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The Silver Question and the Trade Dollar.

As anticipated for some time, the preparations for replacing the present small currency with the subsidiary silver coin are about completed. All sub-treasury offices have been supplied with a portion each of the $12,000,000 silver in the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. No order for its distribution has been received, but it is daily expected.

It is generally supposed that as silver is quoted as below par compared with greenbacks, its circulation will be retarded by the difficulty of exchanging it for greenbacks in amounts greater than $5. There is no foundation for such a belief. All the silver in the country can be readily exchanged for greenbacks at par. By issuing greenbacks at the breaking out of the war silver was driven out of circulation, and, until fractional currency was issued, substitutes of various kinds were circulated till they became an enormous and intolerable nuisance. For twelve years this currency has held its place; but it has done its work and is no longer needed.

It is said that if $30,000,000 is spent by the United States for silver, it will demonetize gold and drive it from the country. This is an error, for the bonds the government would issue for the bullion would be fully equal to silver in all exchange operations. There will always be found sufficient gold for the purpose when the country is ready to resume specie payments. Even Mr. Holman, of Indiana, whose resolution against the fixing of a time for the resumption of specie payments was voted down by 158 to 112, is in favor of this issue of subsidiary coin, stating the expense of reprinting fractional notes to replace worn out and useless ones would be saved, and that the government would gain in addition the difference of value.

Mr. Sherman, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has at different times entertained different views on this and other financial matters. At the previous session his bill was a compromise, by fixing a remote date, between those who demanded resumption and the inflationists. In November, 1875, he was in favor of authorizing "all holders of bonds of the United States to duplicate them in currency to the amount of ninety per cent of their value." He now considers resumption, economically speaking, would be easy enough, although a year ago he considered it a complicated question to be met at a later time.

Another, and perhaps and unexpected obstacle, came up in the Senate March 31. It was the trade dollar. This coin was established principally for trade with China, intended to supersede the Mexican dollar, and has met with favor. Something less than ten millions of them have been coined and nearly all have gone out of the country. When it was determined to change subsidiary silver for fractional currency it was found the Revised Statutes, section 3586, contained a provision which would embarrass the operation because it provided that silver coin should be a legal tender to the amount of $5. The difficulty is best stated in the language of Senator Sherman, who desired to except the trade dollar:

Mr. Sherman—The trade dollar contains 420 grains of standard silver. The dollar of the law contains 412½ grains of silver. The subsidiary coinage contains 385 grains in two half-dollars. The trade dollar was a dollar coined simply for the benefit of merchants in the foreign trade, to compete with the Mexican dollar, which was a more valuable dollar than our legal tender dollar. It was never intended to make it a legal tender. Now the result is, as silver has declined below the standard of gold, far below its former value, that private persons carry their silver bullion to the mints, and under the law as it now stands require it to be coined into trade dollars, and then use them as a legal tender, silver being now depreciated below its legal standard.

Mr. Sherman also said:

I will say further that the trade dollar is issued at the request of private persons. When any holder of silver bullion desires to exchange it for trade dollars, he can take it to the mints and ask that it be coined into trade dollars; and then he sells them or uses them in the foreign trade, while the other silver coins of the United States are coined at the pleasure of the United States, and only for their benefit, and whatever profit is derived from the other coinage is derived by the United States, and not by private individuals. But the trade dollar is a mere article of merchandise. The Committee on Finance have considered the subject fully.

I will read the section under which the trade dollar is issued. I will read, first, section 3513, in regard to the silver coins of the United States:

"The silver coins of the United States shall be a trade dollar, a half dollar, or fifty cent piece, a quarter dollar, or twenty-five cent piece, a dime, or ten cent piece; and the weight of the trade dollar shall be 420 grains troy; the weight of the half dollar shall be twelve grains and one-half of a grain; the quarter dollar and the dime shall be, respectively, one-half and one-fifth of the weight of said half dollar.

Or, reduced to grains, two half dollars of the ordinary coinage contain 385 grains. The trade dollar is issued only under the circumstances stated in section 3520, which I will now read:

"Any owner of silver bullion may deposit the same at any mint to be formed into bars or into dollars of the weight of 420 grains troy, designated in this title as trade dollars, and no deposit of silver for other coinage shall be received. Silver bullion contained in gold deposits and separated therefrom may, however, be paid for in silver coin, at such valuation as may be, from time to time, established by the director of the mint."

The subsidiary coin is coined only by the United States in such quantities as are demanded for money. The trade dollar is issued only as an article of merchandise, as a form of silver bullion, and therefore it ought not to be made a legal tender. There should be no question about that.

The profit of converting silver into coin should go to the United States. That of the trade dollar goes to private persons. Being pushed by them, the United States is deprived of control over its coinage.

Mr. Cockrell wished to see silver a legal tender for greater sums than $5. Mr. Merrimon, until Mr. Sherman explained, did not know the difference between the trade dollar and an ordinary dollar.

Mr. Bogy, after having "subsidiary silver coinage" explained to him, took an active part in the discussion, considering the difficulty lay in the absence of a law fixing the relative value of gold and silver, and that by the act of 1873 silver had been demonetized. If the relative value was fixed, he was satisfied silver coin could be used advantageously. He also desired the amount of tender to be raised above $5. He said:

Then, again, in my opinion it involves a great constitutional question. As it is now, the States have the right to make gold and silver a legal tender, and nothing but gold and silver; therefore it is competent for one or for all States to say that silver shall be a legal tender without any limit whatsoever, because the inhibition of the constitution is that no State shall make anything a legal tender but gold and silver. That being so, they then can make gold and silver a legal tender without any limit whatever. If all the States were to make silver a legal tender equal to gold, it would become the legal tender for the United States; and it would not be competent for the federal government to restrain the action of the States. It therefore involves a grave constitutional question, besides a financial question. I have thought a great deal upon this subject, and I am not able to see any good reason why silver should not be made a legal tender to a very large amount, say $1000; but I see a great many good reasons why it should be so.

Mr. Sargent was doubtful as to the proper extent of the tender; but the government should control the coinage. It redeemed abraded coins because of the profit of coining. In the trade dollar it had no margin but simply stamped the bullion of other parties. He also said:

That which we are trying to remedy in this matter is a local trouble which has arisen among the people of the Pacific coast. They have in their hands, which they have bought of the government, paying gold for, some millions of silver subsidiary coinage. They are not able to procure a dollar of that silver subsidiary coinage from the government except by paying its full value in gold. The government came in then, and while providing for a trade dollar which was to facilitate our commerce with China, declared it should be a legal tender for $5; that is to say, it put it in a clause which, when read altogether, subjected this coin to the condition of the subsidiary silver coinage, without remembering that this was not a natural coin of the government, that it put no seigniorage on it at all and made no profit on it. It simply stamps it, for the accommodation of parties who have silver bullion, to give it currency in China. As soon as this was discovered, parties threw bullion in immense quantities into the mints mints to have it coined in this trade dollar form; they threw it out on the market, and therefore began depreciating the millions of subsidiary silver coinage which men had paid gold for and were using in all the avocations of life. The result was that complaint came from workmen that they were paid in this depreciated silver coinage; they could not pay their bills with it to the amount of over $5. We are thus finding the effects of a depreciated currency where we have stood for hard currency all the way along. The difficulty was in giving the legal tender quality to an article which was not coined on government account, and the amount of the coinage of which the government can not regulate. In reference to the subsidiary silver coinage the government has the power in its hands to regulate it, to prescribe that not more than a certain amount shall go out, and only under conditions that keep it equal for business purposes with gold.

By law there has been no silver dollar since 1873. It was discontinued since 1853, but the power to issue it remained till the later date. It was dropped because inconvenient in size and form for ordinary coinage and ordinary business. On this it was suggested by Mr. Jones that the reason why it was dropped was because silver was at a premium at that time, and there was no inducement to coin it. Mr. Sherman stated there was a bill to provide for a dollar equal to two half dollars; but had nothing to do with the question on the trade dollar, which was worth ninety-five or ninety-six cents gold. He proposed the dollar to be exactly equal to two halves, four quarters, ten dimes, etc.

Mr. Jones said:

In order to monetize silver, or declare the double standard, or carry out the views of the Senator from Missouri, it would be necessary to have a bill that should be harmonious in all its parts. This measure was enacted only to protect the people of the Pacific coast, who are on a gold basis, from severe aberrations in the price of silver. They have been obliged to use a subsidiary or small coinage to make change with. In that small coinage the two half dollars contain but 385 grains of silver; the trade dollar contains 420 grains of silver; but for the reason that the two half dollars were necessary and very convenient and portable, and were made a legal tender to the amount of $5, for the amount that was necessary to make the change of that community, sufficient of this debased coinage could be sold for gold and kept at a parity with gold because it cost gold and was necessary to make change with, and it did not disturb the relations between the retail and wholesale dealer of the Pacific coast. The trade dollar was made when it was two or three per cent premium over gold, but by a decline in silver the trade dollar now is worth ninety-two, ninety-three or ninety-four cents in gold. By having the trade dollar a legal tender for $5, the full amount that the subsidiary coins are now a legal tender for, the effect is to degrade the two half dollars that had cost the citizen there $1 in gold, and upon which he was doing business. It degrades that subsidiary coin to the bullion value of the trade dollar.

The half dollar is as pure, nine-tenths fine, as the trade dollar, but is not half as heavy. The two half dollars contain 385 grains of standard silver. A half dollar, supposing it were made on the basis of the trade dollar, would contain 210 grains of standard silver. Therefore I say that, silver having fallen in value, the business of that community being done on a coin basis, and you allowing persons to buy silver and themselves take it to the mint, the effect is to destroy the value of the four or five millions of subsidiary coins already purchased from the government for gold at their nominal rate, dollar for dollar. It reduces the value of all subsidiary coins to the present bullion value of silver, and therefore disarranges the trade between wholesale and retail dealers, much to the inconvenience of the people of that coast. They have neither the one thing nor the other. They are on a gold basis for large transactions and on a silver basis without a scientific relation having been established by the government between gold and silver for the subsidiary coin.

If the trade dollar is made legal tender an injury is done those who pay gold for subsidiary silver coin.

Mr. Jones contradicted the proposition of Mr. Bogy that "there could be no rise in silver if you established the relative value by law based on a certain purity of coinage," in the following remarks:

Mr. Jones, of Nevada—I will state to my friend that under the double standard in France three times in fifty years did the relative value of gold and silver change. Why? Because the legal tender value of gold in the country was greater than its bullion value, and therefore silver went out and vice versa. So it was three different times.

Mr. Bogy—That was owing to the fact that the legal tender capacity was changed.

Mr. Jones, of Nevada—Not at all. No legal tender capacity was changed at all. The market value of bullion changed, because of the great expense and the time necessary for subsidiary coinage where the subsidiary metal was a little debased and the issue limited. Nobody would pay a gold dollar for two silver half dollars if they would not buy gold again.

Mr. Bogy—There is no difference to-day in France between gold and silver taken at the value fixed by law. The trouble here heretofore has been under the act of 1853, that we had fixed a lower standard than France for silver, and the consequence was silver went to France. By the act of 1853, there was no limit to the coinage of silver dollars. There were none coined in point of fact, but the law did authorize the coinage of silver dollars until 1873. Now there is no law authorizing the coinage of silver dollars, excepting it be the trade dollar.

A call for the regular order out of the debate.

The bill styled the "silver bill" came up again April 10. By unanimous consent the bill was amended by striking out the third and fourth sections, and passed, the following presenting its features as sent to the House:

That there be and hereby is appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of $163,000 to provide for engraving, printing and other expenses of making and issuing United States notes, and the further sum of $48,000 to provide for the engraving and printing of national bank notes, to be distributed under the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to issue silver coins of the United States of the denomination of ten, twenty, twenty-five and fifty cents, of standard value, in redemption of an equal amount of fractional currency, whether the sum be now in the treasury awaiting redemption or whenever it may be presented for redemption, and the Secretary of the Treasury may, under regulations of the Treasury Department, provide for such redemption, and issue by substitution at the regular sub-treasuries and public depositories of the United States until the whole amount of fractional currency outstanding shall be redeemed, and the fractional currency redeemed under this act shall be held to be a part of the sinking fund provided for by existing law, the interest to be computed thereon as in the case of bonds redeemed under the acts relating to the sinking fund.

The dispatches from Washington announce that the bill, as amended by the Senate, passed the House of Representatives, and only awaits the signature of the President to become a law.

Funding Board.

The board of liquidation met yesterday morning.

Present—Governor Kellogg, Lieutenant Governor Antoine, Speaker Estilette, Auditor Johnson, Secretary of State Deslonde, and W. C. Black, Esq., president of the Cotton Exchange.

Absent—Treasurer Dubuclet and Fiscal Agent Oglesby.

A discussion on a resolution to burn no more canceled bonds ended with a determination to adhere to the regular method as heretofore practiced.

The following obligations were funded:

20 bonds, levee, act No. 32, 1870	$10,000 00
Coupons	466 66
9 bonds, levee, act No. 115, 1867	9,000 00
Coupons	240 00
52 bonds, levee, act No. 35, 1875	52,000 00
Coupons	1,465 70
Total	$73,172 36
3 bonds, to pay certain debts, act No. 15, 1866	$3,000 00
Coupons	30 00
Total	$3,030 00
20 bonds, North Louisiana and Texas railroad, act No. 108, 1869	$20,000 00
Coupons	400 00
Total	$20,400 00
1 bond, Penitentiary, act No. 55, 1869	$1,000 00
Coupon	23 33
Total	$1,023 33
23 bonds, Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas railroad	$23,000 00
Coupons	250 00
Total	$23,250 00
10 bonds, New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western railroad, act No. 231, 1853	$10,000 00
Coupons	200 00
Total	$10,200 00
1 bond, Jackson and Great Northern railroad	$1,000 00
Coupon	30 00
Total	$1,030 00
Sundry coupons	$586 87
Sundry certificates	897 13
Total	$1,483 30
Warrants, act No. 127, 1857	$1,620 00
Warrants, act No. 5, 1868	10,500 00
Warrants, act No. 5, 1870	500 00
Warrants, act No. 55, 1870	2,000 00
Warrants, act No. 69, 1870	3,540 00
Warrants, act No. 42, 1871	100 00
Warrants, act No. 56, 1873	4,500 00
Warrants, act No. 59, 1874	500 00
Interest coupons	12,100 00
Miscellaneous	1,015 00
Total	$26,365 00

Total amount funded, $165,484 49.

Board of Health.

The adjourned meeting of the Board of Health was held last evening.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read.

The reports of the sanitary inspectors were read, as follows:

Dr. S. S. Herrick, of the First District, reports an abatement in small-pox, the ordinance relative to schools being strictly enforced. Scarlet fever has also subsided, but a mild type of measles has become almost epidemic. Inspections 1389, fumigations 7, cases of small-pox 7, vaccinations of children 60, miscellaneous 24.

Dr. J. T. Newman, of the Second District, says it is remarkably healthy, except for measles of a mild type. Inspections 780, disinfections 3, fumigations 7, cases of small-pox 8, vaccinations 3.

Dr. Gustave Devron, of the Third District, states the health to be fair, except for small-pox, which continues in spite of every effort to arrest it, there being fourteen deaths. Inspections 1162, fumigations 34, cases small-pox 37, vaccinations 41, certificates 77.

Dr. Joseph Holt, of the Fourth District, reports the presence of measles and a continuance of scarlet fever. Inspections 810, disinfections 4, fumigations 4, cases of small-pox 5.

Dr. R. A. Bayley, of the Sixth District, states the general health good, with some malarial fever, but no deaths. A favorable statement of McDonogh School No. 6 is made. Inspections 266, fumigations 3, cases of small-pox 6, vaccinations 49, certificates 99.

Dr. S. L. Henry, of the Seventh District, reports reasonably good health, with a few cases of rubiola and scarlatina. Inspections 156, vaccinations 34.

Dr. George K. Pratt, of the Fifth District, reports: Inspections 383, fumigations 4, cases of small-pox 4, vaccinations 6. A special report on the Gretna police station is submitted, stating it is in a most filthy condition, with leaky roof, tumbling ceilings, cells used for horse stables, and the yard a pool of stagnant, decomposing fluid filth.

A communication was received from the City Council, dated April 12, announcing that at a special meeting of that date the Council had unanimously re-elected the following gentlemen members of the Board of Health to serve the current year: Dr. Felix Gaudet, Dr. J. J. Finney and Dr. Y. R. Lemonnier.

A letter was read from the secretary of the American Social Science Association asking opinions as to the different methods of housing masses of the people, particularly with reference to the relative merits of tenement buildings and separate small cottages, in accordance with a resolution recently adopted by that organization.

A number of nuisances were ordered abated in the usual way.

The board then adjourned.

Sedine is guaranteed to cure any case of chills and fever.

School Board.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Directors was held last evening.

Present—Hon. H. C. Dibble, president; Superintendent Boothby, and Messrs. Bourges, Dumont, Glaudin, Hartzell, Heath, Longstreet, Marks, Pinchback, Rey, Tracy and Waples.

The credentials of Messrs. James Longstreet, P. B. S. Pinchback, H. L. Rey and T. G. Tracy, reappointed, and those of Messrs. C. L. Walker and Paul Trevigne, appointed members of the board, were presented, and they were invited to seats in the board.

The treasurer reported the following balances:

Tax of 1871	$4,074 26
Tax of 1873	2,241 71
Tax of 1874	15,038 32
Tax of 1875	11,691 17
Tax of 1876	41,691 52
Carrollton, 1874	371 25
Total	$75,108 23

Out of the tax of 1876 the March roll has been paid, amounting to $37,544 35.

Reports from standing and visiting committees were received and laid over to come up under unfinished business.

Mr. Marks, chairman of the Committee on Finance, reported a number of bills favorably, amounting to $3276 61, and also resolutions that a sufficient amount be appropriated for March and April, the president stating payment could be made before the next meeting, and that $280 be appropriated for the Keller school rent for January, February and March, and that $200 be placed on the roll monthly according to the lease.

The report and resolutions were adopted.

The committee on schoolhouses reported repairs made on the Clio, Jackson Boys', Bienville, Robertson, St. Philip and Live Oak Boys' schools.

A number of communications and applications were received and referred.

A communication from a committee of the Teachers' Association, inclosing a petition and resolutions, was received. By them a series of preambles, stating the annoyance directors experience from teachers applying in vacation for positions; the practice in other cities to elect at the close of each session; that time should be allowed to seek employment elsewhere; that apprehension of losing their situations deprive teachers of enjoyment of their vacation; that some teachers will be prevented from visiting the centennial by the necessity of remaining to secure their situations, and presented with the following resolution passed at the meeting:

Resolved, That the president appoint a committee of five, of which he shall be a member, to respectfully petition the School Board, asking them to elect their teachers before the close of the present session.

Mr. Longstreet offered a resolution in conformity with the petition of the Teachers' Association, which was laid over for executive session.

The sum of $75, on motion of Mr. Dumont, was appropriated to secure a representation of the examination of scholars and state of education in Louisiana at the centennial.

Mr. Dumont moved that $10 be appropriated for the repairs of the Berlin School.

The president announced the following visiting committees for April:

First District—Messrs. Hartzell, Dumont and Walker.

Second District — Messrs. Pinchback, Bourges and Lynch.

Third District—Messrs. Waples, Trevigne and Rey.

Fourth District — Messrs. Marks and Tracy.

Fifth District—Mr. Stamps.

Sixth District—Messrs. Longstreet and Glaudin.

Seventh District—Mr. Masicot.

On motion of Mr. Hartzell Mrs. E. T. Stamps was appointed portress of the McDonogh school No. 6, at a salary of $36 per month.

The election of officers being in order, Mr. Marks occupying the chair, Hon. H. C. Dibble was re-elected president; Hon. A. J. Dumont, vice president; H. A. Corbin, secretary, and Charles Moore, assistant secretary, by resolution of Mr. Glaudin.

On motion of Mr. Tracy the division superintendent was authorized to appoint a porter for his office and the session room of the board at a salary of $20 per month.

The board then went into executive session.

After executive session, the resolution of Mr. Longstreet on the petition of the Teachers' Association was laid over to the next meeting.

The following assignments and appointments were ordered by the board:

Miss M. S. Brown, third assistant of the Marshall School, vice Miss O'Rourke, dismissed.

Miss Mary Grace, third assistant Webster School, vice Miss Van Osten, resigned.

Mrs. S. E. Cooney, assigned temporarily as first assistant Paulding, in place of Mrs. H. Smith, on leave of absence.

Mrs. M. E. Taliaferro assigned temporarily to Washington No. 2 as first assistant, in place of Miss Crafts, on leave of absence.

Miss Hathorn to act as supernumerary in place of Miss Taliaferro in Jefferson No. 2.

Miss A. Maillot, promoted to second assistant, Barracks School.

Miss L. Keyes, promoted to second assistant, Broadway School.

Mr. Warren Easton, principal of the St. Philip School, in place of Mr. Andry, transferred to the Miro School as principal.

Miss M. A. Nahar, principal; Mrs. M. A. Baby, first assistant, boys; Mrs. M. F. Baptiste, first assistant, girls; Miss K. Kelly, second assistant, boys; Mrs. L. G. Aucoin, second assistant, girls; Miss L. Wall, third assistant; Mrs. C. Gould, third assistant; Miss N. Chateau, third assistant; Mrs. M. Washington, third assistant; Miss K. Grennon, third assistant, were assigned to the McDonogh School No. 6.

Mrs. E. C. Earhart, of the Jackson Boys School, was granted leave of absence to May 5 without pay.

The board then adjourned.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF SCHEDULE ON THE EASTERN DIVISION OF THE "MOBILE LINE"—Will be in effect on and after Sunday, the sixteenth instant, when fast express trains, carrying the United States mail and Great Southern express, will leave the foot of Canal street at 6:45 A. M. and 5 P. M., with palace cars running through via Atlanta to Washington and Baltimore, and via Nashville and Louisville to Cincinnati, making but one change, with double daily connections to the Centennial Grounds, New York, Boston and other Eastern and Western cities.

This change of schedule will enable the traveling public to reach Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York one business day in advance of any other schedule now in existence, and with more comfort and safety than ever before offered.

For through tickets and palace car accommodations call on W. H. Field, corner of Camp and Common streets (opposite City Hotel).

Florine cures difficult or suppressed menstruation.

In any case of fever use kernine.

COURT RECORD.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1876.

The following is a corrected list of appearances of April 11:

United States vs. E. Fehrenbach.—Conspiring to defraud the United States; Edward Fehrenbach, surety, Henry Pohlman; Paul Bruce, sureties, James Lewis, Joseph L. Montieu; W. M. Todd, surety, John W. Madden; C. W. Wills, surety, C. E. Girardey; John McWhirter, own recognizance.

United States vs. S. W. Hammond. T. W. Eaton and John McWhirter, own recognizances; C. W. Wills, surety, Henry Newman.

United States vs. P. Harnan.—False gauging, etc.; own recognizance.

United States vs. Dennis O'Brien, John McWhirter and C. W. Wills; own recognizances.

United States vs. Sundry accused.

The defendants below named, who are now under bond to answer to certain indictments found against them in the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Louisiana, prior to the seventh day of April, 1876, hereby waive any objection which they might urge by plea on abatement to the qualifications or array of the grand jurors who found the said indictments, provided they have not been and shall not be reindicted for the same offenses.

John A. Walsh, P. Harnan,
John McWhirter, Alfred S Cowand,
H. G. Pierson, D. M. Carey,
James Gerard.

United States vs. P. Carney.—Two cases. Verdict not guilty.

APPEARANCES.

United States vs. E. Fehrenbach.—Conspiracy to defraud the United States. Otto Karstendick, two cases; surety, F. M. Zeigler.

United States vs. S. W. Hammond.—Same charges. John H. Webb, surety F. A. Behan, two cases; William J. Behan, surety F. A. Behan; John Thorn, surety M. L. Navra; Alexander South, own recognizance.

Ex parte Secretary of War vs. Mrs. C. Paussin.—Application of James H. Kennedy and Auguste Chevellier dismissed. Defendant recognized as the owner of the land expropriated, and the $1200 deposited in the treasury to be paid to her.

Heirs of James Gallier vs. succession of James Gallier, Jr.—James Gallier, Jr., and his wife perished on the Evening Star, in 1866. He left by will certain property to her. It was for the jury to decide if Mrs. Gallier lived after her husband, thus taking the legacy, or dying first, it lapsed. The succession was settled subject to the rights of Mrs. Gallier. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, thus determining that Mrs. Gallier survived her husband.

United States vs. sundry accused.—Conspiracy to defraud, etc. A number of the parties defendant pleaded that the grand jury were incompetent; that nine were discharged, the foreman included; and, therefore, no grand jury remained; that five being added, the thirteen remaining "had formed and expressed an opinion upon the evidence there submitted, and could not by reason thereof sit upon the present panel of grand jurors;" that twelve members did not assent to the indictments, and the signature of the foreman, Silas Weeks, was placed on the indictments without their concurrence, contrary to the United States Revised Statutes, section 1021, and that the grand jurors could not read English.

Supreme Court.

State vs. Charles Morgan.—Appeal by writ of error taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Superior District Court.

State vs. New Orleans Gaslight Company.—Tax suit on capital of $3,000,000. Judgment for defendant.

Malek A. Southworth vs. Sheriff et al.—Petitioner, with C. E. Girardey, Thomas L. Macon and Nicholas J. Hoey, allege that a lot in the Sixth District has been assessed in their names, a fieri facias has been issued issued for taxes, and the property will be sold; that their rights are qualified to those of the State; that they were not served with process, and the writ does not properly describe the property; that by act No. 31 of 1871, as commissioners, they selected it for the site of a State House, and that since then it has not been subject to taxation. Injunction issued on bond of $1000.

Temple S. Couns vs. John W. Cannon.—Suit dismissed.

Superior Criminal Court.

Arthur Gastinel, Esq., presiding.

State vs. B. Nelson.—Indicted March 30 for setting fire on February 25 to the University building, corner Baronne and Common streets. There being no evidence whatever, the acting Attorney General entered a nolle prosequi.

W. R. Whitaker, presiding.

State vs. Laura Joseph.—Manslaughter. Accused was indicted March 30 for having stabbed Sam Joseph on the eighth of February, at the corner of Treme and Conti streets, who died of tetanus February 18. The trial proved a clear case of justifiable homicide, self defense. The Acting Attorney General stated so to the jury, the presiding attorney also, when the jury retired and, after half an hour's deliberation, returned a verdict of not guilty. After the verdict was rendered Judge Whitaker censured the jury for this unnecessary delay, as they were bound to return the verdict without leaving their seats.

Judge Braughn also commented upon the action of the jury.

It seems that one of the jurors was of the opinion that a verdict of carrying concealed weapons against the accused, who had a pocket knife, ought to be rendered. This had caused the delay.

First District Court.

MISTRIAL.

John Gwinn, petty larceny.

PLEADED GUILTY.

Thomas Lynch, assault and battery, of assault.

INFORMATIONS.

Assault and battery—J. J. Walker, two cases; William Rivers.

CONVICTED.

Dennis Bowgard and Albert Lubetner of assault and battery; Antoine Knocks of petty larceny.

NOLLE PROSEQUI ENTERED.

Tim Behan, of assault and battery.

Fourth District Court.

Widow P. Macias vs. Octave Anfoux.—Judgment for $6000, with eight per cent interest from June 12, 1872, on promissory note.

Charles M. Conrad vs. Joseph Patzelt, James Jackson, intervenor.—Plaintiff and intervenor both claim landlords' lien and privilege on defendant's chattels for rent due. Intervention dismissed, except as to articles never in the house of Conrad.

The Revenue Cutter.

Yesterday the revenue cutter John A. Dix, E. A. Freeman commander, came out of dock completely repaired. She has had her bottom newly coppered and a new wheel placed on her. To-day she will take in coal and be prepared for a cruise, either on her regular station, to sound Lake Pontchartrain, or proceed at once to the Rio Grande.

Appointments.

Governor Kellogg has made the following appointments:

J. W. Knobloch, notary public for the parish of Lafayette.

T. Collette, justice of the peace, and O. Cannon, constable, for the fifth ward of Plaquemines.

Time flies.
Time flies.
Time flies.—But two weeks off.
But two weeks off.
But two weeks off.
Golden drawing,
Golden drawing,
Golden drawing,
Opera House, April 29.
Opera House, April 29.
Buy a ticket. Opera House, April 29.
Buy a ticket.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Mr. Spencer introduced a bill to prevent panics and give elasticity to the legal tender currency without impairing its value by limiting its amount, together with national bank notes, and gold and silver coin in circulation, according to the population, and to make legal tender notes equal in value to United States government bonds with the consent and by the action of their owners, and to authorize the issue of legal tender notes and the retirement of the same under certain circumstances and on certain conditions. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Whyte also presented a memorial from the Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company, Maryland Insurance and Security Company, and other marine underwriters of Balmore remonstrating against the passage of the House bill in regard to the distribution of the Geneva award by Congress.

The bill authorizing the sale of extra copies of public documents passed.

Mr. Jones, of Florida, introduced a bill donating a powder house lot to the corporation of St. Augustine, Florida, for corporation uses. Referred.

The postage bill resumed.

The substitute of Mr. Harvey, to restore the old rate of postage on third class matter, failed by a vote of 25 to 25. The bill then passed, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That mail matter of the third class shall embrace all pamphlets, occasional publications, regular publications devoted primarily to advertising purposes or for free circulation or circulation at nominal subscription rates, prices current, catalogues, annuals, hand bills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectuses; books, bound or unbound, book manuscripts, proof sheets, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples of merchandise, sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelops, postal envelops and wrappers, cards, plain and ornamental, paper, photographic representations, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law as third class matter, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law which are not from their form or nature liable to destroy, deface or otherwise injure the contents of the mail bags, or the person of any one engaged in the postal service. All liquid, poison, glass, explosive materials and obscene books or papers shall be excluded from the mails.

SEC. 2. That packages of matter of the third class shall not exceed four pounds in weight, and shall be subject to examination, and rates of postage as hereinafter provided. The postage on mail matter of the third class shall be at the following rates: For all distances one cent for each ounce or fractional part thereof. Every package of the third class of mail matter shall bear the postmark of the office at which the same shall be mailed for transportation.

SEC. 3. That the postage on third class matter shall be prepaid by stamps. If, however, the postage on third class matter mailed at an office shall be less than the full amount above prescribed, in cases where the sender is known, such sender shall be notified of the fact, and the amount of postage due shall be collected from such sender before the same shall be transmitted by mail. In case the sender is not known, where it has not been the evident intention of the party depositing the package to place less than full postage thereon, such package shall be forwarded and double the amount of the deficient postage shall be collected from the party to whom it is addressed or delivered at its proper destination.

SEC. 4. That the sender of any article of third class mail matter may write his or her name and address therein, or on the outside thereof, with the word "from" above or preceding the same, or may write briefly or print on any package the number and names of the article inclosed. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers the time to which subscription therefor has been paid.

SEC. 5. That transient newspapers and magazines shall be admitted to and transmitted in the mails at the rate of one cent for every three ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof.

SEC. 6. That this act shall take effect on and after the first day of July, 1876.

The Senate then took up the bill to repave Pennsylvania avenue, in Washington.

Pending discussion the Senate went into executive session, and adjourned.

House.

Mr. Waite, elected to fill Mr. Starkweather's unexpired term, was seated today.

The House passed the silver bill without amendment. It now goes to the President.

Mr. Hoar offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire what steps have been taken for properly representing the interests of the United States in the suit instituted against the Credit Mobilier and others, under provisions of the act of third of March, 1873, and also whether the Union Pacific Railroad Company has not forfeited its charter, and whether the same resisted should not be repealed, because the company has resisted the recovery in its behalf of its capital stock wrongfully withdrawn by means of fictitious construction of contracts and unlawful dividends. Adopted.

The Elections Committee made a report in the Minnesota contested election case that Straight, the sitting member, is entitled to the seat. Ordered printed.

Mr. Walsh, of Maryland, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to examine the buildings rented in the city of Washington by the various departments of the government, and to inquire into the necessity of continuing their occupation. Adopted.

Mr. Pierce, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a substitute for the compulsory pilot fee bill. Recommitted.

Mr. Cox offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to consider what action should be taken to enable the President to receive and entertain the Emperor of Brazil and the President of Peru, who are soon to arrive in this country. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The deficiency appropriation bill was taken up. Mr. Wells, of Missouri, who had charge of it, made explanation as to the bill. The bill was amended in various minor particulars and passed.

Mr. Morrison, of Illinois, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill to revise and simplify the existing laws imposing duties. Made the special order for April 26.

The House then, at 4 P. M., went into committee of the whole on the bill to transfer the Indian bureau to the War Department, and was addressed by Mr. Cook, of Georgia, in support of the bill. At the close of Mr. Cook's speech the House took a recess.

Mr. Hill, of Georgia, moved to strike out the paragraph appropriating $60,000 for detecting violations of the internal revenue law. After a vigorous debate the motion was rejected.

The Republicans refused to proceed without a quorum. Two calls of the House followed and adjourned without further progress.

WASHINGTON.

Blaine will Explain.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Mr. Blaine has prepared himself for a defense against the article which appeared in yesterday's Indianapolis paper. He has a letter dated April 6, from Morton, Bliss & Co., and one from E. H. Rollins, dated March 31, stating positively that no money had been paid in any way or to anybody by the company in which Mr. Blaine was interested in any manner.

The following is a copy of a letter written by Mr. Blaine to a friend in Michigan touching the story made public by the Indianapolis *Sentinel:*

WASHINGTON, March 22, 1876.

My Dear Friend—Yours received. I beg you will not be disturbed by Washington rumors respecting myself. The story of my having ever received money or any thing else of value from the Union Pacific Railroad Company, or any of its officers or agents, is not only false but absurd there is not the remotest foundation for it and I can scarcely conceive that any one would be credulous enough to believe it. It has been circulating in Washington for some weeks past in an indefinite, irresponsible and intangible way. Whenever it shall assume form and shape and publicity it will receive a conclusive answer. In the meantime I trust you will hold a peaceful mind; I shall never be injured by stories of this kind. Sincerely yours,

J. G. BLAINE.

The Purman Case.

The Civil Service Committee continued the Purman case.

B. F. Livingston and Henry Crews, of Florida, swore that Purman obtained for them offices of timber agents; told them that they would get $41 per month and have nothing to do; neither of them had ever performed any duty as timber agents, nor knew where the timber was received; their drafts from the Navy Department did not pay Purman directly or indirectly for the appointment; supposed he gave them offices because they were active Republicans.

Mr. Martin, warden of the Penitentiary, testified he knew all the timber agents in Florida. None of them knew where the reservation was; did not know of any official or other man in Florida who ever paid Purman any bribes.

The postmaster testified that Purman received nineteen registered letters from different points in Florida, the past year. Knew nothing about the contents.

Spencer vs. Morey.

The Committee on Elections this morning had a consultation over an informal report of the sub-committee in the case of Spencer vs. Morey, from Louisiana. The sub-committee meets to-morrow early to complete the report, when the whole committee will hear the case. There will be two reports from the sub-committee—the majority for seating Spencer. It is claimed that Morey has the equity of the case, but has had it badly prepared, and that Spencer beats him on technicalities.

The Killbourne Habeas Corpus Case.

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House appeared before Judge Carter and made his statement, whereupon return of writ was extended to Saturday. Subsequently the matter came up in the House, and it was referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report as soon as possible, not later than Saturday.

Mr. Connery, of the New York *Herald*, appeared before the committee. He had had a consultation with Mr. Bennett, and submitted the reasons why the questions should not be answered, whereupon Connery was discharged.

Harper's Ferry Property to be Resold

The Harper's Ferry property, under a decision of the Attorney General, will be resold in June.

Emma Mine.

The officer, Rossetter Raymond, a mining expert, testified that if the Emma mine had been properly worked it would have proved worth all claimed for it.

In the Emma mine investigation Park testified that his motive in interesting General Schenck in the Emma mine was that he might have a friend in whom he could trust and with whom he could advise. Park observed, on Schenck's hesitation to become a director because he was minister, that he (Park) could see no impropriety in being a director, but that he (Sch