Daily Globe.

VOLUME I. ST. PAUL, FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1878. NUMBER 39.

THAT BRIBERY.

Report of Committee.

Testimony in Detail.

An Excited Debate.

Contempt and Censure.

Resolution for To-Day.

The mammoth comes—the foe;
The monster Brandt.

—Gertrude of Wyoming.

Of all the days of the Twentieth Session of the Minnesota Legislature, yesterday, taken all in all, is entitled to bear the palm. From the beginning to close, the interest in the proceedings continued unabated and at intervals rose to fever heat both in the House and in the crowded lobby.

With the opening of the session the lobbies both above and below were filled up to more than a comfortable jam, which by noon had increased almost to the point of suffocation.

About 11 o'clock the investigating committee which had been engaged in its labors in the committee room up to that hour entered the House and in a short time thereafter, Chairman Rice rose, and addressing the Speaker, sent up the report of the committee and the evidence taken before it.

The Speaker asked if there was any objection to receiving the report at that time, and none being heard, ordered the chief clerk to proceed with the reading. The report, when the fact that it made no recommendation became known, excited but little interest, and as soon as its reading was finished, Mr. W. M. Campbell called for the reading of the testimony. At this point every nerve was strained to catch every word that was uttered, and during the entire reading the profoundest silence reigned supreme. When this had been concluded, Mr. Bowler opened the ball by questioning the thoroughness of the inquisition, when Judge Campbell got in a telling retort which for the time attracted undivided attention. That Chesterfield of legislators, in whom there is no guile, Mr. Rice, followed his associate and gave most interesting account of the "true inwardness" of the committee's doings. Next, the old Goodhue war-horse gave a snort, and then there *was* music in the air, and by the time he pitched into the "gentleman from Carver," things had come to fever heat. This reached its climax when Mead demanded the judgment of the House upon "this man, Hall," as he phrased it. Then came the judiciary chairman, with one of his most seductive speeches, and when he has a mind to, he can make them seductive enough to almost "raise a mortal to the skies, or draw an angel down." He disclaimed any disposition to whitewash, and on the contrary, was willing, if the House said so, to employ detectives and attorneys, and gather in from the highways and by-ways every possible scintilla of evidence

After recess the fight reopened, and though under the flimsy guise of a different name, raged as fiercely and furiously as during the morning. Every turn in the deadly struggle is noted in the legislative report on the second page, as the two matters, the text book and the bribery, gradually became interwoven and hopelessly intermixed. Throughout, the session was both intensely interesting and exciting. Amid the typical three bushels of chaff, the observant listener could now and then detect the three grains of wheat. The struggle may not be renewed for a day or two, but when the West resolution of contempt against Liberty Hall comes up this morning, it will again appear in all its fury. The House proceedings in the bribery report proper, appear below.

School Book Bribery.

Mr. Rice, from the alleged bribery investigation, submitted the following report:

Your committee appointed to investigate into the truth of charges of bribery and corruption connected with the Merril school text-book bill respectfully report that they have been engaged in said investigation at different times since their appointment, with a view of ascertaining the truth of such charges, and for that purpose have called upon all persons who claimed to know or believe that corrupt means have been used to defeat said bill, to furnish said committee with the names of witnesses, and such other evidence as they might have knowledge of, and in every instance caused such witnesses to come before them.

That the testimony so taken is herewith submitted. As to the effect of said testimony or the bearing thereof, your committee do not feel called upon to express an opinion, as the testimony is very short and easily comprehended by the House.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

EDMUND RICE,
W. H. FELLER,
L. H. BISHOP,
N. RICHARDSON,
S. L. CAMPBELL.

Mr. W. M. Campbell called for the reading of the testimony, which was then read by the chief clerk, as follows:

Chas. C. Brandt, Sworn.

On Friday there seemed to be a rumor afloat that money was being used in connection with the school text book bill. Geib, Klossner and myself room together at the International. We retired about ten. After we had been in bed a short time, persons rapped at the door and called Geib. He got up to let the person in. I discovered it to be Anderson, a member of the House. He stated his desire to speak to Geib outside the room. Geib and Anderson left the room. Some time thereafter Geib returned. He seemed excited and said the rumor afloat that money was used on the text book bill was not all false. He had been offered money for his vote. Said he had been at the Merchants Hotel and had been offered $100 for his vote. That money was not tendered him, but the party took a piece of paper, and saw it marked 100, and said if the measure carried, then it was marked 200. Did not state name of man, but was given to understand the offer would be open until morning.

Geib seemed indignant, that money should be offered him. I felt indignant and took it very seriously. I went to bed and nothing more was said or done about it. After I went to bed I began to think the matter over, and concluded it was my duty to get further proof if I could. The idea never entered my head that I would change my vote on any matters. My sole object was to get hold of money so as to expose the fact that money was being used.

Next morning the same subject came up. I concluded to get hold of money to expose the matter if Geib would go with me as a witness. After breakfast Geib and myself went down street to the Merchants Hotel. I thought it must be done before the bill came up for decision. I asked Geib if I could depend on him. Geib said, "You can depend on me all the time."

Geib went up stairs with a man and soon came down, and motioned for me to come. We walked up stairs. Geib said he had not taken money. We went to the room. Geib introduced me to Liberty Hall. Geib left the room. I sat down.

Hall asked me what I thought of the text book bill. I said I thought it was a good bill and ought to pass. He said he thought not. We had some more general conversation, and he asked me what I thought of the amendments. I said the friends of the measure were not in favor of amendments. He thought it ought to be amended. He asked what I thought of an amendment to make it optional with the districts whether they took books or not. I said I could vote for it conscientiously, as it would not affect my district. Then he asked if he could talk business. I said he might. He then said he would give me $50 if I would vote for the amenament.

He then took from his pocket a bill. It was $50. I put it in my pocket. Then he says, "will you vote for that amendment?" I answered, as I said before, "I can conscientiously." I then rose to leave the room, having all I was after—the evidence to prove that money was being used, and was now prepared to lay the money before the House. Hall asked me if I would vote for other amendments that might come up. I made no reply. I said to Hall I was anxious to get to the capitol by nine o'clock and made no answer to his questions, and immediately left the room and found Geib in the general office, waiting for me, and we left for the capitol. After we left the hotel I showed the bill to Geib, and told him to take particular notice of the number. I told my story to Col. Pfaender and showed him the bill. I then went to the House and the committee knows what I did then. I sent the same bill to the clerk's desk. I asked Geib, on my way to the capitol, why he left the room, and he said Hall told him to do so.

John Geib Sworn.

Friday evening last I was in bed. Anderson came and said a man at the Merchants wanted to see me. I went and met Liberty Hall. He tried to get me to vote on the other side of the bill. From the conversation I thought money could be got. When I got back Klossner said, "I suppose you are bought." I told them a man that would vote for the amendment could be bought. Then Brandt said, "I don't think anything of that kind is going on." Nothing more was done that night.

Saturday morning, after breakfast, Brandt came to me and said, "I would like to be introduced to that man." We then went to the Merchants Hotel and I introduced him to Liberty Hall. After I introduced him I left and know nothing that took place.

After Brandt came down he was awfully excited; he asked me if I had taken any money; I told him I had not. After we left the hotel Brandt pulled out a $50 bill and showed it to me and said, I have the proof on 'em here now. That is all that took place between him and me.

Question by Mr. Feller. Did Mr. Anderson make any improper suggestion to you?

A. He did not.

Q. Did you see Hall Friday evening?

A. I did at the Merchants hotel, in the office.

Q. Did he say anything to you about the money?

A. He did not, but I inferred from what he said, money could be got.

Q. Did you take the number of the bill shown you by Brandt?

A. I did not. I did not look at the bill. Brandt told me after he sent the bill to the Clerk's desk that it was No. 2670, to the best of my recollection.

Q. Tell us what part Mr. Anderson took.

A. He only told me a friend of mine wanted to see me. We went on foot.

Q. Did Liberty Hall put any figures on a card or paper?

A. He did not. I only inferred from what he said that money might be had. I cannot recollect what he said. It was only my inference. He had a card in his hand and held it up, but made no remarks.

I did say to Brandt that I saw figures on a card. There were figures on the card; do not recollect what they were: think there was 100 and 200; no dollars marked. I now do recollect it.

When I went to Hall he said he wished to talk with Brandt alone and wished me to retire.

Q. By Mr. Richardson:

Did Brandt tell you from whom he received the $50?

A. He said he got it of Liberty Hall; said he promised to vote for amendment to text book bill in consideration of the money.

Q. Do you know anything that you have not told in reference to bribery or money being used on the school book bill or inducement to have men change their votes?

A. I know nothing more.

Recalled—I did not tell Klossner that if I would send men down they could get $100 or $200, or any words to that effect. Hall nor any one else ever told me that if I would send men down that would vote on the amendments they could get $100 or $200. We joked considerably, Klossner and myself, and if anything of that kind was said, it was a joke.

Jacob Klossner Sworn.

Knew Mr. Brandt. Saw him last Friday evening. After we retired a gentleman called for Mr. Geib. Geib went off, and when he returned he claimed that he had been offered, in an indirect way, as he thought, money; that is, he saw a card with $100 marked on it, and was told, so he said, if he would send down one or two members who could be made use of, he might do so, and the amount would be doubled. That is all of that evening. Next morning, while we were dressing, Geib and Brandt in a joking way, thought it would be a good plan to go down and get some money, and then explain it in the House. I remarked that I didn't want any of that money. Then after breakfast Brandt put on his overcoat and stood talking to a man. I did not know the man. When I turned around Brandt and Geib were gone. I never saw them again until I saw them at the capitol. I was the first man in the capitol. I did not know that Brandt and Geib went to the Merchants. First I knew about it Brandt made the announcement in the House. The man who came after Geib I think was Anderson, though it was dark.

Samuel G. Anderson, Sworn.

I called at the Commercial hotel, Friday evening, to see John Geib, my colleague, to try and induce him to fight the Merrill text-book bill. I told him that Col. Edson and myself were opposing the bill, and asked him why he could not join us, and then we would be a unit on the question. Said he would be glad to do so, only he had petitions from his constituents asking him to support the measure. I told him if that was the case, I did not want him to do anything to hurt him at home. Did not go for him to go to the Merchants, only to see him myself. We walked along till we got to the Merchants. Nothing more said about the Merrill law. We talked about farming, and we sat and talked a short time at the Merchants, and Hall came along. I did not expect to see Hall. This conversation about the text-book bill took place on the street. I wanted to see him alone, and did not like to talk in the presence of Brandt as I knew he was on the other side. I would like to say right here, as my name has appeared in the Minneapolis paper, that no one has offered me money to influence my vote or action in any manner, since I came here, and I know of no one who has offered or tried to influence any member of this House with money or other pecuniary offers.

Mr. Anderson returns before the committee, February 21, and states further, at his own request: I told Trewe, at the Merchants' hotel, that I would regard it as a great favor if he would support the amendment to the Merrill text book bill, which would make it optional with the districts to take or reject the books. I told him that I was satisfied that it would be to his interest to support the amendment.

W. H. Mills, Sworn.

Q.—You stated on the floor of the House, that men had been taken up out of their bed and offered money.

A.—All the information I have is, that parties were taken from their beds on Friday night, from the International to the Merchants. Mr. Geib said they came after him after he was in bed, and took him to the Merchants in a carriage. He said some offers had been made, which he was ready to state when called on. This was Saturday morning. In regard to Hyland it was mere rumor; I heard it at the Windsor; cannot tell who told me.

Question by chairman:—Do you know of any attempts to influence votes against the text book bill by money or other pecuniary considerations?

A.—I know of one case but decline to tell; I do not know of the effect of declining to answer your question.

Q.—Are you aware that by so doing you are in contempt of the House.

A.—I am not. I think the answer would tend to disgrace me but not criminate me.

MILL'S SECOND APPEARANCE.

Wednesday, Feb. 20.—Mr. Mills appears before the committee and states that on reflection he knows of nothing that would implicate any person as trying to influence votes for or against the so-called text book bill in any corrupt manner, and so desires to answer the question proposed to him by the chairman and wishes to have the testimony stricken out after that in reference to Hyland.

THIRD DAY, FEB. 21.

Ole O. Lien, Sworn.

I do not know of any money being used by any person on the Merrill text book bill. I have never been approached by any person, or tried to influence any one with money in any corrupt manner.

J. W. Williams, Sworn.

I have never been offered money, nor offered money, and know of no one using money to influence votes on the so-called Merrill text book bill.

E. F. Hyland, Sworn.

I have never been offered money, or any valuable consideration, to vote for the so-called Merrill text book bill, and know of none being offered.

Jacob Trewe, Sworn.

I was told I could get $50 if I would vote for the amendments. Anderson came to me at the Merchants, and said he could do me a great favor, if I would vote for the amendments. I then left with Mr. Null, and Mr. Null said, if I would go to Mr. Barthel and tell him so that each could get $50, if we would vote for the amendment. I told him, "No." He said, "Go along with us, and you can get $50 now or in the morning." That is all that was said. We did not go anywhere. Did not tell me where I could get the $50.

Edward Null Sworn.

I do not know of any member of the House being offered any money or valuable consideration for the purpose of inducing them to vote for or against the so-called Merrill school textbook bill, or for amendments to be offered to the same, which bill is now pending in the House. I never told any member of the House that he could get $50 for voting either for or against amendments to said bill. I had a conversation with Mr. Trewe, and only gave him my opinion as to the merits of the bill. Think I talked to him about the reports that were contained in the *Dispatch* about money being used to bribe members, but did not say to him that he could get $50, if he would go and get it.

Liberty Hall Sworn.

Question by chairman. Have you offered money or any other valuable consideration to any member of the Legislature, as an inducement for him to vote against the so-called supplementary text book bill, or in favor of any pending or proposed amendments offered thereto?

Answer. I have not and do not know of any money being offered for that purpose.

Q. Are you in the employ of any publishing house?

A. Yes; the house of A. S. Barnes & Co., and no other.

Q. Have you, as such, endeavored to defeat said bill?

A. I have. I have conversed with different members of the House and Senate.

Q. Have you talked with Mr. Brandt, of the House?

A. I did.

Q. State briefly the circumstances, and what was said and done.

A.—Saturday morning Mr. Brandt came to room 21 in the Merchants hotel with Mr. Geib. Geib introduced him to me when Brandt stepped into the room. The first I recollect that was said was by Brandt, that he called to talk about the text book bill. Said he should support the amendment to the text book bill making it optional with the districts to take books or not, and he said he intended to do so. We talked for several minutes. I gave him my reasons for opposing the bill. Asked me what I thought of the amendment including cities. I replied that I did not consider it essential, and did not think it right that cities or towns should be compelled to use the books; that it seemed to me the best way to get along was to leave it optional with the districts. Brandt said he thought so too and intended to vote for the amendment making it optional. That was all that was said about the text book bill. Then talked on other subjects; about the grasshopper troubles; said his county suffered, and he had suffered, and was hard up. Nothing more had been said as to how he intended to vote on the text book bill. Mr. Brandt is in my congressional district. I never met him before this time. I did not procure the appointment for him to come to my room, and did not know that he was coming. I took him to be an influential man in his community. When Brand't got up to leave the room I gave him fifty dollars. It was my own money, and not given with any idea of procuring his vote on that amendment, as he had stated unqualifiedly that he was a friend of the amendment. The point I had in my mind was to secure him as a friend in case I wanted his assistance in political matters in the future.

Q.—Did you converse with Geib the night before at the Merchants?

A.—I did.

Q.—What was the conversation?

A.—It was brief; cannot hardly tell; but the substance was—can't you give me a lift on this bill. He told me he could not, and that was about all; he said his constituents were in favor of the bill, and that ended the conversation as far as I know.

Q.—Did you intimate to him that parties that would vote for the bill could get $100, or any sum?

A.—I did not. I had an envelope in my hand; did not show it to him, to my knowledge. What was in the envelope I do not know. This was in the office or saloon of the hotel. I am not positive whether I asked him if he could not get another member. If I did, I have forgotten it. I did not send anyone to bring Geib to the hotel.

Q.—Have you paid out any money for, or belonging to any parties in order to defeat this Merrill text book bill?

A.—Not to any member of the Legislature, but have employed one or two to help defeat the bill for a short time not connected with the Legislature. I did not see Geib, to my knowledge, on the morning that Brandt came to my room until he brought Brandt. He came to the door and introduced Brandt, and left immediately.

Col. Pfaender, Sworn.

Saturday morning last Brandt came to my office and showed me a fifty dollar bill; said he had found out there was money being used to defeat the text book bill; said the bill had been tendered to him as a bribe to vote for the amendment to the text book bill, and he had determined to expose it, and asked me to take the number of the bill; I did so; it was No. 2670, Government No. V, 129144, $50.

J. B. Fanning, Sworn.

Question. Have you any knowledge of money being offered to any member of the Legislature to induce him to vote on the text book bill, or any other question coming before the Legislature?

A. I have not.

Mr. Bowler was disposed to question the thoroughness of some of the questions put by the committee.

Judge Campbell retorted that the very questions sent in by the gentleman himself to be propounded to Mr. Lien were put an answered, and were embodied in the report in almost the identical language used by the gentleman, Mr. Bowler.

Mr. Rice further explained that the examination was made as thorough as possible, and that every question bearing on the matter had been asked.

Mr. Lien demanded that Mr. Bowler cross-examine him.

Mr. Colvill said the evidence exposed a most disgraceful transaction, and that some action should be taken by the House. The transaction was a devious and questionable one. He wanted to know if this transaction of Liberty Hall, who wanted political support, was a specimen of civil service reform. The transaction should be stamped as it deserves. He was surprised at one transaction—that the gentleman from Carver, who proclaimed his knowledge of the transaction, should, when he went before the committee, decline to state anything about it.

Mr. Mills put in a disclaimer, and Mr. Colvill said Mills had said he (Mills) knew of one case, and yet he declined to answer.

Mr. Mills said the offer had nothing in it about money or other valuable consideration, and that he declined disclosing on the ground of personal relations.

Mr. Colvill said he had understood the reason for the gentleman's refusal to answer was that it had connection with some secret society. He wanted the views of the House on that. He was glad Brandt's evidence showed that he could conscientiously vote for the amendment.

Mr. Mead hoped that the House, if it meant to take any action with this man Hall, who he had no doubt had committed bribery as well as perjury, would do so immediately, before the close of the present term of the criminal courts of Ramsey county.

Mr. McCrea said he believed the committee had done their duty.

Mr. S. L. Campbell said he had called upon the leaders of the text book bill and every one of them said he knew nothing but rumors. He said to the author of the bill, send an attorney in to cross-examine the witnesses and give us their names and they will be summoned. The insinuation was that they wanted to whitewash. That was not the case. The committee did not ask to be discharged. Send them back and employ attorneys and detectives to bring every particle of evidence they could gather. No one had been before them who was unwilling to answer all questions of the House right here. He could get nothing but rumors. He had no disposition to whitewash.

Mr. Bowler insisted upon his original statement. He wanted to throw out no insinuation against the committee, but he would like to ask whether any lawyer would have been satisfied with such an examination.

On motion of Mr. Purdie, the House took a recess to 2:30.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mr. W. M. Campbell said the report of the committee had been sufficiently thorough, and for his part he was glad no more disgraceful matters had been developed. He moved to accept the report of the committee.

Mr. Williams was willing to be cross-examined by any one who was not satisfied with his examination before the committee.

Mr. McDermott was dissatisfied with the action of the investigating committee. He was proceeding to speak of the matter, when Mr. Dresbach of Winona made the point that the gentleman was out of order.

The point was sustained, and Mr. Campbell's motion was carried almost unanimously.

Mr. Morse, who had voted in the negative, thought the report should be recommitted to the committee with instructions to report their conclusions of fact.

Mr. W. M. Campbell hoped the House would do no such thing. If any one was in contempt of the House for refusing to answer questions proposed by the committee, that was a separate matter and had nothing to do with this report.

Mr. Robinson moved the report be recommitted, with instructions to report the conclusions of the committee. He appealed to the House to bring out all the facts and to allow no one to be screened, no matter who may be hurt.

Mr. Campbell was willing to have the committee investigate Mills' case and would vote to instruct the committee to do so. He offered an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Rice contended that the committee had not been instructed to report their conclusions but only the facts.

Mr. J. P. West offered the following, which after some discussion, went over under notice of debate by Mr. Buffum:

WHEREAS, The report of the committee of this House, appointed to investigate into the matter of the alleged bribery of Hon. Charles Brandt, a member of the House of Representatives, discloses the fact that Liberty Hall, on the 16th day of February, A. D., 1878, at the city of St. Paul, in this State, did wilfully and corruptly give one fifty-dollar bill, of the value of fifty dollars, to the Hon. Charles Brandt, then and there a member of this House, for the purpose of corruptly tempting and compensating said Hon. Charles Brandt to vote corruptly and under restraint for certain amendments to be proposed to the Merrill text book bill, then pending before the House; and that said Hon. Charles Brandt did receive said fifty-dollar bill; therefore,

Resolved, That Liberty Hall be, and hereby is in contempt of this House of Representatives for his wilful and corrupt conduct in bribing, or attempting to bribe said Hon. Charles Brandt, one of its members, while the House of Representatives was in session; and that the said House of Representatives hereby directs its honorable Speaker to cause the sergeant-at-arms of the House to forthwith arrest said Liberty Hall, and bring him before the body of the house to receive its censure, and to abide its future action in the premises.

Mr. Buffum gave notice of debate.

Mr. Purdie moved to suspend the rules.

Mr. Sabin inquired what authority this House had over the person of Mr. Hall?

Mr. Purdie's motion was then put, and, on division, resulted—ayes 41. Lost.

Contested Elections.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The House committee on elections to-day, 6 against 5, agreed that Benj. Dean, Democrat, was elected from the 3d Massachusetts congressional district, and that Walbridge C. Field, Republican, wasn't entitled to his seat. The vote is as follows: In favor of Dean, Harris, Springer, Turney, Cobb, Williams, and Ellis; in favor of Field, Candler, Democrat, Wait, Thornburgh, Price, Hiscock, Republicans. The case will be called up Wednesday next, and a minority report will be presented by Candler.

The committee to-day unanimously concurred in the report made by the sub-committee on the Frest-Metcalf Missouri case, that no additional time for hearing of testimony be granted.

Cardinal Antonelli's Love Case.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A Roman correspondent says in the Antonnelli will case the court decided that the plaintiff, Countess Lambertine, the deceased cardinal's alleged daughter, should be permitted to introduce evidence in support of her case, and condemned the defendant, Count Antonelli, to pay the costs of the first stage of the proceedings.

EUROPE'S TROUBLE

A FRESH WAR EXCITEMENT IN ENGLAND.

Effect of Bismarck's Speech on the Powers--Russian Army Movements--Turkish Mission to the Czar Seeking for Better Peace Terms--Servia Dissatisfied With Russia's Plans.

BISMARCK'S SPEECH.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A Vienna correspondent says: If the impression produced by Prince Bismarck's speech in the German Reichstag, Tuesday, be a mingled one, the declarations of Herr Benningsen, and the warmly sympathetic way in which they were received by the House, have here produced unalloyed satisfaction, proving, as they do, that the thoughtful minister, in his responsible position, must endeavor, in the German Parliament, to hold the balance evenly between Austria and Russia. Nevertheless the scale gravitates in the direction of the former, and the great value of this is fully understood.

A St. Petersburg correspondent says Bismarck's speech produced no impression whatever in official circles, being precisely what was anticipated several days ago. Indeed, its general scope and tone were confidently predicted by people whose prophetic inspiration was probably derived from official sources.

A Paris correspondent says the chief thing remarked here is Prince Bismarck's desire to absolve Germany from all responsibility and to maintain a just equilibrium between Russia and Austria. After this speech people are more than ever discussing the policy of England.

EXCITEMENT IN LONDON.

LONDON, Feb. 21, 2:30 p. m.—It is reported a cabinet council was hastily summoned this morning. Lord Cairns, lord high chancellor, being called from the hearing of a case in the House of Lords. The stock market is very dull and heavy in consequence of this report, and Russian securities are one per cent. lower than yesterday.

RUSSIA AND SERVIA.

BELGRADE, Feb. 21.—Negotiations between Russia and Servia continue. The Russians have waived the incorporation of Nisch with the new province of Bulgaria, but insist upon the Servians relinquishing Perd and Okpollanka. This causes much indignation in Servia.

TREATY OF PEACE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 21.—It is said Russia stipulates for a date by which the treaty of peace must be signed at Constantinople. There are 20,000 Russians at Tchatalda, but they are not advancing beyond that place. The Russians are fortifying Rodosto.

A PEACE STIPULATION.

An Adrinople correspondent says the peace negotiations proposed will be made to have a tribute of money to be reserved from Bulgaria paid into the Imperial Ottoman bank for the benefit of Turkish bondholders.

RUSSIAN ARMY MOVEMENTS.

A special from Belgrade says six thousand Russians are expected to occupy the Pashaleck of Nisch shortly.

THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—In the House of Lords this afternoon Lord Derby stated the difficulty as to a place for the meeting of the conference had been removed, and that Baden Baden had been chosen. Austria proposed the meeting should take place the first week in March, but this government objects to the shortness of time asked, and will not deviate from the usual course of sending an ambassador.

ERZEROUM.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 21.—It is reported that the Governor of Erzeroum has telegraphed the Porte that the evacuation of that place is impossible, as owing to the interruption of communications by snow the troops could not obtain supplies outside of the city.

BETTER TIMES WANTED.

PERA, Feb. 21.—Namyk Pasha's mission to St. Petersburg is to endeavor to obtain from the Czar a modification of the terms of peace, especially those touching the withdrawal of Mussulmans from Bulgaria, and the limits of the new principality, which it is stated the Russians now insist on bringing within a few miles of Constantinople.

AWKWARD.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—It is generally felt that Russia's present relations with Roumania are extremely awkward, but the the government shows no signs of relinquishing its demands for the retrocession of Bessarabia.

ENGLISH WAR NOTES.

An officer of the horse guards arrived at Bristol yesterday accompanied by a veterinary surgeon, to purchase five thousand horses for the war office. The officer states this is a part of a purchase of twenty-one thousand horses which have been ordered.

The government has purchased another ironclad built for Turkey. It mounts ten twelve ton guns.

The suspicion is widespread that the government intends dissolving Parliament about Easter time.

A conviction prevails in Berlin that the military and court parties at Vienna will induce the Emperor to settle amicably with Russia notwithstanding the prepossessions of the Hungarians.

The Australian colonies are considering measures to be adopted for the defense of the coasts in the event of Great Britain engaging in war.

A considerable number of Russian troops are concentrating beyond Adrianople.

The foreign office has given notice to Lloyd's that the prohibition of the export of grain and other products from Black Sea ports has been raised, but that the torpedoes have not yet been removed.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The war office has invited tenders for supplying 150,000 Henry rifles.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—It is stated positively in the lobbies of Parliament that the government has received private information that the Turkish fleet is to be surrendered to Russia, and that part of it has already been surrendered.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—The *Agence Russe* says "Together with the whole Russian press we unresuredly approve of Prince Bismarck's speech. The *Agence* declares that England's armaments are ill calculated to inaugurate pacific conference.

DISASTROUS FIRES.

A Private Insane Asylum and Four Inmates Perish in the Flames--Chicago Beef Packing House Burned.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Indirect report has reached here that Tuesday evening the insane asylum at Winosky, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, was totally destroyed by fire, and that four inmates, Lucretia Toothaker, Mrs. McDonald, August Althrop, and Billy Dolan, an Indian, perished in the flames. For some reason no attempt has been made to remove their bodies, and they still lie in the smouldering ruins. the property loss is only $4,000 to $5,000, with no insurance. G. S. Jewitt, the keeper, owned the building. A defective flue is the cause.

Early this morning the beef-packing house of Nelson & Morris, at the Union stock yards, the largest in the country, was entirely destroyed by fire. 1,200 carcasses of beef, 1,200 hides, 1,000 barrels of tallow, and two dogs, valued at $100 each, were in the building. The firm estimate their loss at $120,000 to $150,000. The only known insurance was $10,000 on the building and fixtures. The contents were uninsured.

British steamship Stowford from Liverpool for Portland, Me., is so long overdue that fears are entertained for her safety. She is an iron-screw steamer, 1485 tons, and owned in North Shields.

THE TEXT BOOK JOB.

What a Leading Educational Paper Says.

[Boston National Journal of Education.]

Educational affairs in this Northwestern State are receiving a great deal of attention. A bill passed the Legislature of last winter, under which the State made a contract with a certain party for all the text-books for her common schools. The bill was in no sense representative of the opinions of the educational men of the State. It was a piece of robbery from the beginning, and was pushed through by the efforts of the fanatics and demagogues of the legislature. It was expected that a mammoth printing establishment would be set up at the capital, and that the profits would be large and certain, as the State herself would be the sole purchaser. But grave defects in the law appeared. All efforts on the part of the contractor to get the machinery in motion were futile. In the first place, it turned out that there was no intention on his part of manufacturing a book. On the contrary, he at once sought to enlist some established publishing-house in his scheme. This plan did not meet with success. The law itself was so loose in its phraseology, and the payment on the part of the State so uncertain, that publishers declided to have anything to do with the scheme.

Finally, however, late in the fall, the contractor succeeded in obtaining a series of books, which were presented to the commissioners appointed under the law to examine the books, and were accepted by a majority of their number,—the State superintendent voting in the negative. The series is one which never met with success. It consists of books made to order by one of the machines kept by publishers for that purpose. Teachers did not want them, agents could not sell them, and the publishers grasped at the contractor's scheme for forcing them upon the schools of the State as being an easy way of selling their unpopular books. But they are likely to fall short of their expectations. Public sentiment has been aroused by the imposition, and the legislature now sitting has been overwhelmed with petitions for the modification or unconditional repeal of the law. Superintendent Burt, in his report, sets forth his reasons for voting against the books. This drew replies from other members of the commission, from the author of the books, and from the contractor. To these Mr. Burt gave decided treatment. He substantiates his position by direct proof, and by the confirming testimony of the leading educational men of the State.

Meanwhile legislators began to see that they must heed the strong and growing wave of public opinion against the measure. It is still undecided, but the prospects are brightening. The leading papers which have been silent, or cautiously favoring the contractor, are beginning to see where they must plant their feet. It is regretted by all that so little opposition was offered to the project last year. In Wisconsin a similar measure was killed by the prompt and fearless course of Superintendent Searing. It was the same story of the printers and jobbers at the capital, longing for the fat of a huge State establishment. Had Mr. Burt set his heel upon the matter in its infancy, as did Mr. Searing, Minnesota would not have been disgraced by the law and its consequences. But, considering the gallant fight which he is now making, the people are disposed to overlook the delinquencies of last year.

The latest development is a proposition from all the leading publishing houses to bond themselves to furnish any or all of their books to the districts of the State at prices as low, or lower, than those named by the contract under this law. This is a powerful argument against the law.

HEWITT'S STORY.

That "Unwritten Story" Finally Brought Out.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16, 1878.—*To the Editor of the Sun*—SIR: In view of the gravity of the statement published in the *Sun* of to-day, declared to have been transmitted by your Washington correspondent, whom I take to be Mr. A. M. Gibson, I lose not a moment in correcting the errors into which he has fallen, and the most serious deductions of the editorial article which comments upon this statement. In the course of the debate on Wednesday last, Mr. Tucker sent no page or message of any kind to me, but, on the contrary, just as I was about to begin the statement which I was unexpectedly called upon to make to the House, I found that I could not remember the name of Mr. Pickett, and, seeing Mr. Tucker in his seat, I walked over to it and asked him to give the name, because he had been on the committee before whom Pickett was a witness. Curiously enough, he could not recall the name, but just then I rembered it myself, and I returned at once to my place on the floor. There was no consultation with Mr. Tucker, nor Mr. Randall Gibson, on any subject whatever, and if Mr. Gibson was there, I do not remember having seen him.

Now as to the statement in regard to what took place at my house on Sunday, Dec. 3, 1876. On that day I had an interview with President Grant, who, among other things, declared his belief in the right and duty of the President of the Senate to count and declare the electoral votes. This statement I communicated on the same afternoon in confidence to several gentlemen with whom I felt it to be my duty to consult as to the policy to be pursued by the Democratic members of Congress. Mr. Tucker, Mr. Lamar and Mr. Randall Gibson were present at that conference, but neither then nor at any later time, did either of these gentlemen make to me any declaration of their views as to the right of the President of the Senate to count and declare the electoral votes. The subject was talked over in a general way by those present, but no one, as far as I can remember, announced any determination as to his action.

Last summer, however, in Paris, in the course of a conversation with Mr. Randall Gibson, he told me that Mr. Lamar and Mr. Tucker had expressed the opinion to him at the meeting at my house that the constitution was capable of the construction given by Gen. Grant, and that they rather inclined to view that he was right.

Mr. Gibson stated that he never concurred in this view, and only mentioned it to me as a curious evidence as to how little that important question had then been studied even by able constitutional lawyers. He enjoined no confidence on me, but I do not know that I should ever have remembered and repeated his remark if it had not been recalled to me in the course of a conversation with your correspondent, Mr. A. M. Gilbert on the subject of the difficulties with which I had to contend, and in which many other matters were referred to.

My relations with Mr. A. M. Gibson during the campaign had been very intimate, and I had repeatedly discussed matters with him to which I had no idea public reference would be made. While I am surprised that he has referred to this matter, I do not remember that I enjoined confidence, as, indeed, such an injunction was not necessary: but he has evidently confused the dates, and given a construction to the conversation I did not intend, and which does such great injustice to Messrs. Lamar, Tucker and Gibson, that I hasten to relieve them from the conclusions which you have reached in regard to their action during the Presidential count, which, so far as my observation went, was eminently wise and patriotic. Your obedient servant, ABRAHAM S. HEWITT.

JOHN SHERMAN'S FRIENDS.

Vain Attempts to Save Anderson from Conviction by Bribery.

[New Orleans Democrat.]

On Monday evening Attorney General Ogden was visited by one of the talesmen in the returning board case now being tried in the superior riminal court, who informed him that a person had called at his place of business for the purpose of offering him a bribe to stand by Tom Anderson, in case he was accepted as a juror on the trial of the case.

Mr. Frederick Hollander is the juror who was sought to be purchased. Mr. Hollander is a merchant of this city, where he has been doing business for many years as a dealer in lager beer, ales, &c. Mr. Hollander said that it must have been at dinner time—about 3 o'clock—on Monday afternoon, while he was absent from his store, that an individual called there and, not finding him in, ventured to propose to his brother-in-law (who is bookkeeper) that if Mr. Hollander should be accepted as a juror he would be paid $1,000 to acquit Tom Anderson; that if that sum were not sufficient, it would be increased to $2,000. In fact, that Mr. Hollander might name his price.

On returning to his store after dinner the fact was communicated to him by his brother-in-law, who was instructed by Mr. Hollander to say to the individual who had proposed the bribe that if he, Mr. Hollander, found the evidence to be against Anderson he would vote to convict him; otherwise he would vote for his acquital, but that there was no money in New Orleans to purchase his conscience.

"Then the proposition was not made to you directly?" we asked.

Mr. Hollander—No, sir. I would spit in the face of any man who attempted to offer me a bribe.

"Do you know the man Mr. Hollander?"

Mr. Hollander—Oh, yes; I know him when I see him, but I do not know his name.

"Can you describe him?"

Mr. Hollander—Well, not exactly. I know him when I see him. He is a tall man, about six feet high, and walks quite erect. He wears some reddish whiskers.

"Do you know his occupation?"

Mr. Hollander—I think he is a commissioner of claims in this city.

COINING SILVER.

What Will Be Done Under the Bland Bill.

Dr. Linderman, director of the United States mints, has been questioned by a reporter in regard to the capacity of the mints to fulfill the requirements of the Bland silver bill. He thought there was little doubt the bill would become a law, and said he had consequently been taking measures in expectation of its enactments. The three mints of the United States, he said, at Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Carson City, would probably be able to run out $1,000,000 in the new coins during the first month after the passage of the bill. In the second month the number of dollars coined would probably be increased to $2,000,000 while thereafter a maximum rate of coinage of $3,000,000 a month would probably be reached.

During the first year $30,000,000 of the new dollars could be coined. The necessary amount of gold coinage could be combined, and the subsidiary silver coins also be got out as rapidly as hitherto. Between $5,000,000 and $6,000,000 in subsidiary silver coins are still to be produced under the order issued by the secretary of the treasury during Grant's administration.

Two designs have already been made for the new dollar. Both are very pretty, and the few coins that have been struck in the mint for the benefit of the Congressional committees are exceedingly attractive in appearance. The obverse of one of the designs, which, with a few alterations, will probably be accepted, has a beautiful head of liberty, a firm and expressive profile, with luxuriant hair crowned with the traditional cap and coronet, with shafts of wheat. Above the head is the motto: "E Pluribus Unum." Below is the date. "1878." On the reverse is an eagle with uplifted wings, two stars, in a semi-circle the words "United States of America," and beneath them, "In God We Trust." The other design is similar, but less artistic.

The mints, if the Bland bill becomes a law, will still produce trade-dollars for the Chinese trade.

ALL AROUND THE GLOBE.

Edward L. Goodwin, city clerk of New Britain, Ct., and formerly police court clerk there, was arrested last night on the charge of a misappropriation of $6,500 while police clerk.

Walter Donaldson & Co., of New York, coal agents, failed yesterday. Liabilities, $100,000.

The Governor of New York has recommended to the Senate the removal of John F. Smyth, superintendent of insurance. The Senate will consider the charges of Controller Olcott against the superintendent on and after March 5th.

The Sherman & Hand mantel company, extensive marble manufacturers of Chicago, filed a petition in bankruptcy yesterday morning. Secured debts, $34,000, with securities worth $50,000. Unsecured debts, $85,000; assets, in lands, open accounts and choses in action, $72,000.

An Ottawa telegram says: In the House of Commons Hon. Mr. Smith, minister of mar