteries, whose quickly-following flashes spread a supernal fiery hue through the chaos of falling waters! This may seem a hyperbolical, if not a diabolical attempt at the sublime; but all our readers will admit that no plain language could begin to do justice to the storm of yesterday morning. After what we have said, particulars would be superfluous. It is not necessary to say more than that the streets were flooded and the banquettes deeply submerged in all parts of the city, and that for several hours the whole population was more or less waterbound. We have had more violent storms within the past year or two, but not a greater fall of water for the last ten years. The abundance of the electric discharges, both before and after the storm, absorbed the heat which made the weather oppressive the day before; and after the storm the day was quite chilly."

THE LEVIATHAN.—The people of Portland (Maine) are making large calculations on the curiosity of the Americans to see the monster ship, the Leviathan. The *Argus* estimates that 300,000 people will visit Portland to see her. Of these, he says New England ought to furnish 100,000; the British dependencies 50,000; the valley of the Mississippi, 50,000; the Middle States, 100,000; and adds, that this vast army will probably leave in the State, and most of it in the city, $3,000,000, or $10 each. It is easy from this statement to see how much will be saved if these hundreds of thousands have the good sense to stay at home, and read the accounts of the monster, as furnished in the newspapers.

SCHOOLS IN OHIO.—The report of the Ohio commissioners of the common schools, for the year 1857, gives the number of school districts in the State as 8,091; scholars enrolled 602,545; average attendance 350,867; the total number of school youths 843,840; number of male teachers 10,189; female teachers 8,684; paid to male teachers $1,181,819; to female teachers $589,157. The report embraces returns also of nineteen seminaries and eleven colleges. In the colleges there are 1,695 pupils pursuing a full course, and 365 a partial course; and there are in the preparatory department 1,525 pupils. The value of the college property is $675,000, and the endowments amount to $700,000. Their libraries contain, altogether, 80,300 volumes.

WASHINGTON THEATRE.—LAST NIGHT of the Dramatic Season.

BENEFIT OF THE ATTACHES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 7,

By unanimous request, Goldsmith's five act comedy of

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

With an excellent cast.

Dawson's screaming farce of

A KISS IN THE DARK.

On Thursday and Friday the Theatre will be closed in order to prepare for the proper representation of the series of

ITALIAN OPERA.

The first performance of which will occur on SATURDAY, APRIL 10.

Subscription list and box book now open.

The doors will open at 7½; performance commence at 7¾.

April 7 [Int.States'Star.]

THE GREAT BOOK OF THE YEAR, FOR EVERY FAMILY AND EVERY INDIVIDUAL.—Every Methodist, Universalist, Baptist, Congregationalist, Episcopalian, and Unitarian is interested in its circulation. Its title is as follows:

Pitts Street Chapel Lectures.

Delivered in Boston, by Clergymen of six different Denominations, during the Winter of 1858. The questions discussed, and the Clergymen by whom they were defended, were as follow:

1. Why I am a Methodist.—By Rev. W. H. Clark.
2. Why I am a Universalist.—By Rev. Thomas B. Thayer.
3. Why I am a Baptist.—By Rev. James N. Sykes.
4. Why I am a Trinitarian Congregationalist.—By Rev. Dr. Adams.
5. Why I am an Episcopalian.—By Rev. Dr. Randall.
6. Why I am a Unitarian.—By Rev. Dr. Dewey.
7. Spiritual Christianity.—By Rev. T. Starr King.

These Lectures drew crowds of attentive listeners, during their delivery; and, in compliance with the desire of hundreds, it has been published complete in one volume, thus furnishing every inquirer after the true path a guide prepared and defended by its own disciples.

This volume should find a place in every household, for its pages contain the ecclesiastical polity, and denominational views of each of the leading Christian sects in our country.

It is a book for the family and the individual, for old and young, and for the intelligent of both sexes; a book for all seasons, and for every year; a book to be perused and re-perused—a volume both instructive and interesting.

Price $1. Sent free by mail on receipt of $1 50 in stamps, or otherwise. For sale at FRANKLIN PHILIP'S New Bookstore, 332 Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th sts.

Ap 7

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.—Just published a fine Lithographic Portrait of the Hon. JAMES L. ORR. Price one dollar, at PHILIP'S New Bookstore, 332 Penn. avenue, bet. 9th and 10th sts.

Ap 7

ENGLISH STATIONERY.—The best assortment of the finest qualities. For sale at PHILIP'S New Bookstore, 332 Penn. avenue, bet. 9th and 10th streets.

Ap 7

BLACK "TAMARTINE" AND "GRENADINE Berege," new articles for Ladies in Black.

Our stock of all the leading staples in mourning goods is now unusually large.

One price only, marked in plain figures; hence inexperienced buyers are never overcharged.

All bills presented for payment monthly in cash.

We decline opening any new accounts.

PERRY & BROTHER, "Central Stores," west building, opposite Centre Market.

Mar 31—10tdif

Notice.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, April 9, 1858.

Parties entitled to duties on woollen goods shipped by Messrs. W. & J. Brown & Co., of Liverpool, refunded by the British government, are informed that a list has been furnished by that firm; and that payments will be made to those authorized to receive them on application to this department.

April 6—3tif

WASHINGTON THEATRE.—ITALIAN OPERA.

Mr. STUART has the pleasure to announce that he has concluded an engagement with the renowned director,

MAX MARETZEK,

by which he will be enabled to give four

GRAND OPERA NIGHTS,

commencing on Saturday, the 10th of April