

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESS.

House.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, offered a resolution calling on the President for information whether any executive officer's acts or duties have been performed since the first of March, 1869, at a distance from the seat of government, and for how long a period at any one time, and in what part of the United States. Also, whether any public necessity existed, therefore, for the removal of such an officer, and if so, what military or naval force was used, and whether the removal was made by the President or by the Congress.

The bill for the reorganization of the judiciary was resumed. Cincinnati was substituted for Louisville. The amendment substituting Mobile for New Orleans was rejected, and Philadelphia for Pittsburgh rejected. Pending the vote ordering the third reading of the House adjourned. Will meet tomorrow for debate only.

WASHINGTON.

Committee Work.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—The case of Finlay vs. Wall, from Florida, will have further hearing. The Privileges and Elections Committee did not consider the Spencer case this morning.

The Pacific railroad case was considered. Further safeguards against the co-operation or combination of the two roads were also discussed.

The Cleveland Mills Cotton Fraud—Arrest of the Washington Partners.

George Taylor and John W. Wood, lawyers in New Orleans, were arrested on a motion in the Court of Claims that the evidence of certain witnesses in the case of Harriet A. Mills, for 100 bales of cotton, valued at \$40,000, and Alex. C. Cleveland, for 500 bales valued at \$250,000, shall not be used in the trial of either case. On the fourteenth of February the court ordered that the evidence may be withdrawn from the case. Taylor and Wood are charged with the fraudulent character of the withdrawal testimony. Taylor and Wood are arrested and have been held in \$10,000. General, treasury agent for whom a warrant has been received from New Orleans, charged with passing fraudulent claims against the treasury, has not been arrested.

Name of witnesses withdrawn by Taylor and Wood in the cotton claims: Martha L. Knight, Joseph P. Murphy and George T. Pratt.

The Spencer Case.

A majority of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections decided to-day to investigate the second charge made by the State of Alabama against Senator Spencer, that his election to the United States Senate was procured by corrupt means and practices. They will hear the evidence upon seventeen of the specifications under this charge. Taylor and Wood are remaining in custody, and they also decline to investigate the first charge, viz: that the body by which Mr. Spencer claims to have been elected to the Senate of the United States was not a legal assembly of Alabama, this question having already been decided in Mr. Spencer's favor in the Sycamore case.

In Memoriam.

The bar of the Supreme Court paid the usual customary tribute to the memory of Beverly Johnson.

Schenck's Resignation.

General Schenck's resignation has not been received, but is certainly expected. No intimation is made as to the date of its receipt.

The Pacific Railroad Bill.

The Committee on Pacific Railroads held a bill making more specific and general the reports of railroad companies required by the act of 1863.

The Queen's Assent to the Androsy

A London special says the following is the text of the paragraph inserted by the Queen's ministry in the articles of adhesion to the Austrian note to the Porte: "The Sultan to send a commission of six members to the Austrian government, at the Porte's expense, will make a military occupation of the whole territory of the insurrectionary provinces for six months, while the British government will send a division of its fleet to cruise in Turkish waters and the Adriatic also."

The Dispatch also says that General Savaroff had an interview with Prince Caravita of Roumania, at which it was agreed that the latter should take an early opportunity of returning to his native land, and that upon the Porte taking steps to enforce its rights a Russian force of 150,000 men will occupy the province.

NEW YORK.

Becher Before the Council.

NEW YORK, February 18.—Mr. Becher, concluding before the council, compared himself to a central body upon which all the rays of the sun were concentrated, and upon which was being heaped all the trouble that could be gathered on the face of the globe. In closing his answer, Mr. Becher said: "If there is any man on earth that has anything to say to my detriment, here now challenge him to say it." [Cries of good, good, and hear, hear, proceeded from various parts of the court, and Mr. Becher continued: "If there is any man of God, I challenge him to say aught against me; say, I go far beyond that, I challenge the truth from God himself!"]

The Coal Trade.

An important meeting of the several great coal producing companies of New York was held in New York on Friday in this city, at which a permanent organization of the so-called board of control was effected, and a series of rules regulating the coal trade for the year 1876 were adopted. It was agreed that the contractors' prices for the month of March shall be as follows per ton, free on board in New York: Lump \$4; steam \$4.50; grate \$4.60; egg \$4.70; stove \$5.30; chestnut \$4.50.

WHISKY RING.

The Babcock Trial.

ST. LOUIS, February 18.—The government put in no rebuttal testimony. The defense moved that the judge instruct the jury to acquit and discharge the prisoner. Argument of motion ensued. The motion was denied, and the court adjourned, as counsel were not prepared to proceed with the argument.

FOREIGN.

Rio Janeiro, Marine.

RIO JANEIRO, February 18.—The bark Maggie Machiel, of New Orleans, from Buenos Ayres for Campara, stranded near this port, and will prove a total wreck. A part of the cargo will be saved.

An Editor's Punishment.

PARIS, February 18.—The correctional tribunal sentenced the editor of the *Republique Francaise* to a month's imprisonment with a fine, for attacking Minister Buffet. Meetings Prohibited by the Authorities. M. Gambetta addressed a public meeting at Carailon. The proceedings were discontinued on Friday evening.

THE TEMPERATURE.

The thermometer at Louis Frigero's, No. 50 Chartre street, stood as follows February 18: At 8 A. M., 45°; at 2 P. M., 61°; at 6 P. M., 57°. Lowest point during the night of February 17, 45°. Rain during the day and night of February 17, one-half of an inch.

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COURT RECORD.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1876.

United States Supreme Court.

The following were rendered Monday, February 14:

By CHIEF JUSTICE WAITE.

No. 851. Eliza M. Warfield, Plaintiff in error, vs. John and Charles Clifton, Defendants. Reversed. Motion for a writ of habeas corpus granted. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal.

United States Circuit Court.

Present—Hon. W. B. Woods, circuit judge.

United States vs. Ferdinand Dunderberg, Plaintiff in error, vs. Germania National Bank, Defendant. Reversed. Motion for a writ of habeas corpus granted. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal.

United States vs. George M. Bayley and Byron M. Pond.

Violation of revenue laws in keeping a distillery without a license. Reversed. Motion for a writ of habeas corpus granted. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal. The writ was issued for the purpose of releasing the defendant from the custody of the United States Marshal.

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Knights Templar.

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, State of Louisiana, held its thirtieth annual convocation in this city yesterday.

In the morning the Sir Knights of the different city commanderies, under the command of Sir Knight W. L. Stanford, as Captain General, paraded as an escort for the grand officers, who were received at the St. James Hotel, and marched on Canal, Camp, Delord and St. Charles streets, to the Masonic Hall.

One hundred and twenty-five men were in line, marching in three divisions, composed of the Knights of Indivisible Friends Commandery No. 1, Jacques De Molay No. 2, and Orleans No. 3, each commandery being headed by its Eminent Commander. The showy uniforms of the Templars, with the excellent marching, even step and true alignment kept, made an imposing street show. The procession was headed by the full band of the Thirteenth United States Infantry.

The election of new officers at the convocation of the Grand Commandery, yesterday, resulted in the choice of the following named officers, to serve for the ensuing year:

Sir Knight Berry Russell, grand commander.

John W. Madden, deputy grand commander.

L. T. Murdock, grand generalissimo.

Samuel Alston, grand captain general.

J. Q. A. Fellows, grand prelate.

George H. Braughn, grand senior warden.

Claudius Mayo, grand junior warden.

S. M. Todd, grand treasurer.

Edgar E. Adams, grand recorder.

George Soule, grand standard bearer.

Edward Baker, grand sword bearer.

C. W. Hutchins, grand warden.

J. W. Maguire, grand captain of the guard.

These officers were duly installed by Past Grand Commander Joseph H. De Grange assisted by Past Grand Commander Joseph P. Harmon, acting as deputy grand commander.

In the evening a grand ball was given at St. Patrick's Hall, which included a drill by the Sir Knights and a reception of the grand officers. The immense hall was filled with visitors, and it never before has been so simply artistically and beautifully decorated. This effective decoration consisted of various arrangements of American flags, with the signal colors of the merchant service. Some four hundred flags were used in trimming the hall. On the sides, over each panel between the doors and windows were flags looped in bouquets, pinned with shields, on which were in each case the figure of a Templar's cross. The Camp street end of the hall was cut off for about twenty feet by flags draped and arched to represent a mammoth tent of a grand encampment of Templars; in this alcove the grand officers were seated during the drill. The opposite end of the hall was also tastefully decorated, showing a smaller tent of flags in rear of the musicians.

The grand officers appeared on the scene soon after ten o'clock, when the Templars were drawn up in line, open ranks, facing inward, to allow the officers to march up the hall under the long arch of knightly steel. A few words of welcome were spoken by Sir Knight George H. Braughn, and responded to by the eminent grand commander.

The drilling was as well executed as could be in the midst of the throng of ladies and gentlemen crowding every available space. The evolutions of wheeling, facing, marching and countermarching, forming crosses and returning to ranks of six, single and double files, was soon over, and the merry dance went on till morning came, as mornings are wont to follow Knights.

The parade, the reception and ball was one grand success. Noticeable in the street parade was seen a score or so of Metropolitan police, who flanked the Templars to keep away the crowds, and who were as handsomely and soldierly as the Templars. The effective decoration of the hall was due to the taste and skill of Sir Knight W. L. Stanford, of Orleans Commandery. The music for the ball was also furnished by the Thirteenth Infantry band, and it proved most satisfactory to the dancers.

Death of Charlotte Cashman.

This distinguished American actress died at the Parker House, in Boston, yesterday.

Born in the same city in which she died in 1814, she was consequently sixty-two years of age when the play of her life ended. She first came before the public when quite young as a singer, and she appeared on the stage of the Tremont Theatre in 1835, in a singing part in the "marriage of Figaro." She then had a fine contralto voice, and intended to perfect herself in opera. Within a short time after her debut she came to this city, and by straining her voice to reach the soprano register, failed entirely as a vocalist, and came near being for a time voiceless. Here was a dilemma for a poor girl; a musical education thrown away. She did not give up, however, and took to the drama. She was never even good looking; but her strong features served her well in the roles in which she is best known, and her seeming disadvantage became her fortune, for she lived to become the greatest tragic actress America ever produced. Her success in England was as great as in this country. Her Lady Macbeth has only been equalled in intensity by the great Siddons; her own, electrical in effect on an audience and weirdly picturesque. She became wealthy and lived much abroad, having a home in Rome, and never married. She played several farewell engagements; but the stage was her world and about that and the reader's platform she hovered until sickness held her back. Charlotte Cashman was in every way an honor to her profession and to her country. By her own exertions, against the greatest discouragements, she attained the foremost position of living actresses in her line. Her life was blameless, and in her old age she was honored, and counted among her friends the men and women most distinguished in art and literature. We are not likely to look upon her equal again.

Bessie Turner's lecture is called "The Reason Why!" It is anything but a sleepy affair, though like the lecture on "Babies in the Woods," it never tells the reason why.

but the law proposed was nothing different from that which was in force before the war.

The system of parish jurisprudence now in force of appeal, etc., was a good one, but this addition of allowing justices to take bail was needed. Now parties may be dragged forty or fifty miles to a place of trial. The bill was in aid of the principle that a party should be tried in the vicinage of the offense.

Mr. Matthews wished to amend the bill by striking out the words "and discharge," but the House refused.

Mr. Soles objected to the bill as giving too much power to justices. He also considered, with Mr. Estlette, the present system a good one. But the Judiciary Committee had carefully considered the bill and reported unfavorably on it. He was willing it should be recommitted.