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Hon W H Seward

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NEWS OF THE DAY.

FOREIGN NEWS.

The steamer Palestine, from Liverpool, which arrived yesterday, brings a report of the Emperor Napoleon's speech to the Legislature, on the 22d, in which he announced that arrangements were being made to withdraw the French troops from Mexico, and expressed that this would pacify the people of the United States.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate Mr. Pomeroy presented a petition of citizens of Massachusetts, asking for universal suffrage.

Mr. Sumner reported a bill to authorize the President to appoint a diplomatic agent to the republic of Dominica.

Mr. Doolittle gave notice of his intention to introduce an amendment to the joint resolution fixing the basis of representation.

Mr. Sumner continued his speech of Monday upon the amendment, upon the conclusion of which the Senate went into executive session.

The House passed the joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Admiral Farragut and his officers and men.

The Freedmen's Bureau bill was passed by a vote of 136 to 53.

A sharp passage at arms occurred between Mr. Rosseau, of Kentucky, and Mr. Grinnell, of Iowa.

The resolution giving the consent of Congress to the transfer of Berkely and Jefferson counties from Virginia to West Virginia was passed.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Considerable routine business was transacted in both houses. The President laid before the Senate the reply of Judge Bond to the communication of the committee appointed to inquire whether any of the judges of the State have contravened the decision of the Court of Appeals confirming the constitutionality of the law relating to negro apprentices.

In the House the Sunday law bill was recommitted to the Committee of Ways and Means.

The petition of 11,000 citizens of Baltimore for the repeal of the registry law, was reported back from the Committee of Registration and ordered to be printed.

The bill to incorporate the Harford and Cecil county Boom Company was received from the Senate, and a motion to print the same was rejected.

GENERAL NEWS.

Gold sold yesterday at 139½ and 139⅜, closing at the latter figure.

A report of the opening proceedings in the Mount Hope case may be found in another column.

A grand military ball was given at the Spotswood Hotel, Richmond, on last Friday night.

It has been decided that Government vouchers are not negotiable.

Nearly all the three-cent currency has been redeemed, and no more of it will be issued.

During the rebellion, it is stated, officially, that over seventeen thousand courts-martial were held.

A portion of the galleries of the Senate Chamber at Washington has been set aside for the colored spectators.

The Unitarians have subscribed $121,429.39 for the endowment of Antioch College. In Providence alone the sum of $29,500 was raised.

The naval race between the Winooski and Algonquin has been postponed on account of the present severe weather.

The bill heretofore passed by the Georgia Legislature, making valid all contracts between whites and freedmen, has been vetoed by the Governor.

The Germans of Cincinnati are violently opposed to permitting their countrymen to go South under contracts with planters, denouncing such contracts as a species of slavery.

There were 458 deaths in New York last week—96 men, 98 women, 117 boys and 147 girls—a decrease of 36 from the previous week, and of 15 compared with the corresponding week of last year.

A female clerk has just received an appointment in the Internal Revenue Bureau, who was in the Treasury Department of the rebel States until the fall of Richmond.

Southern papers say that Mr. Miller, treasury agent at Camden, Ark., has been placed under arrest by Gen. Mays, in command at that place, for malfeasance in office.

A verdict for $9,500 in favor of Mr. Bucky against the city of Chicago, was rendered on Tuesday. The plaintiff had suffered severely from a fall through an opening light in the sidewalk. The city has given notice of motion for a new trial.

A regiment of white United States troops, stationed at Camden, Ark., headed by a sergeant, a few days since proceeded, with a band of music, to Gen. Mays' headquarters, and asked him to pay them, or feed them better, or discharge them.

Evening sessions of the House of Representatives will be held hereafter to furnish opportunity for the members to ventilate their sentiments on that fruitful topic—the President's Message. Good arrangement.

The annual ball of the Brooklyn Fire Department was given on Monday evening with great success. The fund of the charitable organization now amounts to about $60 000, and $4,000 was added by this ball.

The Philadelphians are getting quite excited over the demonstrations in a house in South Fifth street, which strongly resemble the spiritual demonstrations at Rochester and other places two or three years ago.

The United States Consul at Honolulu informs the Department of State that about 100 seamen captured on an American whaleship by the pirate Shenandoah, and landed on the Ascension Islands, had reached Honolulu on their way to the United States.

In the suit brought by Josephine Skillman and Sarah E. Onderdonk against the city of Brooklyn, in the Supreme Court in that city, and which has been on trial for the last three days, to recover the value of a house destroyed by a mob in June, 1865, the jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

Reports received by the Commissioner of the General Land Office indicate that last month over forty thousand acres of the public domain were settled in the Western States and Territories, under the provisions of the Homestead Act and by cash settlements.

Three soldiers of the 12th Maine Regiment are now on trial in Savannah, (Ga.) charged with the murder of A. Cordes. The evidence shows that the murderers were United States uniforms, but claim to fix the guilt on the parties on trial. It is thought they will be acquitted.

An order has been received from Washington for the extradition of George Gustaff, who was held in New York on a charge of administering poison to one McKennon, in Toronto, Canada. One of the United States Deputy Marshals will escort the prisoner and deliver him over to the Canadian authorities.

The latest advices from Havana report that on the 31st ult., a Spanish war steamer left that port in great haste, in pursuit, it was supposed, of some Chilean privateer. The Gran Opera troupe arrived at Havana, on the steamship Eagle, on the 30th ult., and received the compliment of a serenade shortly after their arrival.

A letter from a gentleman in Hayti, giving an account of the visit of Secretary Seward to that republic, during his late West India trip, says that the interview between him and President Geffrard was very cordial and friendly, and lasted for about two hours. On the departure of the Secretary a salute in his honor was fired by the Haytien war steamer Galatea.

Another meeting of the stockholders of the Columbian Marine Insurance Company was held in New York on Monday, when, after the transaction of some other business in regard to the late suspension of that institution, charges of mismanagement being made against some of the directors, a proposition was submitted requesting two of those gentlemen to resign, and urging that if they should refuse to do so, legal means be taken to coerce them.

The examination in the libel suit of Mr. A. T. Stewart, of New York, against the correspondent and proprietor of the St. Louis *Republican*, was held yesterday morning before Justice Dowling of the Tombs Police Court. Mr. Knapp, the proprietor, disowned all complicity in the publication of the libel, and he was therefore discharged. Mr. Colburn, the writer of the alleged libel is held to await the result of the action of the grand jury, and admitted to bail.

A widow lady, named Mrs. Henrietta Watts, from Dayton, Ohio, accompanied by her children, arrived in Chicago on Wednesday. On the cars going there she formed the acquaintance of a man, who after many professions as to her history, proposed to marry her. To this she consented, and they proceeded to a hotel for that purpose. While there, the man, by the practice of his strategy, got possession of $250 belonging to Mrs. Watts and absconded, leaving her entirely destitute in a strange city.

Secretary of the Treasury McCulloch has issued a circular announcing that on the 1st of March next will terminate the provisions of the Department concession some time ago made, by which articles manufactured in the States lately in rebellion before the establishment there of internal Revenue collection districts, but still retained in manufacturer's possession until after such establishment, should be held free from the revenue assessments until transported beyond the limits of the State.

General Spinner, on Saturday, mailed to Europe for collection three captured drafts of fifty pounds each, drawn by Colonel Harrison, of Jeff. Davis' military family, to the order of Secretary Trenholm, and by him endorsed, upon Brown, Shipley & Co., rebel bankers of Liverpool. Several captured English drafts have heretofore been sent forward for collection, but returned with the endorsement of no funds. As the Government has knowledge that these are good, the action of the Liverpool bankers is awaited with special interest.

The large worsted mill near the North Providence line, R. I., was nearly consumed by fire on Saturday. It employed six hundred hands, and was run day and night. Two hundred persons were in the building when the fire broke out. The doors and lower windows were fastened, causing a terrible panic among the women, who leaped from the second and third stories to escape the flames and suffocation, many of them fracturing their limbs and receiving other severe injuries. There is a rumor that some were unable to escape and perished in the burning mill. The loss of property is from $200,000 to $300,000.

Gold Pens.

"In the selection of a wife another important matter is, that she should write well. A lady who neglects to cultivate this accomplishment is, not unlikely, deficient in other essential qualities."—CHESTERFIELD.

Gifts for the Girls; gifts for the Boys;
A useful gift, not useless toys—
Something to have, something to hold;
Suitable, too, for young and old—

A Good Gold Pen!

Gold Pens.

In solid Gold Holders!
In solid Silver Holders!
Suitable for Ladies!
Suitable for Gentlemen!

'Twill please the ladies and the men.
Each line they write they'll bless the pen;
The giver bless, and praise the taste
That gave for use and not for waste—

A Good Gold Pen!

Gold Pens.

In Gold mounted Rubber Holders!!

In desk Holders of every variety!

Put up in cases of rich velvet for presents.

AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

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GOLD PEN MANUFACTURERS,

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The Baltimore Sewing Machine Agency is what has long been desired in our city—a place where all the standard machines of all the valuable manufactories can be examined into.

WHERE all the machines with their various improvements are explained; WHERE there is no partiality to any particular machine; WHERE a thorough trial is given to any machine purchased and exchanged, if desired, and WHERE every machine is warranted and sold at *Factory Prices.*

Special attention paid to the repairing of all kinds of sewing machines. Also, sewing machines for rent.

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DREADFUL STEAMBOAT DISASTERS.

Particulars of the Explosions on Board the Miama and Missouri—Two Hundred and Sixty Lives Lost—Scenes and Incidents.

The Western papers bring full accounts of the terrible explosions on board the steamers Miami and Missouri, already reported briefly.

THE MIAMI—DREADFUL SCENES.

This steamer left Memphis on Saturday night, January 27, loaded to her guards with freight, and carrying about fifty passengers in her cabin and one hundred deck passengers, consisting of Company E, of the 3d United States Infantry, and a mixed crew of fifty men.

The boat reached Napoleon, Arkansas, about sundown, without any mishap, and rounded from the Mississippi into the Arkansas river, well controlled by engineers and pilot, until about seven miles up from the confluence of the rivers, when the starboard boiler exploded. The cause of the explosion is unknown. The boat then caught fire and burned to the water's edge, carrying to an untimely death two hundred and twenty-five human beings. The accident occurred after tea, and just as a majority of the cabin passengers were congregated around the stove in the forward part of the cabin, and the soldiers on the bureaux deck came forward in obedience to a call from one of their comrades to come forward for their ration of whisky, into the air went heads and arms and legs, the headless and limbless bodies; and others, into broken boilers or burning deck, through great chasms made by the explosion, went nearly two hundred souls; while others ran back to where the remainder of the passengers were affrighted, were preparing to jump overboard and find escape on floating doors or logs. Some soldiers, ablaze with fire, others scalded, and in their agony tearing at their throats, jumped overboard and were lost, while a few more fortunate and but slightly burned, pushed some bales of hay overboard, and riding on them found the shore.

All the women on board except a German woman jumped overboard in their fright, and were lost; not, however, before some of them had endured the most heartrending agony from internal scalding. The most sickening sight was the burning death of two soldiers of the Third regulars, who, for disorderly and unruly conduct, were tied up by their thumbs to the jackstaff a little before the explosion. The dreadful accident carried off the lieutenant commanding and all the non-commissioned officers and such men as escaped death by fire and steam had jumped overboard; so there was none near to obey the calls of the poor fellows to be released, which could be heard above the noise of cracking timbers, nor to assist their frantic efforts to unloose the cords that bound them; and there, tied securely, they waited in terror and dismay until the flames had burned the deck from under them, and they fell a prey to the devouring elements—officer and punished were together in eternity.

INCIDENTS.

Major Rankin supplied Mrs. Lusk and her child with a door, in hopes of saving them, but they were but a short distance from the shore; but they were taken away to meet husband and father, who was among the first killed by the explosion, as was Mr. Charles J. Johnson, another clerk, who was standing beside him in the office at the time.

About fifty dead were buried along the bank. One drowned man had one thousand two hundred dollars on his person.

Two men, names not known, blew out their brains with pistols, preferring to die that way rather than burn to death.

THE MISSOURI—PART OF THE PASSENGERS SAVED.

The disaster to the Missouri was caused by racing. The steamer left New Orleans, January 23, for Cairo. A letter to the Cincinnati *Commercial*, dated at Jeffersonville, Indiana, January 30, says: "The Missouri and Silver Moon came up from below last night, and for some hours raced hard; but though for fifteen minutes the two boats were head and head, the Silver Moon could not pass her competitor, and then raked down the fires.

When the Silver Moon arrived here, near midnight, she found the Missouri lying at our wharf. It seems that the Missouri left about 1 o'clock, and then commenced a race with the Dictator, and near the mouth of Green river, some twelve miles distant by river but seven by land, the Missouri was blown up, and the Dictator being very near took off all the persons on the ill-fortuned steamer that could be found, and proceeded on her way to Newburg, ten miles by land, and taking on Dr. Gaucher to render medical and surgical aid to the wounded.

Sixty persons are supposed to have been lost. Captain J. Y. Hurd was severely, though not mortally wounded; Mrs. Hurd, wife of the captain, was killed; Henry Hurd, one of the pilots and eldest son of the captain, had his leg badly shattered; Arthur Hurd, second clerk, and his little brother, also sons of the captain, were scalded. Mr. Wayland clerk of the boat, was saved. He is, however, severely hurt. The first and second mates were saved. The first engineer was killed; the second engineer and striker were rescued, both severely scalded. The bartender was hurt by falling timbers.

Nearly all the hands of the boat—numbering perhaps sixty—were lost.

INCIDENTS.

The survivors lost all their clothing, money and other valuables. Nearly all of them had no apparel, save their night clothing, when rescued.

A gentleman and his wife, from Massachusetts, escaped with the loss of all their baggage, including $900, and a fine gold watch, jewelry, &c., which they had placed under their mattress.

In searching among the ruins, the body of a middle aged lady was discovered and taken out of the wreck. From the location of the body, it was surmised that the lady was the wife of Captain Hurd. She was clad in her night clothes. Her head and face was somewhat disfigured, but, notwithstanding this, a gentleman who had seen her before death, expressed himself quite positively as to her identity.

A frightful gash on the head indicated that she was killed instantaneously by a piece of timber or splinter of the wreck, which crushed her skull and laid bare her brain. She had one or two bruises on the body.

The Missouri's deck crew numbered about seventy men. A large number of those were asleep under the boilers at the time of the explosion. Of those under the boilers not one escaped.

—Louisiana is an amiable State under the new order of things. The *True Delta* says that in one parish sixty persons are under arrest charged with killing negroes.

LATEST TELEGRAPH NEWS

TO THE

DAILY COMMERCIAL.

FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER PALESTINE

Napoleon's Address to French Legislature

THE FRENCH TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM MEXICO.

LATEST COMMERCIAL NEWS, &c.

BOSTON, Feb. 6.—The steamer Palestine, from Liverpool on the 23d ult., has arrived.

The Emperor Napoleon, in his speech to the Legislature on the 22d, said: "Arrangements are being made to withdraw the French troops from Mexico, and it is hoped that this will pacify the people of the United States, who were invited to join the expedition, but declined, although such expeditions are not opposed to their interests." The remainder of the speech refers purely to home matters.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 22.—Cotton—There has been but little doing in the Liverpool Cotton market. The sales to-day were 8,000 bales. Prices unchanged.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—Consols closed dull at 86⅝@87 for money, and 87⅜@87½ for account. U. S. 5-20's opened strong at an advance, but closed easier.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Burning of a Steamer Ladened with Cotton—The Steamer H. K. Carter Disaster—One Hundred and Twenty-Five Lost, &c.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 5.—The steamer Mary A. Brunner, with 800 bales of cotton, was burned at the mouth of Red River on the 31 inst. The passengers and crew were saved.

All the merchants of Matamoras are thumping up claims to be presented for losses in Bagdad, believing that the United States will pay them all.

It is reported that Escobedo is in Montreal, but Mexican news is very unreliable.

There is a prospect of a further forced loan in Matamoras.

Two hundred passengers were on the steamer H. R. Carter, of whom one hundred and twenty-five were lost at the lowest estimate. Eight bodies were taken from the river yesterday and to-day, among them Mrs. Osterman, Mrs. David Noll, of Texas, Mrs. Morris and Mr. J. Brewer, paymaster. Dr. Coale Bouno, of Yazoo City, Dr. T. L. Vick, and Lieutenant Williams, of Vicksburg, are known to be lost.

From Fort Monroe.

FORT MONROE, Feb. 5.—The steamers W. P. Clyde, from Wilmington, and Ellen S. Terry, from Newbern, North Carolina, both bound to New York, came in the harbor on account of the heavy weather outside. The following vessels sailed hence yesterday and to-day: Schooners Whitney Long, for New London; Imogene, S. W. Simmons, J. Hecht, Emma Prindall, and Henry Kirk, all for New York.

The following vessels still remain here: Bark Eliza Raymond, with cargo sugar for New York; brig Leonard Myers, with tobacco for Baltimore: schooner Mary Evans, with oysters for New York. Also, schooners Convoy and Clara Belle.

The bark Waredale, from Porto Rico for Baltimore, with a cargo of sugar, has been fined $500 for having no manifest when boarded by the revenue officers.

Fenian Sensation Reports.

NEW YORK, Feb'y 6.—The *Express* says that a movement is being initiated among the O'Mahoney Fenians to solicit the interference of Secretary Seward in behalf of Irish American citizens who have been found guilty in Ireland of being Fenians in America. The Fenian leaders are said to have a list of thirty British spies, who are constantly watching their movements.

The *Express* says that there are sensation telegrams in town from Canada, announcing that the Fenian alarm is spreading, and that in many places volunteers have been called out. That Ottowa is being garrisoned, and that the sentinels stationed around the powder magazine at St. Helen's Island have been doubled.

From New Orleans—The Bagdad Affair—Destitution in Alabama.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 5.—Civil proceedings have been commenced by the Texas State officers at Brownsville, against parties implicated in the Bagdad affair. There are upwards of 12,000 persons in Alabama who will require an expenditure of two millions per annum to relieve them.

Labor prospects on the Red River plantations are more cheering. The freedmen are disposed to give better satisfaction.

Ship News—Obstruction of New York Harbor by Ice.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The schooner Ira Laffriener, of Bath for New Bedford, which went ashore on Romer Shoal last Sunday, has been gotten off, and arrived here to-night.

The East and North rivers are filled with floating ice, and the harbor also. Navigation by sailing vessels is impossible, and steamers make but slow progress.

The Naval Race.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The race between the Winooski and Algonquin has been postponed on account of the ice and the present severe weather. Both vessels were ready and considerable disappointment was felt at the delay. The race will come off when a change for the better occurs in the weather.

Virginia Expressions of Loyalty.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The House adopted a substitute to-day for the loyalty resolutions from the Senate, expressing sounder sentiments in different language, and providing for a committee from each House to proceed to Washington and communicate a copy of the resolutions to the President.

The Forged Custom House Bonds.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Judge Shipman of the United States Circuit Court, has granted a motion to quash the indictment against Messrs. Fabian, Barney and Channey, charged with altering forged custom house bonds, being satisfied that the court had no power to try the case.

Reconstruction in the Church.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Bishop Elliott, of Georgia, gives official notice of the reunion of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia with the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.

Paper Mill Burnt.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—The St. Charles paper mill, at St. Charles, Illinois, the largest paper mill in the West, was burned on Sunday night. Loss $110,000—insured for $20,000.

The Governor General of Canada.

MONTREAL, Feb. 6.—The Governor General, Lord Monck, is expected to arrive by the Australasain now nearly due at New York.

From Memphis.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 5.—The steamer Gen. Halleck, lying at the levee here, caught fire this morning and burned up.

Fire in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 5.—This afternoon the building No. 170 West Fifth street was destroyed by fire. The loss is about $5,000.

Southern Railroads Restored.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The Savannah *Herald* states that the railway connections to Augusta, Ga., are now perfect.

FROM WASHINGTON.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The following nominations were confirmed by the Senate to-day in executive session: Commander James M. Fardy, to be a captain in the navy; Lieut. Commander Edward Barrett, to be a commander; Edwin H. Webster, to be collector of customs for the district of Baltimore, Md.; S. Garfield, of Washington Territory, to be surveyor general for said Territory; George N. Black, of Illinois, to be receiver of the land district of Springfield, Illinois; John Wilson, of Peoria, Illinois, to be consul at Antwerp; Nathaniel Usher, of Indiana, to be district attorney for the northern district of Florida; G. W. Hazleton, of Columbus, Wisconsin, to be collector of internal revenue for the second collection district of Wisconsin; Fitz Henry Warren, of Iowa, to be minister resident to Guatemala.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' LEAGUE.

Hon. John W. Forney delivered a lecture this evening before the Soldiers' and Sailors' National Union League. Gen. J. B. Kidder presided. Letters were received and read from General Meade and General George H. Thomas. During the delivery of the lecture, Lieut. Gen. Grant entered the hall, and was received with immense applause. Col. Forney spoke for about an hour, recounting the services rendered to the country by the soldiers during the rebellion, and concluded as follows:

You will recollect, members of the Soldiers' and Sailors' National Union League, when you did me the honor to invite me to address you, I frankly stated that I did not think you had taken the proper course to promote the objects set forth in the preamble to your constitution.

These objects are the employment of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors; the equalization of the bounties of the soldiers of 1861 and 1862 with the bounties paid to those enlisting later in the war; provision for the widows and orphans of your fallen comrades, and for the speedy settlement of their claims, and to extend to members who, by sickness and other misfortunes, are prevented from pursuing their avocations, such aid as will alleviate their great suffering. In Washington city there is nothing less likely to succeed than an attempt to raise money by public lectures. In this great national forum, where the ripest intellects of the nation deliberate daily upon affairs of state, and where the noblest oratory is invoked to the vindication of immortal principles, it is natural that the citizen should prefer to take his seat in the gallery of the Senate or the House, and gather instruction and inspiration from the scene.

These opportunities, open to all, give to occasions like this a cold and tame appearance and undoubtedly defeat any such object as raising money by public speeches; yet, I have not been unmindful of your unchallenged charms to public gratitude. Having entertained and acted upon this sentiment throughout the war, it has been my study to do all in my power to keep alive the public sense of your inestimable services, and to contribute to their substantial recognition. With this view I sought for some practical way to assist your praiseworthy enterprise. I think I have been fortunate in making what is a fair beginning.

Although my name appears as one of the corporators in what is intended to be an organization for the establishment of a grand Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at the National Capital, I have believed that it would be more consistent to confide the management of such an institution at this point to the brave men who have earned the blessings of their country and the confidence of their fellow-citizens in civil life. Knowing their own comrades, their habits and their wants, their families and their friends, it occurred to me that they would be stimulated by a natural rivalry to do their uttermost to fulfil the object of such an organization, and to realize the expectations of their fellow-soldiers and fellow-citizens.

Under their direction, liberally encouraged by the people, there ought to be founded at the city of Washington, a complete and comprehensive national benevolence. With these views, anticipating this occasion, and thinking I would be doing much more good than by pronouncing a dozen such lectures as that you have heard, I applied to several of my friends for such assistance as they might be free to extend to your noble undertaking, and I have great pleasure now in stating that I am authorized to pay over to your treasurer the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, to be appropriated for the object set forth in your constitution.

In justice to the prompt zeal and liberality with which they responded to my request, I deem it proper that I should give you a list of their names, as follows: Joseph Harrison, Jr., Philadelphia, $500; Capt. R. F. Loper, Philadelphia, $500; Thomas A. Scott, Philadelphia, $500; Wm. Hunter, Jr., Philadelphia, $250; Marshall J. Roberts, New York, $500; in all $2,250.

THE NIGHT SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE.

The night session in the House of Representatives for debate only on the President's message, are, according to the resolution adopted on the motion of representative Stevens, to continue until otherwise directed. It was passed in order to afford seventy or more members an opportunity to deliver speeches, long since carefully prepared. But even this opportunity is not at all times embraced. One evening last week five or six members came together and immediately adjourned, and to-night a representative had the slim auditory entirely to himself for a few minutes while he spoke of the harbor of Erie. Nobody else cared to continue the gloomy proceedings by letting off his carefully prepared essay or speech to empty benches. It is the understanding that no business shall be transacted at the evening session other than the delivery of speeches.

These are all written, and some of them read from printed slips, and then inserted in the *Congressional Globe*. It is a mistake to suppose that the proceedings are intended beyond what is above stated.

REPORT OF THE MILITARY COUNCIL.

The *Star* says the Councils of the major generals of the army, which finished its conferences on Saturday last, has, it is understood, submitted its report to Senator Wilson, Chairman of the Senate Military Committee. It is said they make several suggestions in opposition to admitting volunteer officers into the regular army, and would modify to a considerable extent the bill for the reorganization of the army; and that they approve of the bill for the re-establishment of the state militia, and recommend some additional changes towards perfecting the regular army bill. The proposition to increase the number of cadets one hundred and fifty, so that each State may have two cadets, and seventy-five to be appointed from the sons of officers and soldiers who have been killed in the service, has, it is said, been approved by them.

REDEMPTION OF UNITED STATES STOCKS.

The rules adopted for the redemption of fractional and other United States notes that, from whatever cause, have become unfit for circulation, contemplate and require the co-operation of the national banks that are designated depositaries in the work of redemption, except such notes as by the rules of the department are designated and described as mutilated. And by the term mutilated is meant notes not worth their full face value. Some of these banks do not seem to have understood or have been unwilling to accept this duty and afford holders of money, which ought to be relieved from circulation, more ample means for the redemption or exchange of defaced United States notes and fractional currency, and such notes as by said rules are defined as *mutilated* and subject, therefore, to discount at the Treasury.

Additional rules and regulations have been adopted by the Treasury Department, in which, among other things, it is provided that wherever a holder of any United States currency shall present to an Assistant Treasurer of the United States, United States depository or national bank, which is a designated depository of the United States notes which, in the aggregate, shall be of the nominal value of $30 or over, which notes shall have been carefully assorted, strapped, labelled, and then put up in one parcel, in conformity with the rules approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, April 21st, 1865, for the redemption of such notes, it shall be the duty of such officer or bank to receive such parcel of notes and give to the owner thereof, either the value of the same in money or a receipt conditioned on the payment of the proceeds of such parcel of notes or returns therefor shall have been received from the Treasurer of the United States. Such parcel must be securely done up with the owner's name, the amount claimed and the date plainly written thereon.

No national bank notes, whether mutilated or not, are redeemable by the Treasurer unless they are the notes of banks in liquidation. Such notes are redeemable only by the banks which issued them.

DESTITUTE FREEDMEN OF ANNAPOLIS.

Reports from citizens of Annapolis having been received at the Freedmen's Bureau stating that a great deal of suffering and destitution existed among the freedmen of that city, Lieut. S. N. Clark visited Annapolis last week, with instructions to inquire into the condition of the colored people. He reports very little destitution among them. All were at work, and there seemed to be an abundance of employment for them. The city authorities expressed themselves capable and willing to provide for all cases of suffering that might occur.

GRADE OF GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

The Military Committee of the House voted this morning against the bill creating the grade of general in the army of the United States. The pay is to be an increase of $150 per month over the pay of the Lieutenant General under existing laws.

PARDONS.

But little can be done in the granting of pardons, on account of the pressure of business at the State Department, where a large number are awaiting the signature of the Secretary of State. A number of such applications were forwarded from the Attorney General's office to-day.

WHITE HOUSE.

This being one of the Cabinet days, but few persons called on the President; among the few who obtained interview was Senator Cook, of Illinois. All of the members of the Cabinet were in attendance.

Treasury Circular.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5, 1866.—The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following order:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Feb. 2, 1866.

On September 14, 1865, an order was issued by this Department, under the power conferred by section 46 of the Internal Revenue Act of June 30, 1864, directing that articles manufactured in States lately in insurrection prior to the establishment of collection districts therein, but retained in possession of the manufacturer until after such establishment, and thus made liable to the current rates of taxation, should be held free from present assessment until transported beyond the limits of the above-mentioned States, and should then be subjected only to the tax duty at the time of transportation. Referred.

The reasons for this exemption were stated briefly at the time of its allowance. It was induced by the practical difficulties in assessing articles of the law, retained large quantities of their products in their own hands, and by the supposed additional fact that much of the property so retained had greatly deteriorated in value and consequently had become now been given for the disposal of the manufactures, there is no good reason for continuing a privilege inconsistent with the general provisions of the law, adverse to the interest of Northern manufacturers, and susceptible, as experience has shown, of very great abuse.

It is therefore hereby ordered that on and after March 1st, 1866, all articles manufactured in the possession of the manufacturer, shall be held subject to the present rate of duty. No exception being made in any case on account of the date of manufacture.

Secretary of the Treasury.

An Important Law About to go into Operation.

By the tenth section of an act approved March 3, 1865, (12 Statutes at Large, p. 755,) it is enacted that every claim against the United States, cognizable by the Court of Claims, shall be forever barred unless the petition setting forth a full statement of the claim be filed in the court, or transmitted to it within six years after the claim first accrues, provided that claims accrued six years before the passage of the act shall not be barred if presented within three years after the passage of the act.

Thus all claims against the United States cognizable by the Court of Claims, and of more than six years standing, will be barred after the 3d of March, 1866.

The claims cognizable by said court are: 1. All claims founded upon any law of Congress; 2, upon any regulation of the Executive Department; 3, upon any contract, express or implied, *except* (1) claims growing out of or dependent on any treaty stipulation, and (2) claims for property damaged, destroyed, or appropriated by the army or navy engaged in the suppression of the rebellion.

The above limitation, though contained in an act respecting the Court of Claims, has been by many supposed to extend to "all claims against the United States," whether prosecuted before the departments or offered to be set off by defendants in suits by the United States against them as debtors.

IMPORTANT TO MANUFACTURERS.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue recently received a letter from parties inquiring for what period they may be allowed, in making their monthly returns, to deduct from the value of products the cost of wheels, axles, springs, &c., on which the duty has been paid, and which they use in the manufacture of carriages. In answer the Commissioner says that "the general principle of the excise law is that each particular manufacture is taxed for its value, though articles used in its production are in themselves manufactures on which the duty has been previously paid. Carriages are liable to duty on their entire value, though wheels, axles, springs, &c., used in their production, have previously paid tax."

"CONSCIENCE."—Yesterday the United States Treasurer received from an unknown correspondent fifty cents, as a contribution toward the "conscience fund." In the letter, transmitting the amount, the correspondent states that he had "defrauded the Government out of fifty cents by using postage-stamps taken from envelopes which had not been cancelled." The following grandiloquent expression is used in conclusion of the letter: "I take this method to relieve my mind, as *I have always been*, and wish to continue to be *honest* to my employers, my Government, and my God!"

CHEEK.—The Washington *Republican* says: One of the most alarming exhibitions imaginable of faith in human forgiveness and governmental forbearance was presented on Friday last, in the appearance at the Treasury Department of the wife of the notorious guerilla, John S. Mosby, asking for the payment of the value of certain tobacco, of which, it is alleged, her chivalrous husband was unjustly deprived by the Yankee Government in the capture of Richmond. It is understood the money was not paid.

FEDERAL DEAD AT BELLE ISLE.—Col. G. B. Cadwallader, Assistant Quartermaster, having been directed to inspect Belle Isle, Virginia, in order to ascertain the number and condition of the Union soldiers there buried, reports that a tract about one hundred yards square has been set apart on the Isle, enclosed with a substantial board fence, which contains one hundred and fifty bodies, of which one hundred and twenty-three are legibly marked, with good head and foot boards.

Mrs. Gardiner Greene, who died in Boston last week at the age of ninety-five years, was the only person living there who sailed from the Province of Massachusetts under the British flag just before the revolution. With her brother, the late Lord Lyndhurst, and a sister, she embarked for England in the last vessel that left our shores under the English ensign. The three children then went to England to visit her father, the famous painter J. S. Copley, who was at that time receiving much patronage from the patrons of art in London. She lived ninety years after meeting her father in England upon his return from Italy.

A large meeting of tenants was held in Richmond on Saturday, Mayor Saunders presiding, the object of which was to devise means of relief from the exorbitant rents demanded by landlords in that city. It was represented that already the trade and population of the city are being diminished by the blighting influence of high rents; that many merchants, mechanics and manufacturers are not realizing profit enough from their business to pay their rent, and that a continuance of the present rates would drive trade and population from the city, and permanently impair the fee simple value of all the real estate in the city.

XXXIXTH CONGRESS.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Substitute Offered by Mr. Doolittle.

SPEECH BY MR. SUMNER.

PASSAGE OF FREEDMEN'S BUREAU BILL.

Passage at Arms Between Messrs. Rosseau and Grinnell.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.

PETITION FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Pomeroy presented the petition of citizens of Massachusetts, asking for universal suffrage. Referred to the Joint Committee on Reconstruction.

DIPLOMATIC AGENT TO DOMINICA.

Mr. Sumner, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill to authorize the President to appoint a diplomatic agent to the Republic of Dominica.

CLAIMS FOR ARMY SUPPLIES.

On motion of Mr. Willey, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to inquire into the expediency of making provision by law for the auditing and payment of claims of loyal citizens in the rebel States for quartermaster's stores or subsistence supplies furnished or taken for the use of the armies of the United States.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

The morning hour having expired, the consideration of the proposed Constitutional Amendment giving the consent of Congress to the transfer of the counties of Berkely and Jefferson from Virginia to West Virginia.

Mr. Doolittle gave notice of his intention to propose the following amendment, and asked that it be printed.

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

After the census to be taken in the year eighteen hundred and seventy, and each succeeding census, representatives shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to the number in each State of male electors, over twenty-one years of age, qualified by the laws thereof to choose members of the most numerous branch of its legislature; and, direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States, according to the value of the real and personal taxable property situate in each State, not belonging to the State or to the United States.

Mr. Sumner commenced with the fourth head of his argument, expounding the features of a republican government according to American ideas, and reviewed the public acts of the States, at the period of the adoption of the Constitution, and asserted that they had declined to make any distinction in the elective franchise on account of color or race. The Continental Congress had also positively declined to insert the word "white" in the article of confederation. With the exception of South Carolina, there was no State Constitution in which the word "white" appeared. You cannot reject the opinions of the fathers.

Referring to the possible objection that might be urged against this, because of the temporary recognition of slavery when the Constitution was adopted, he contended that its framers did not recognize slavery as a permanent part of our system, but treated it as exceptional and transitory; also that according to the nomenclature of Blackstone's commentaries, the slave was legally and politically regarded as a part of the family of his master, and like a wife or child, the slave was represented by the head of the family, *who paid the taxes on his account*, and therefore, the cardinal principles of the revolution, associating taxation and representation, was not violated in any degree. Alexander Hamilton, as if anticipating the very question before us, had proclaimed in the Federalist, "that if the laws were to restore the rights which have been taken away, the negroes could no longer be refused an equal share of representation with other inhabitants." He then said that this new idea was the grand discovery of our fathers, and to deny them of this would be to take from them their highest title to gratitude.

He next advanced to a condition of the present status of the rebel States, and said the census tables showed that 3,600,000 colored citizens were suffering the tyranny of taxation without representation. Why reject their power, and take from them their money. He then gave the negro population of the late slave States. Virginia disfranchises