NEW ORLEANS REPUBLICAN.

SINGLE COPIES: FIVE CENTS. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. TERMS: $12 PER ANNUM.

VOLUME IX.—NO. 255. NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1876. WHOLE NUMBER 2716.

THE STATE HOUSE.

Senate.

Monday morning most of the members stood around in the hall, prepared to enter on a week's work cheerfully.

Mr. Anderson introduced a long petition from city property holders, complaining of the financial condition of New Orleans, asserting that from their standpoint the city's real debt is less than $9,000,000.

Mr. Anderson handed in a petition from some citizens of Brashear protesting against changing the name of that city.

Both petitions were referred.

Mr. Weber asked that the bill for the relief of the Jackson Insane Asylum be taken up at once, as it was stated that that institution is in great need of funds. The superintendent is compelled to go about the country soliciting food for the unfortunates under his charge. The bill appropriates $10,000 and directs the manner of distributing it.

The rules were suspended and the bill finally adopted.

Mr. Blunt opposed the bill because a crazy man in Natchitoches could not be got into the institution.

Mr. White could not understand why, because one person was kept out of the asylum, all the other miserable individuals should be made to suffer for hunger and cold. He knew that there was great destitution among the inmates, and unless relief was given immediately some of the insane would certainly die.

Mr. Blackburn called up his resolution to have a committee appointed to investigate whether subordinates in the Senate had given any considerations for their positions. As there could be no good likely to arise out of an investigation, and as it is likely that much bitterness must grow out of it, he asked to have the subject indefinitely postponed.

Messrs. Wharton and Burch did not favor a postponement, as the subject was altogether too personal in its character to be passed by so smoothly.

Mr. Blackburn stated that he had good reasons for introducing the resolution, and thinks he has sufficient proof to make his case, but as there will arise considerable acrimony and long debate, he thought it the wisest course to let the subject drop.

Mr. Burch made it a point to read from last session's journal where Mr. Blackburn had advocated the principle that "to the victors belong the spoils," not only in the United States, but State and parochial affairs—speaking as a party man.

The vote being taken, it was ordered that a committee be appointed as at first called for by Mr. Blackburn's resolution.

The old printing bills came up, and Mr. Burch objected to any disposition being made of them except being recommitted to the committee. He was a member of that committee, and had been asked to sign a report of which he knew nothing.

Mr. Blackburn emphatically stated that there was no trick in the affair; he wished to make some final disposition of the bills.

Mr. White said that new printing bills had been written, and that they were not very unlike the old ones.

The minority report, asking for a recommitment, was adopted.

Executive session was called by Mr. Blunt.

When the doors were opened Mr. Robertson called up the joint resolution calling for a committee to investigate the charges against United States Senator J. R. West, of having used fraudulent means to procure his election.

Mr. Twitchell offered an amendment to prevent the committee expending any money in its work, but when opposed withdrew his amendment.

The investigation was ordered, and a committee of three from the House and three from the Senate will be appointed.

A petition from the members of the recent railroad meeting was introduced and referred.

House.

The Speaker was rather late yesterday morning, as it was twenty-five minutes of one o'clock before the gavel fell for a call to order.

Rev. Father Kenny, of St. John's Church, offered prayer.

After a correction and postponement of approval of the journal, the first roll was called, under the admirable rule of Mr. Booth, for petitions and memorials.

Some latitude is allowed under this call, and Mr. Lowell, by a petition, called the attention of the Committee on Lands and Levees to the fact that there was already a break in the levee within the limits of Carrollton, which demanded immediate attention, and that there was a threatened break near the upper boundary of Kennerville, and if the apprehension proved a reality, Kennerville would be overflowed and, in all likelihood, so would New Orleans. He asked immediate action, and the matter was referred as he desired.

Mr. Matthews' resolution that committees should report in writing, requiring details of number and title in amendments, and a postponement of one day, unless four-fifths of the House vote to the contrary on being called up by him, was adopted.

Mr. Souer called from the table his amendment to the rules requiring the unanimous consent of the House to allow a member to explain his vote when the previous question was called.

Messrs. Demas and Sartain objected to this.

Mr. Souer said he would only present one point in favor of it. When that question was ordered by the House all debate was cut off. If one member could explain his vote, so could all; and each being allowed half an hour under the rules, with 110 members, fifty-five hours would be consumed. As the House sat on the average only four hours, it would require certainly eleven days to pass a single motion if each member availed himself of the privilege.

Mr. Demas, offering the amendment of a majority, instead of unanimous consent, which was accepted by Mr. Souer, said it was an injustice to a member and the people he represented, to deprive him of an opportunity to explain.

Mr. Demas' amendment was, nevertheless, tabled, and, on motion of Mr. Hammond, Mr. Souer's resolution adopted.

Mr. Ray called up his resolution on the "Regulators" of the Felicianas, East Baton Rouge and St. Helena, which calls for a committee of three to investigate the condition of affairs there.

Mr. Demas moved to adopt the resolution, but Mr. Pipes offered a substitute that none of the committee should be members from the parishes named.

Mr. Ray opposed the substitute. He said it was customary in parliamentary bodies when such committees were to be appointed to select those who had knowledge of the matters to be investigated, who were acquainted with the parties and who knew whom to summon and how to secure all the information. The House would not get any investigation if it sent strangers to do the work in this case. What the House should desire was all the information of all the affairs that had occured. Those who know the people, who have lived there, who know better the condition of affairs than any one who has never visited those places, should be sent; who at the outset would know how to set at work. From the time this session has opened there has been nothing talked of but investigation. All this time he had remained quiet. Half the session had gone and he had not raised his voice, but in all the time not one Democratic member had proposed to raise his voice for the protection of the poor people of the Felicianas or their property. Had there been one sign of a desire to bring the truth of the condition that oppresses the people there before this House, he would still have remained silent. He had no personal motives to influence him, no personal desires to satisfy. It was not even a political question. The lawlessness was universal. He had sat in his seat till letters had been sent to him calling on him for relief. In those parishes men had been taken from the lawful authorities by organized bands and shot and hanged. It was not alone white men who had done this.

A message from the Senate, and some questions by Mr. Lowell and Mr. Hammond, with a call to order by Mr. Mitchell, interrupted the speaker.

Mr. Ray refusing to answer further questions reiterated his statement that it was useless to send strangers to investigate these matters. If the Democrats chose to close the mouth of the people, then that people will hold them responsible. He said it was not only the colored people that were injured by the condition of affairs that existed. Many a poor white man that was entirely ignorant of any cause of offense, that had cast every vote for the Democratic party, that never knew what it was to vote for a Republican, had been driven away. A poor German immigrant was one instance of the indiscriminate injustice that was reigning in the parishes. The colored people and inoffensive white people were driven away. The action of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor himself, would be held responsible for much of this. No investigation conducted by any one who did not know something of these wrongs could amount to anything. Accounts are familiar to all, of men who have been taken from their homes at twelve and one o'clock and killed, of wives and children dragged from their beds, and as men, the House should desire to know all of this. Let us have a committee that will make a fair and impartial report.

For myself, I waive the privilege of being on the committee. I hope the gentleman will withdraw the substitute, and that the Speaker will appoint those best fitted to protect the interests of the people of the State. I am willing that my colleague shall serve instead. It is not the good people, white or colored, that have caused these disturbances, but desperadoes and ruffians from Mississippi. The people there are not responsible, but they do not dare to interfere; they do not dare to raise their voices because of intimidation, though the sound of the whip is heard every night. They do not dare to even say anything against the frequent midnight assassinations. The law has given a courthouse, a judge and a district attorney, but there is no prosecution of these offenders.

Mr. Lowell—Then it is your duty, as the Representative, to cause them to do their duty.

Mr. Ray—That is exactly what I am after. No parties are arrested; the courts are closed against complainants.

Mr. Hammond—Will you serve on the committee and go to your parish?

Mr. Ray—I am willing, provided I am given that protection that the law awards to me.

Mr. Ray was then interrupted by Mr. Armstead and Mr. Dupre, and his time having expired, took his seat.

Mr. Hahn said the question was purely a political one, on which Republicans and Democrats would take sides. The Senate committee, being principally Republican, would have a majority and minority report. The House committee, although appointed with the good intent and justice of the Speaker, would have a majority of Democrats, and there would then be two more reports. The House, besides, would be deprived of the valuable services of these members. Discussion was unnecessary and time lost. Democrats would summon Democratic witnesses, and Republicans *vice versa*. There was no use investigating the past when there was a great future before both. They should unite to bring Louisiana up, to make it a free, happy and prosperous State. He moved to lay the whole subject on the table.

As there was no second the substitute was adopted.

Mr. Edwards called up House bill No. 146, restoring to Jackson parish a portion of that taken for the parish of Lincoln.

Mr. Jones presented a petition and numerous letters from parties of that region. He said he only sought the good and conform to the wishes of the people. He reiterated the arguments already presented to the House.

Mr. Edwards said there had never been any opposition to the bill except from Mr. Jones. Take this section and Lincoln is still one of the richest parishes of the upland region, with nearly twice the valuation of Jackson. The division left the courthouse almost on the border. The correction would make it nearer the centre. He yielded the balance of his time to Mr. Kidd to close.

Mr. Billiu considered that time was required, that all might vote intelligently, and learn whether the people were willing to go back. He did not wish to do injustice to either parish, and would remit the question back by a bill directing the police jurors to take the sense of the people.

Mr. Mitchell considered the bill an act of simple justice to the people of Jackson.

Mr. Kidd said it was a local matter, and had assumed much more importance than expected, but all, and especially the people of Jackson, would feel grateful to the House for taking such interest in it. He had lived sixteen years in that country, and knew that all desired this bill. The petition presented had not a genuine signature on it; all were in the same handwriting; it was a fraud, and the whole opposition was a fraud. In answer to Mr. Jones he selected a name erroneously spelled; that was on his own petition, and said he did not care who certified the names were of those persons who were against the bill when the petition was there for itself. He would say to Mr. Billiu, all the time had been granted that should be. He had waited since the first day with his petition, and he had granted time to Mr. Jones. Fifteen miles had been taken away from Jackson, and only three were asked back, which was simple justice. When it had been taken away, Jackson had no voice in the Legislature. Fifteen miles, one-fourth of its population and one-half of its assessed valuation was robbed from it. The son had destroyed the mother, for now the gentleman representing Lincoln had spoken sneeringly of her poverty. The sneer had the sting of truth, for she was not able to keep house. The officers had to be chosen from near Vernon, for without those whose business enabled them to leave near the courthouse, she could have none at all. For the sake of the gentleman's grey hairs, perhaps the House had indulged him, but his grey hairs were not an argument in a case not personal. He hoped, for their sake, the day would not come when the sneers of poverty would be changed, and he become a petitioner to or a refugee from the justice of those he would deride. It did not affect a cause whether it was advocated by grey hairs or denounced by golden youth. If there was any cause for opposition it might be because he was said to be bitter against the Republican party. It was true he might have been bitter at the hustings, and that he strove with all his might to secure the triumph of Democracy over it, but he held that when a member came into this hall all that ceased, and the partisan and the partisan's god should sink into the dust together; that each should strive to do his best for the interests of all of every party, and of the whole people. If it came from sympathy with the name of Lincoln he would say that he would not take one filet from the wreath that crowned that pure and noble man even though it were to deck the more glorious brow of Jackson. But let the two parishes and the two names stand together as do these two grandest characters that have stamped their names on the record in the march of time.

The bill was carried, only four votes being cast against it.

[Mr. Kidd in the chair.]

Mr. Estilette advocated his bill, reported unfavorably by the Judiciary Committee, giving physicians and druggists a lien on crops for services and medicines furnished.

Messrs. Hahn and Young opposed the bill, considering a lien was properly given to one who had contributed by his labor to produce an article, but that the bill disturbed this law, already one of the most complicated.

Mr. Meredith supported the bill, but on motion of Mr. Booth, it was recommitted to the Judiciary Committee, with an amendment restricting the lien to $5 for each person of the family.

The House soon after adjourned.

It Was the Custom.

The little difficulty in the Democratic caucus over the extra compensation received by two leading lawyers, as chairmen of committees, seems to have been adjusted. The pay, mileage and all compensation, at the utmost stretch of the law, for an ordinary member of the House, was about two-thirds of what was drawn. But, as it is said it has been the custom since 1852 for chairmen of these committees to draw $16 for each day of the session, and for ten days after, the caucus concluded to overlook the matter for this once.

The Apportionment Act Signed.

Governor Kellogg received the apportionment act yesterday afternoon, and immediately signed and sent it to the Secretary of State to be promulgated. It will, therefore, be published in the REPUBLICAN as soon as it can be copied by that official or one of his clerks.

Admitted to Practice.

On motion of District Attorney J. R. Beckwith, William A. Hall was admitted by the Hon. W. B. Woods, judge, to practice in all the United States courts of this circuit.

The announcement was made in Congress Friday of the death of the Hon. Henry H. Starkweather, Representative of the third congressional district of Connecticut. Mr. Starkweather was a delegate to the national conventions which nominated Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and General Grant in 1868; was elected to Congress as a Republican in 1867, and had served continuously upto the time of his death. He was fifty years of age.

The New Orleans *Price Current* of last Wednesday, says: "We hear it stated that some of the cotton mill operatives at Lonsdale, Rhode Island, are endeavoring to raise the necessary capital to purchase the Third District cotton mill in this city. It has been stated that upon the cash payment of only $25,000 the mills can be operated by the purchasers."

A lecture will be delivered on Wednesday evening at St. John's Church, under the auspices of the guild of the church, by the rector, on the subject of "Superstition." The lecture will commence at seven o'clock, and the public are invited to attend.

KERNINE—Another discovery from the cotton plant. Send to M. B. Morrison & Co., No. 1 Magazine street, for circular.

Victor Hugo is never happy except when he is undergoing some sort of persecution. "That's what's the martyr."

[Special Correspondence of the Republican.]

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, January 28, 1876.

The action of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, to-day, declaring that no vacancy existed in Louisiana, is a ten-strike for Mr. Pinchback, and his friends are confident to-night that he will be admitted if the matter is pressed to a vote next week. Mr. Sharon, of Nevada, is still absent, but it is claimed that Mr. Pinchback will receive the votes of all Republicans and Independents, with the exception of Messrs. Edmunds and Christiancy. It is hardly possible that the charges against Mr. West will affect his case. These charges are regarded as a trumped-up affair, brought in at this late day in order to influence the votes of certain Senators.

Representative Nash called on the President to-day, and the proceedings of the mobs in Baton Rouge and the Feliciana parishes were discussed. The President said some effective means should be adopted whereby peace could be restored to that section, but that he was unable to take any steps until called upon officially by Governor Kellogg to do so.

Mr. Gibson is preparing a strong argument in favor of the appropriation of $50,000 for the New Orleans mint, which he will deliver before the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures. He and Mr. Levy are taking especial interest in this bill. All our members complain, and very justly, too, that they receive no encouragement from the press and public of New Orleans, and say that a strong moral support from these sources would aid them materially in securing the desired appropriation.

The case of Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines vs. Joseph Fuentes et al. has been argued before the Supreme Court the past three days. Judge Paschal opened the argument for plaintiff, and was followed by Messrs. McConnell and Durant. Judge Black made the closing argument. The most favorable decision that Mrs. Gaines can hope for will only tend to open this case to endless litigation.

The pension appropriation bill is the only one that has passed the House. The Military Academy appropriation has been under discussion the past two days, and has been debated with much warmth. A good deal of opposition was manifested, owing to the proposed reduction of the salaries of professors and cadets. Mr. Townsend said to-day that the time was not far distant when none but rich men's sons could afford to go to West Point.

The consular and diplomatic bill will be next taken up. A wholesale reduction in the salaries of our ministers and consuls is to be recommended. Secretary Fish has opposed all changes in this branch, and a long debate may be expected.

I spoke of the legislative, executive and judicial bill in my last. Mr. Randall's proposition for a sweeping reduction in the salaries of all government officials, except Cabinet officers and $1200 clerks, will hardly be carried to the extent proposed. The reduction of ten per cent in salaries will affect Senators and Representatives, and this may prevent the passage of the whole bill. There are few members who are willing to acknowledge that they receive adequate compensation. Mr. Randall himself voted for and pocketed his share of the salary grab. This alone is sufficient to raise a doubt as to the genuineness of his motives, and gives coloring to the charge that political capital and not actual retrenchment is the object really sought.

There are twelve other appropriation bills to be passed. Add to this some currency measure that will undoubtedly be offered, and over which there will be a long debate for the purpose of making presidential capital, and it will be conceded that there is little prospect of an adjournment before August.

The subject of the locality of the Democratic National Convention is now agitating the representatives of that party in Congress. Some enthusiastic members suggest Philadelphia and the fourth of July as the place and time, but the more thoughtful oppose this on the ground that it would enable the capitalists of Wall street to control it; and that the same disastrous results would follow as attended them in 1868 and 1872. Some Western city, probably St. Louis, will be selected. This, it is claimed, will guarantee the nomination of a Western man.

The Postmaster General has selected a design for the centennial postage stamp. This stamp will be used upon the "centennial envelope," which will be manufactured in the government buildings upon the grounds during the exhibition. It is not intended to supersede the three-cent stamped envelope in use at present, being only an addition, and will be discontinued when the exhibition closes. The stamp represents a shield with the dates 1776 and 1876 at the top and bottom respectively. At the top, within a scroll, appear the words "United States Postage," and at the bottom, also within the scroll, the words "Three Cents." A post boy is represented at full speed on a ground work of telegraph poles and wires, and underneath is an engine and postal car. They will not be furnished any postoffice except Philadelphia.

The ordinary Congressman is not above the follies and foibles found among his less fortunate fellow-mortals. He takes especial care to doctor all remarks intended for publication in the *Record*, and many an ungrateful constituency never know of the sleepless hours passed in framing thunderbolts designed to strike terror to the hearts of political opponents, and cause admiring friends to raise their hands in silent admiration. The debate on the centennial bill developed several such cases. A member of the present dominent party in the House, hailing from North Carolina, called at the *Record* office late one night and requested permission to make an addition of a few words. The request was courteously granted, and at the end of a sentence deemed particularly striking he wrote "much applause."

When "set" speeches are read, they are frequently put in type at the *Record* office before they are made in the House. A member who proposed speaking on the centennial bill, sent his speech to the office the day before it was delivered, and in the evening called to read the "proof." After one of his lofty outbursts he added, in parenthesis, "sneering laughter on the Republican side."

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A LITERARY NIGHTMARE.

BY MARK TWAIN.

Will the reader please cast his eye over the following verses and see if he can discover anything harmful in them?

Conductor, when you receive a fare,
Punch in the presence of the passenjare!
A blue trip-slip for an eight-cent fare,
A buff trip-slip for a six-cent fare,
A pink trip slip for a three-cent fare,
Punch in the presence of the passenjare!

CHORUS.

Punch, brothers! punch with care!
Punch in the presence of the passenjare!

I came across these jingling rhymes in a newspaper a little while ago and read them a couple of times. They took instant and entire possession of me. All through breakfast they went waltzing through my brain; and when at last I rolled up my napkin I could not tell whether I had eaten anything or not. I had carefully laid out my day's work the day before—a thrilling tragedy in the novel which I am writing. I went to my den to begin my deed of blood. I took up my pen, but all I could get it to say was, "Punch in the presence of the passenjare." I fought hard for an hour, but it was useless. My head kept humming, "A blue trip slip for an eight cent fare, a buff trip slip for a six cent fare," and so on and so on, without peace or respite. The day's work was ruined—I could see that plainly enough. I gave up and drifted down town, and presently discovered that my feet were keeping time to that relentless jingle. When I could stand it no longer I altered my step. But it did no good; those rhymes accommodated themselves to the new step and went on harassing me just as before. I returned home, and suffered all through an unconscious and unrefreshing dinner; suffered and cried and jingled all through the evening; went to bed and rolled, tossed, and jingled right along, the same as ever; got up at midnight frantic, and tried to read; but there was nothing visible upon the whirling page except "Punch! punch in the presence of the passenjare." By sunrise I was out of my mind, and everybody marveled and was distressed at the idiotic burden of my ravings—"Punch! oh, punch! punch in the presence of the passenjare!"

Two days later, on Saturday morning, I arose, a tottering wreck, and went forth to fulfill an engagement with a valued friend, the Rev. Mr. ——, to walk to the Talcott Tower, ten miles distant. He stared at me, but asked no question. We started. Mr. —— talked, talked, talked—as is his wont. I said nothing; I heard nothing. At the end of a mile, Mr. —— said:

"Mark, are you sick? I never saw a man look so haggard and worn and absent-minded. Say something; do!"

Drearily, without enthusiasm, I said: "Punch, brothers, punch with care! Punch in the presence of the passenjare!"

My friend eyed me blankly, looked perplexed, then said:

"I do not think I get your drift, Mark. There does not seem to be any relevancy in what you have said, certainly nothing sad; and yet—maybe it was the way you said the words—I never heard anything that sounded so pathetic. What is"—

But I heard no more. I was already far away with my pitiless, heart-breaking "blue trip slip for an eight-cent fare, buff trip slip for six-cent fare, pink trip slip for a three-cent fare; punch in the presence of the passenjare." I do not know what occurred during the other nine miles. However, all of a sudden Mr. —— laid his hand on my shoulder and shouted:

"Oh, wake up! wake up! wake up! Don't sleep all day! Here we are at the Tower, man! I have talked myself deaf and dumb and blind, and never got a response. Just look at this magnificent autumn landscape! Look at it! look at it! Feast your eyes on it! You have traveled; you have seen boasted landscapes elsewhere. Come, now, deliver an honest opinion. What do you say to this?"

I sighed wearily and murmured:

"A buff trip slip for a six-cent fare, a pink trip slip for a three-cent fare, punch in the presence of the passenjare."

Rev. Mr. —— stood there, very grave, full of concern, apparently, and looked long at me; then he said:

"Mark, there is something about this that I can not understand. These are about the same words that you said before; there does not seem to be anything in them, and yet they seem to break my heart when you say them. Punch in the—how is it they go?"

I began at the beginning and repeated all the lines. My friend's face lighted with interest. He said:

"Why, what a captivating jingle! It is almost music. It flows along so nicely. I have nearly caught the rhymes myself. Say them over just once more, and then I'll have them, sure."

I said them over. Then Mr. —— said them. He made one little mistake, which I corrected. The next time and the next he got them right. Now a great burden seemed to tumble from my shoulders. That torturing jingle departed out of my brain, and a grateful sense of rest and peace descended upon me. I was light-hearted enough to sing; and I did sing for half an hour straight along, as we went jogging homeward. Then my freed tongue found blessed speech again, and the pent talk of many a weary hour began to gush and flow. It flowed on and on, joyously, jubilantly, until the fountain was empty and dry. As I wrung my friend's hand at parting, he said:

"Havn't we had a royal good time! But now I remember, you havn't said a word for two hours. Come, come, out with something!"

The Rev. Mr. —— turned a lack-lustre eye upon me, drew a deep sigh, and said, without animation, without apparent consciousness:

"Punch, brothers, punch with care! Punch in the presence of the passenjare!"

A pang shot through me as I said to myself, "Poor fellow, poor fellow! he has got it now."

I did not see Mr. —— for two or three days after that. Then, on Tuesday evening, he staggered into my presence and sank dejectedly into a seat. He was pale, worn; he was a wreck. He lifted his faded eyes to my face and said:

"Ah, Mark, it was a ruinous investment that I made in those heartless rhymes. They have ridden me like a nightmare, day and night, hour after hour, to this very moment. Since I saw you I have suffered the torments of the lost. Saturday evening I had a sudden call by telegraph, and took the night train for Boston. The occasion was the death of a valued old friend who had requested that I should preach his funeral sermon. I took my seat in the cars and set myself to framing the discourse. But I never got beyond the opening paragraph; for then the train started and the carwheels began their 'clack-clack-clack-clack! clack-clack-clack-clack!' and right away those odious rhymes fitted themselves to that accompaniment. For an hour I sat there and set a syllable of those rhymes to every separate and and distinct clack the car-wheels made. Why, I was as fagged out then as if I had been chopping wood all day. My skull was splitting with headache. It seemed to me that I must go mad if I sat there any longer; so I undressed and went to bed. I stretched myself out in my berth, and—well, you know what the result was. The thing went right along, just the same. 'Clack-clack-clack, a blue; trip slip, clack-clack-clack, for an eight-cent fare clack-clack-clack, a buff trip slip, clack-clack-clack, for a six-cent fare,' and so on, and so on, and so on—'*punch*, in the presence of the passenjare!' Sleep? Not a single wink! I was almost a lunatic when I got to Boston. Don't ask me about the funeral. I did the best I could, but every solemn individual sentence was meshed and tangled and woven in and out with 'Punch, brothers, punch with care, punch in the presence of the passenjare.' And the most distressing thing was that my delivery dropped into the undulating rythm of those pulsing rhymes, and I could actually catch absent minded people nodding time to the swing of it with their stupid heads. And, Mark, you may believe it or not, but before I got through the entire assemblage were placidly bobbing their heads in solemn unison, mourners, undertaker and all. The moment I had finished I fled to the anteroom in a state bordering on frenzy. Of course it would be my luck to find a sorrowing and aged maiden aunt of the deceased there, who had arrived from Springfield too late to get into the church. She began to sob, and said:

"'Oh, oh, he is gone, he is gone, and I didn't see him before he died!'

"'Yes,' I said, 'he is gone, he is gone, he is gone—oh, will this suffering never cease!'

"'You loved him, then! Oh, you, too, loved him!'

"'Loved him! Loved *who?*'

"'Why, my poor George; my poor nephew.'

"'Oh—*him!* Yes—oh, yes, yes. Certainly—certainly. Punch—punch—oh, this misery will kill me!'

"'Bless you, bless you, sir, for these sweet words. *I*, too, suffer in this dear loss. Were you present during his last moments?'

"'Yes. I—*whose* last moments?'

"'*His*. The dear departed's.'

"'Yes. Oh, yes—yes—*yes!* I suppose so, I think so—I don't know! Oh, certainly, I was there—*I* was there!'

"Oh, what a privilege; what a precious privilege! And his last words—oh, tell me, tell me his last words. What did he say?'

"'He said—he said—oh, my head, my head! He said—he said—he never said *anything* but punch, punch, *punch* in the presence of the passenjare! Oh, leave me, madam! In the name of all that is generous, leave me to my madness, my misery, my despair—a buff trip slip for a six-cent fare, a pink trip slip for a three-cent fare—endurance *can* no further go—PUNCH in the presence of the passenjare!'"

My friend's hopeless eyes rested upon mine a pregnant minute, and then he said impressively—

"Mark, you do not say anything. You do not offer me any hope. But, ah me, it is just as well. The time has long gone by when words could comfort me. Something tells me that my tongue is doomed to wag forever to the jigger of that remorseless jingle. There—there it is coming on me again: a blue trip slip for an eight-cent fare, a buff trip slip for a——"

Thus murmuring faint and fainter, my friend sank into a peaceful trance, and forgot his sufferings in a blessed respite.

How did I finally save him from the asylum? I took him to a neighboring university and made him discharge the burden of his persecuting rhymes into the eager ears of the poor, unthinking students. How is it with them now? The result is too sad to tell. Why did I write this article? It was for a worthy, even a noble purpose. It was to warn you, reader, if you should come across those merciless rhymes, to avoid them—avoid them as you would a pestilence!—*Atlantic Monthly.*

How Barcley Came to Resign.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* says:

The journal clerk of the House, Mr. John M. Barclay, the author of "Barclay's Digest," who has become to be considered an unimpeachable authority in questions arising under the rules of the House, to-day resigned his position. He has been nearly thirty years in the service of the House, and hitherto has been unmolested by any political upheavings. Such parliamentarians as Colfax and Blaine were often glad to consult with him, and only a day or two ago Mr. Kerr fortified his most important ruling in the amnesty debate by the statement that Mr. Barcley sustained its correctness. In fact, it was the opinion of Mr. Barclay that saved the ruling from being regarded as partisan and unfair. He had been assured that he was desired to remain, but within a few days, others, having similar assurances, have been removed, and it has been whispered that the journal clerk would also have to give place to a new man. He therefore took prompt action himself, and wrote the following letter:

Mr. Adams, Clerk:

Sir—Your treatment of my old friends, Mehaffey and Clayton, both of whom had assurances from your friends of retention, is so suggestive of similar treatment of myself that I prefer to select the time myself, and hence I hereby name this as the day of my resignation.

JOHN M. BARCLAY.

January 26, 1876.

Hereafter the rules of the house and the principles of parliamentary law will doubtless be expounded by some true and unfaltering Democrat. There is a suggestion, however, that the resignation may not be accepted.

The Murder of Colonel Offutt.

Speaking of this sad affair, the Opelousas *Journal* says:

This murder is a mystery. We never heard before that Colonel Offut had a single enemy. He was esteemed by all. While he was a man of fixed opinions, he had a kindly disposition, and was not given to harsh language that stirred up anger and hatred in others. He was the last man we ever expected to hear of being murdered or assassinated. He had all those habits and qualities that should have insured him against a violent death. Nothing but a devilish disposition could have prompted his assassin. This man had not been very long in that neighborhood, and nothing was known there against him; but since this murder, it is said he was considered a very bad character in the parish of St. Martin, where he formerly resided, and that two indictments are pending there against him.

But one theory has been advanced, that we have heard of, as a solution of this unaccountable murder. It seems that a few months ago this man got married, and Colonel Offutt loaned him $5 to pay for license, etc. He failed to return the money, and Colonel Offutt finally offered to release him from payment if he would cut a certain lot of wood in his yard for the cooking stove, which labor was net worth the $5. He promised again and again to cut the wood, but never complied with his promise. Finally the stove wood was all exhausted, and the morning of the murder, just before he left for Washington, the cook informed the colonel that there was no wood cut to cook dinner; and he was considerably exasperated at the manner in which he had been treated by the delinquent. It is thought by some that the colonel may have met him on his way to Washington, and given him a scolding; and that he was murdered in consequence.

It is needless to say that great and prolonged efforts have been made by the officers of the law and citizens generally, to arrest this assassin, but so far their efforts have not been successful.

Colonel Offutt, since the war, represented this district with Senator Anderson, in the State Senate, in 1868 to 1870. His death was a great loss to his family and the community. He was not only a good man in the private relations of life, but he was strictly a law-abiding citizen. In view of the violence that has prevailed since the war, such a citizen is a treasure in any community. If he had been a man of violence himself, or had been an inciter of others to violence, the community might somewhat less deplore his loss; but it is exceedingly sad that such a good citizen, after such a well-spent life, should have been cut off from life and family and friends in such a horrible and cruel manner.

Third Term Democracy.

The following extract from the New Hampshire *Gazette* of January 10, 1804, shows the views of the Portsmouth Jeffersonian Democrats of that day relative to a third term: "We believe the love, the respect, the gratitude of the people of the United States toward Mr. Jefferson will secure his re-election, as often as he will accept it, provided he pursues the same line of conduct as heretofore." The third term was not a very great bugbear to the Democrats of 1804, provided the right man was elected. Would it be to the Democrats of 1876, under like circumstances?—*Portsmouth (New Hampshire) Chronicle.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

WHAT OUR CONGRESSMEN ARE DOING

Mr. Levy's Court of Claims Bill—Its Provisions.

GENERAL GIBSON'S LEVEE BILL

GENERAL MOREY'S RELIEF BILL

[Special to the New Orleans Republican.

WASHINGTON, January 31, 1876.

Mr. Levy introduced an elaborate bill to-day to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims. It provides that the claims of corporations, citizens or subjects of a foreign State or nation against the United States may be referred to the Court of Claims by the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the representatives of foreign governments presenting them, and that said court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine such cases in accordance with the principles of international law, and in pursuance of any treaty stipulations, or agreement between the United States and such foreign government; and shall proceed in accordance with the rules and practices of said court, and that judgments against the United States shall be satisfied in the same manner as other judgments of this court.

Mr. Gibson offered a bill appropriating $5,250,000 for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding the levees of the Mississippi. This amount is divided as follows: Louisiana, $2,500,000; Mississippi $1,000,000; Arkansas, $1,000,000; Missouri, $500,000; Tennessee, $250,000.

Mr. Morey's bill, to afford financial relie to the reconstructed States, is being considered by the Ways and Means Committee.

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A REVOLUTION IN MEXICO

DEFEAT OF GENERAL ESCOBEDO

THE REVOLUTIONISTS ARMING

A GRAND MOVEMENT IN THE INTEREST OF PORFIRIO DIAZ.

United States Troops Moving to the Front.

[Special to the New Orleans Republican.

BROWNSVILLE, January 31, 1876.

Matters across the Rio are beginning to look very serious for the Lerdo government.

The news of the defeat of General Escobedo by the revolutionists of Michoacan has been received from Saltillo.

There is no doubt a co-operative movement in the interest of Porfirio Diaz, extending through San Luis, Durango, Coahuila, Tamaulipas and Nueva Leon.

In all of these States the revolutionists are arming, and Diaz, who has been waiting at Laredo is receiving hourly intelligence of the movements of his friends.

It is believed the revolution will be general. Several Southern States will, it is said pronounce for Diaz soon as he takes the field in opposition to the Lerdo government.

The defeat of Escobedo is a severe blow to the government. He holds the rank in the Mexican army that Sherman does in yours.

Three companies of infantry have been ordered here from Fort Sill, and three companies of cavalry under Colonel Devin have already left Fort Clark for this point

PEDRO.

CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, January 31.—Bills introduced—By Mr. McMillan, to exempt all vessels engaged in navigating the Mississippi river and its tributaries above the point of New Orleans from entry and clearance. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. West presented a petition from the citizens of Louisiana in favor of aid to the Texas Pacific Railroad Company. Referred to Committee on Railroads.

Mr. Merrimon introduced a bill for the relief of Sidney L. McLain. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

The discussion of the interest on the District bonds was resumed, and, without coming to a conclusion, the Senate adjourned by a vote of 33 to 27.

The interest which the bill proposed to pay is due to-morrow.

Before the adjournment, Mr. Morton gave notice that he would call up his Mississippi resolution when the present bill was concluded.

Mr. Cameron hoped not; he wished to consider the centennial appropriation.

House.

The call of States:

By Mr. Wells—To amend the act for the return of the net proceeds of cotton seized after 1865.

By Mr. Gibson—For the rebuilding of the levees and reclaiming the alluvial lands of the Mississippi river.

By Mr. Levy—To enlarge the jurisdiction of the Court of Claims.

By Mr. Riddle—To abolish the restrictions on the sale of leaf tobacco.

By Mr. Morrison, of Illinois—To revise and simplify the existing laws imposing duties on imports and to reduce taxation also, to simplify the appraisement of goods wares and merchandise imported and subject to *ad valorem* duties.

By Mr. Slemons—For bridging the Mississippi at Memphis.

A resolution was adopted directing the Committee of the District of Columbia to inquire into the frauds and irregularities charged against the government of the District.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Mills, of Texas, authorizing the President to appoint two centennial commissioners for the State of Texas, in lieu of those now acting.

Mr. Hancock, of Texas, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire by what authority the Treasury Department paid $18,938, due to the Buffalo Bayou, Brashear and Colorado Railroad Company, to any and what other person. Adopted.

Mr. Holman offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Banking and Currency to inquire whether the commercial and industrial interests of the country do not require that the retirement and cancellation of legal tender notes shall cease and whether common and equal justice to the whole people do not require that United States notes shall be substituted for national

[CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.]