XXXVITH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, March 9, 1860.

The Senate met at 1 o'clock.

Various reports and petitions were presented.

Owing to the noise and confusion in the Hall, scarcely a word could be heard in the reporters gallery.

Mr. FITCH (Dem., Ind.) introduced a bill to provide for the public printing and binding. Referred.

Mr. CAMERON (Rep., Pa.) presented a petition in favor of an increased tariff.

Mr. BRIGHT (Dem., Ind.) introduced a bill for the enlargement of the public grounds about the Capitol. He said that the House Committee had met the Senate Committee on this subject and agreed upon a plan of enlargement. He hoped the bill would be considered at an early day.

The private calendar was taken up, and the bill for the relief of Mrs. Anne M. Smith, widow of Gen. Persifor F. Smith, was considered.

Mr. HALE (Rep., N. H.), moved an amendment, granting pensions to Mrs. Macomb and Mrs. Riley, which was adopted by a large majority, and the bill passed.

Mr. Hyatt was brought in by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

VICE-PRESIDENT—Are you ready to answer the questions propounded by the Senate?

Mr. HYATT—Yes, Sir, I am; I have the answer here [producing a large roll of paper]. I am not able to read it myself.

On motion of Mr. MASON (Dem., Va.), the paper was sent to the Clerk's desk to be read. After the reading had been commenced, Mr. Mason said the answer was evidently a long argument, and to save time he proposed to have the answer to the second question read, to see whether he was ready to answer now or not.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.)—If I understand it, there are two questions propounded. One is, what is your excuse for not answering? and the other is, will you now answer? Now, I understand the Senator from Virginia proposes to arrest the answer of the witness to the first question, and pass that over and proceed at once to the second answer. I must submit that this is unfair. The witness is responding to an order of the Senate to appear before you to answer two specific questions, and it is now proposed to stop him midway in his answer to the first question, without hearing what it is. I submit it is so unjust, that I hope the Senate will not permit it.

Mr. SAULSBURY (Dem., Del.)—The answer of this witness is here. After the Senate of the United States have solemnly decided that they have a right to call him to make his excuse. But here is no excuse. He offers no excuse. He simply denies the jurisdiction and power of the Senate to summon him here, and he enters an argument to show that this body has usurped powers. I submit there is not a word of that whole answer which acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Senate. It is a total denial of their power to summon him, and a refusal to answer. If the Senator from Massachusetts will say that he (Mr. Hyatt) says in any part of that answer that he is willing now to be examined before the Committee, I am perfectly willing to hear what he has to say; but there is nothing contained in it that shows that he is now willing to answer, but it is a denial of jurisdiction.

Mr. FITCH (Dem., Ind.)—The answer is what it purports to be, a legal argument, and is only adding to the contempt heretofore evinced by this party for the Senate. He was asked to state his reasons for so refusing, but instead of contenting himself by so doing, he has entered upon a long argument, and closes by a summary, and that summary is all that ought to be read. And in answer to the second question, he says he is not ready to appear before the Committee.

Mr. SUMNER—The Senator from Delaware appealed to me to know whether I could inform him as to the contents of that document. Most assuredly I cannot. And because no Senator can, I think it right to be read. How can the Senator from Delaware undertake to anticipate what is in the document? It is there under oath, in response to your order, and, without knowing what it contains, you propose to stop the reading of it.

Mr. SAULSBURY—I do not wish to stultify myself, but it is apparent to every Senator that it is the printed answer laid on our tables yesterday. The Senator from Massachusetts cannot deny but what he believes the very answer is printed and was laid upon the tables yesterday. In that paper there is no acknowledgment of jurisdiction, but a total denial of it, and also a refusal to answer, placing himself upon the justice of the country. It is an appeal to the great jury, the country, from your jurisdiction. It is unbecoming Senators to allow the witness to throw defiance in their teeth.

Mr. HALE (Rep., N. H.)—I wish to make a suggestion as to a matter of fact to the Senator from Massachusetts, who says no one knows what is in that document. I do know what is in it. A friend of that—I don't know whether he is a criminal or a witness—individual read the answer to me, and it is mainly that printed article. I told the friend that, in arguing his case, the counsel had yielded altogether too much. The argument yields in certain cases that the Senate may exercise this power; but I think not in any case. This body is generally composed of men who call themselves lawyers, who have all the virtues and few of the vices incident to that profession. It is generally the case, when a criminal is to be sentenced, that the Court asks him if he has anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced. I don't know that it makes any difference, for the sentence is generally in the Judge's pocket. But if this is a Court of justice, as many seem to think, when you put a question to the witness, it implies that if you have a right to question he has a right to answer, provided his answer is not disrespectful and insulting. You are bound to hear, though I don't know as there is any part of the Constitution that says so. He answers, denying your right, and I appeal to the candor of the Senator from Delaware if that is disrespectful to the Senate. I should be sorry to do or to say anything disrespectful to this body, or have it imputed to me.

Mr. SAULSBURY—Is there anything contained in that manuscript not in the printed article?

Mr. HALE—I should think on a moderate calculation there were at least twenty pages, or thirty.

Mr. SAULSBURY—I thought, from the similarity, it was the same. Does the witness acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Senate, and does he agree to answer any question?

Mr. HALE—He does not admit the jurisdiction of the Senate, and I should be very sorry if he did. I would not stand up here and say a word for him. That is his conviction, and it is my conviction. I have no doubt on the subject, and think it will not be long before the Senator from Delaware will come to that opinion. The individual does at the end of that paper say that he is willing to answer, and always was, but denies your right to bring him here. I had rather leave my place here, and never look in the Chamber, than be guilty of any wanton disrespect, but I desire the Senate to be careful how they exercise even a doubtful power.

Mr. SAULSBURY—Then he is willing to answer, now?

Mr. HALE—He was this morning.

Mr. MASON suggested the paper better be read.

Mr. HALE—The Senator intimates he had rather hear that paper than my speech.

Mr. MASON explained that he suggested the second question be answered, that the witness might be released from custody and brought before the Committee to answer, and they might take further action in regard to the argument.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) thought the simplest and easiest way to dispose of the matter would be to refer this paper to the Committee, and then remand the witness to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms until we see whether it is an answer or not. He did not wish to stay and hear that long argument read, and he would make a motion to refer the paper, and remand the witness to custody. He did not think it very respectful to the Senate for the witness to come in with an argument of three or four quires of paper, and expect the Senate to listen to it. He thought no Court, after making out a process against a person for contempt, would listen to an argument for three or four hours as an excuse. They would hear any statement of fact. His object was to save time.

Mr. DAVIS (Dem., Miss.) thought it of no use to refer the paper to the Committee.

Mr. MASON wished the paper read.

Mr. KING (Rep., N. Y.) was of opinion there was something in the principle; that the witness was responding to the Senate, and had a right to be heard. The answer was written, and the witness desired it read. He had no doubt of the authority of the Senate, but thought the respondent had a right to present an answer. If the paper was referred to the Committee it would come back, and the Senate would still have to pass judgment.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.)—Unless the Senator from Illinois withdraws his motion I must protest against that doctrine. This man is brought before the Senate to answer for contempt, and the Senator from Illinois seems to agree with the idea advanced on the other side, that it is a greater contempt to undertake to defend himself. I think the questions should have been asked in the reverse order. But he comes here to undertake to give his reasons, and it is to me a new idea that in any court it is a contempt to appeal from its jurisdiction. My friend from Illinois speaks of it as an infliction upon us that this man should have undertaken to argue his case under oath. But the Committee is not to judge of this case. The Committee has reported the fact to the Senate that the man did not appear, and the Senate orders him to be brought in, not before the Committee, but before the Senate, to give his reasons why he did not answer. He comes before us to argue his own case, which every man has a right to do, and the answer is, from both sides of the house, that it is a gross contempt of the court to take up its time by telling the reasons why he could not answer. My friend observes there is no court that would submit to it. I apprehend, if my friend was on the bench which he once dignified and adorned, and a man was brought before him under the same circumstances, he would say, "I am ready to hear all you have to say." Since I have read that argument, and more than that, on this subject I can tell Senators there is very great doubt whether we are not exercising a jurisdiction to which we have no right. It is well for us to hear this paper. We may be a great body, but not greater than the people who made us, and their liberty is not to be trifled with.

Mr. MASON objected to the reference of the paper.

Mr. TRUMBULL said he was not willing to be placed in a false position. He was glad to see all this zeal for liberty. All he meant was to have the paper sent to the Committee, and this was magnified into a case where a man was not defended. Nobody desired to take from any man his liberty. His friend from Maine had done this when he voted to put this man in custody. It was not the intention of anybody to condemn a person without a hearing. He did not think his remark about the proceeding of a court was obnoxious to the objection made against it.

Mr. TRUMBULL withdrew his motion to refer.

Mr. BENJAMIN (Dem., La.) said the argument was long and simply amounted to this, that the witness disputed the power of the Senate, as a reason why he had not previously appeared before the Committee, and, disputing such power, he was not willing to appear now. He hoped the document would be referred to the Committee to select the grain of wheat from the mountain of chaff. Let the Committee report what the witness had answered. He renewed the motion to refer.

Mr. FESSENDEN said the witness had been brought to the Bar of the Senate. They were now the judges, and could not get rid of the responsibility by reference.

Mr. SALSBURY discussed the question of witnesses before the Courts, and said that this witness would have appeared before the Committee, if he had not wished to make a martyr of himself. Mr Hyatt had no right to read a lecture to the Senate as to its powers.

Mr. FOSTER called for the reading of Mr. Hyatt's answer, under the rules of the Senate.

Mr. DAVIS objected.

The reading was ordered by Yeas 40, Nays 12.

The SECRETARY read for two hours, and when he had closed there were about ten Senators on the floor, while the galleries were deserted.

Mr. Hyatt's counsel discusses at great length the Constitutional powers of the Senate in this respect, including numerous citations from cases in Parliament, Congress, Courts, &c., to which Mr. Hyatt adds his own observation recommending the amendment of the Constitution to cover cases similar to his. In conclusion, he says he has always been willing to appear before the Committee, and is now, provided his rights as a citizen are respected by the Constitution of his country, but he refuses to appear now, as the laws of God and man forbid it, and his conscience, as well, will not permit him to do so.

Mr. MASON recapitulated the facts of Mr. Hyatt's summons and his arrest by the warrant of the Vice-President, saying that Mr. Hyatt had answered the first question put to him by a long argument, saying that the Senate had no power to bring him (Hyatt) here, and the second question by saying that he was willing to appear before the Committee now, which is in direct conflict with the report of the said Committee in the case. He would therefore offer a resolution, that Mr. Hyatt be remanded to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and that he be committed to the Common Jail in Washington City, there to remain in close confinement until he signifies his willingness to appear and answer all proper and legal questions that may be put to him by the Select Committee of the Senate.

Messrs. DOOLITTLE and FESSENDEN said that this was a new question to them, and that they wanted time to discuss it.

Mr. MASON then offered a resolution, which was adopted, that Mr. Hyatt be remanded to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms until the further order of the Senate. Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following gentlemen were announced as the Special Committee on the subject of a Pacific Railroad:

Messrs. Curtis (Rep., Iowa), Farnsworth (Rep., Ill.), Phelps (Dem., Mo.), Davis (S. Am., Md.), Scott (Dem., of Cal.), Rice (Rep., Mass.), Fenton (Rep., N. Y.), Smith (Dem., Va.), Taylor (Dem., La.), Kellogg (Rep., Mich.), Blair (Rep., of Pa.), Aldrich (Rep., Minn.), Hamilton (Dem., Texas), French (Rep., Maine), and Stout (Dem., Oregon).

The following special Committee was announced on Mr. Covode's resolution to inquire into alleged abuses in connection with the Executive Department: Messrs. Covode (Rep., of Pa.), Olin (Rep., N. Y.), Winslow (Dem., N. C.), Train (Rep., Mass.), and Robinson (Rep., Ill.)

Mr. CARTER (Rep., N. Y.) desired to make an explanation in reply to certain statements contained in Mr. Adrain's preamble and resolution in defense of the Committee of Arrangements for the inauguration of the statue of Washington.

Mr. CRAIGE (Dem., N. C.), raised a point of order.

The SPEAKER decided that mere newspaper articles are not a privileged question, for these might keep the House continually occupied on questions of this kind.

Mr. CARTER earnestly insisted that he had a right to make his statement, as the proposition reflected on his character while he was absent, and, besides, the statements were untrue.

He was repeatedly called to order.

Mr. CARTER appealed from the Speaker's decision, which was sustained by a large majority, amid laughter.

An exceedingly earnest and animated debate followed, on a resolution providing for the payment of some small arrears to some former employees of the House; but there were no points of general interest.

Mr. GURLEY (Rep., Ohio) reported, from the Committee on Printing, the following joint resolution, authorizing each House of Congress to employ its own Printer to execute its own work:

Be it enacted, etc., That the third section of the act entitled "An Act making Appropriations for the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Expenses of the Government, for the year ending 30th June, 1860," approved March 3, 1859, be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and that the Printer of the Senate and the Printer of the House of Representatives be, and they are hereby, directed to cause to be printed such regular and extra number of documents and reports as may be required by their respective Houses of Congress, provided that the Printer of each House shall be allowed one-half of the rate now allowed for composition, and no more; and composition in no case shall be paid for without satisfactory evidence is furnished the Superintendent of the Public Printing that said composition was necessary to the printing of the documents and reports, and that it has actually been executed.

Mr. GURLEY said the object of the bill was to give the House the control of its own printing. As the law now stands, the Printer of the branch of Congress first ordering the printing of long documents, does the work for both Houses. The result is, that the Senate Printer now has nearly all the work to do, and the printing has become a complete monopoly with the Senate. The consequence is that the House cannot get printing done at the proper time. This resolution would not add to the expense, but gives to the House Printer one-half the compensation.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM (Dem., Ohio) said the resolution designs to repeal a part of the act of 1859, which forbids underletting.

Mr. BARKSDALE (Dem., Miss.) said it proposed a system of plunder for the benefit of the House printer.

Mr. PRYOR (Dem., Va.) said the object of the resolution was to compel the Senate Printer to divide the spoils with the House Printer, who was destitute of capital, and is anxious to transfer the job.

Mr. STANTON (Rep., O.) would not repeal the proviso prohibiting the Printer from transferring the office, because the principle was sound, and they should not elect any man who is not here prepared to execute the printing. As he could see no good object to be accomplished by the resolution, he was opposed to it. Don't scramble over the petty matter of party spoils——

Mr. GURLEY said the plunder that belongs to public printing is as much an incubus as any part. He was willing to transfer all such plunder over to the Democratic side of the House. They might be able to use it with advantage. It was not so with the Republican party, who could not use it in that way. He denied that the object of the resolution was to divide the plunder. It was to have the work speedily executed.

Mr. PENDLETON (Dem., Ohio) understood the resolution proposed to pay each printer a fixed price, irrespective of the work each may do.

Mr. GURLEY replied, each was to do his own work and receive half price.

Mr. HASKIN (A. L. Dem., N. Y.) said the design of the resolution was to give each House the patronage which belongs to it. He was in favor of a Government Printing-Office to stop the infamous plunder, which corrupts as much the Democratic as the Republican party. General George Washington Bowman now gets the printing of the Executive Departments, in addition to that of the Senate, and enjoys almost an entire monopoly. The House Printer is entitled to the patronage of this branch of Congress, and he (Haskin) would give it to him. He was utterly opposed to giving the Executive printing in part to help support *The Pennsylvanian*, *Evening Argus*, and *The Constitution*. It was testified last session, before a special committee, by Mr. Wendell, that a few days after Mr. Steadman was elected, the latter sold out his contract to Mr. Wendell for $30,000 or $34,000, and these things should be ended.

Mr. HINDMAN (Dem., Ark.) inquired whether one of the Republican candidates for Printer did not propose to contribute the printing spoils for party purposes?

Mr. HASKIN—Yes, and that proposition defeated the individual.

Mr. HINDMAN—Did you not vote for him in the Caucus?

Mr. HASKIN—It was called a conference.

Mr. HINDMAN—And did you not vote for the nominee?

Mr. HASKIN—I did. As I attended the conference, I felt bound to abide its decision. I was treated as an ally, not as a party man.

In the course of his remarks he said Mr. Bowman receives a percentage from Mr. Rives, who does the work.

Mr. FOUKE (Dem., Ill.) indicated a resolution he desired to offer, proposing a Select Committee of five, to examine into any corrupt combination made or proposed to be made, to secure the election of any officer of the House, and whether any malfeasance on the part of any of the subordinates had been practiced during any previous session.

Mr. HOUSTON (Dem., Ala.) understood the public binding was given out by Mr. Haskin to a pet of his, and to a gentleman from Ohio. Was this true or false?

Mr. HASKIN said there was not a word of truth in the report. The Committee on Printing refused to give the binding to the lowest bidder; but after it was awarded, the editor of a small paper here attempted to levy black mail.

Mr. HOUSTON wanted to know who are the parties who got the binding.

Mr. HASKIN replied: One lives in Ohio and the other in New-York. He appreciated the extraordinary colloquial ability and clearness with which the gentleman stated all his propositions, and was surprised that he (Houston) had interpolated in discussion a subject which had been referred by the house to an Examining Committee. He would refer the gentleman to the Committee who have the subject in charge.

Mr. HOUSTON expected such an answer from the gentleman, who was disposed to shun the investigation.

Mr. HASKIN denied that he wanted to shun any investigation.

Mr. HOUSTON understood that *The Republic* newspaper here charges clearly that the Committee on Printing did let out the binding after they had received a lower bid for it.

Mr. HASKIN—Have you become the champion of *The Republic* newspaper?

Mr. HOUSTON—I am your opposite. I am the champion of truth.

Mr. COX (Dem., Ohio) in alluding to Mr. Haskin's reference of an attempt to levy black mail, said Mr. Coombs, the editor of *The Republic*, was an honest, irreproachable man. He expressed surprise that Mr. Coombs' Republican friends from Ohio, where he was well known, had sat still and allowed his character to be impeached.

Mr. STANTON indorsed all that Mr. Cox had said, because he thought the bringing of the binding into this discussion was exceedingly inappropriate and uncalled for. He had not thought proper to say anything at this time. He knew all about this binding, and would state it on a future occasion.

Mr. GURLEY as the Chairman of the Committee on Printing, said they, in letting out the binding, did nothing they were not willing should be presented to the House in full light. The charge made was false, and he could demonstrate it.

Mr. BARKSDALE moved to lay the resolution on the table. Carried, 98 against 65, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams (Ky.), Adrain, Anderson (Mo.), Ashmore, Avery, Beecek, Benham, Benligny, Brabson, Bristow, Buffington, Burch, Burnett, Case, Clark (Mo.), Clopton, Cobb, John Cochrane, Cox, Craig (Mo.), Craige (N. C.), Crawford, Curry, Davis (Miss.), Dejarnette, Edmundson, Etheridge, Ferry, Florence, Gartrell, Hamilton, Hardeman, Harris (Va.), Hatton, Hill, Hindman, Helman, Houston, Howard, Hughes, Jackson, Jenkins, Jones, Kellogg (Ill.), Kilgore, Killinger, Lamar, Landrum, Larrabee, Leake, Logan, Love, Maclay, Martin (Ohio), Martin (Va.), Maynard, McClernand, McPherson, McQueen, McRae, Miles, Millson, Montgomery, Moore (Ky.), Moore (Ala.), Morrill, Nelson, Niblack, Noell, Pendleton, Peyton, Pryor, Pugh, Reagan, Robinson (Ill.), Ruffin, Scott, Simms, Smith (Va.), Smith (N. C.), Stallworth, Stanton, Stevenson, Stewart (Pa.), Stokes, Stout, Tompkins, Underwood, Valandigham, Vance, Vandever, Washburn (Ill.), Waldron, Webster, Whiteley, Wilson, and Wright—98.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams (Mass.), Aldrich, Ashley, Babbit, Bingham, Blair, Blake, Burlingame, Burnham, Campbell, Carey, Colfax, Conkling, Covode, Curtis, Delano, Duell, Dunn, Edgerton, Eliot, Foster, Frank, French, Gilmer, Graham, Grow, Gurley, Hall, Haskin, Helmick, Hoard, Humphrey, Hutchins, Jenkins, Kellogg (Mich.), Leach (Mich.), Lee, Loomis, Lovejoy, McKean, McKnight, Millward, Moorhead, Morris (Pa.), Olin, Perry, Porter, Potter, Rice, Royce, Schwartz, Sedgwick, Sherman, Somes, Spinner, Tappan, Train, Tremble, Van Wyck, Verree, Walton, Washburn (Me.), Wells, Windom, Woodruff—65.

Adjourned until Monday.

The Loss of the Hungarian.

BOSTON, Friday, March 9, 1860.

Halifax papers of March 2 state that a numerous corps of divers reached the wreck of the Hungarian, whose investigations may lead to important discoveries in regard to the loss of the vessel, and the bodies of her passengers and crew.

The Halifax Journal says: "From what we can learn in regard to the position of the wrecked vessel when last seen, she must have struck about midnight, when all but the watch on deck were in their beds, and thus probably they perished."

Non-Arrival of the Niagara.

HALIFAX, Friday, March 9—8 p. m.

There are yet no signs of the Royal Mail steamship Niagara, now in her fourteenth day from Liverpool.

Further News by the Steamship Nova Scotian.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Friday, March 9, 1860.

The steamship Nova Scotian, which arrived here yesterday afternoon, sailed from Liverpool at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 22d of February, touching at Queenstown the next day.

The steamship Glasgow also sailed from Liverpool on the 22d ult. for New-York, and the steamship New-York was to leave Southampton for the same destination on the same day.

The steamship Niagara was to take the place of the America and sail from Liverpool on the 25th ult. for Halifax and Boston.

The steamship America, from Boston, arrived out on the morning of the 22d ult., and the steamship City of Baltimore from New-York, a few hours later.

Heavy gales had prevailed around the coast of England.

The steamer Odione, from Dublin for London, came in collision with the schooner Heroine on the 19th ult. The steamer sunk in twenty minutes afterward, and from forty to fifty persons were drowned.

Rumors were current of an address, attributed to Victor Emanuel himself, calling Naples and Sicily to insurrection.

The armaments in Piedmont were being accelerated.

A Congregation held at the Vatican had decided that the King of Sardinia should not be excommunicated, whatever political events might supervene.

There was a report current that a plot against the Emperor of the French had been discovered.

A Madrid telegraph states that the garrison of Mellilla had made a sortie, and that the Spanish loss was 33 killed, 146 wounded, and 21 missing.

The Spanish press were unanimous in their demand for an energetic policy against Morocco.

The Nova Scotian takes 180 tuns of coal, and will sail this afternoon for Portland, where she will be due on Monday evening next.

There was a gale from south-east last night, with rain.

THE VERY LATEST.

By Telegraph from Liverpool to Queenstown.

LIVERPOOL, Thursday, Feb. 23, 1860.—COTTON—Sales of last two days, 12,000 bales, including 3,000 on speculation and for export. The market closes dull, and previous quotations are barely maintained. BREADSTUFFS steady. PROVISIONS dull; sales unimportant. Other articles unchanged.

LONDON, Thursday, Feb. 23—p. m.—CONSOLS close at 95¾.

Virginia Legislature.

RICHMOND, Friday, March 9, 1860.

The House to-day adopted resolutions adverse to a Southern Confederacy by a vote of 90 to 42.

The Committee of the Virginia Legislature on Courts and Justices have reported it inexpedient to take any action in regard to the commutation of sentence or reprieve of either Stevens or Hazlitt, the doomed Harper's Ferry conspirators.

Municipal Hospitalities.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, March 9, 1860.

The Common Council adopted a resolution extending the hospitalities of the city to the Pittsburgh Council on the occasion of their visit here on the 26th inst.; but subsequently the resolution was reconsidered, on the representation that the Councilmen would visit the city in custody, on the charge of disobeying the commands of the Supreme Court by refusing to levy a tax to pay interest on railroad bonds. The resolution was indefinitely postponed, the Pittsburgh Councilmen being denounced as criminals and repudiators.

Emigrants to Pike's Peak.

LEAVENWORTH, K. T., Friday, March 9, 1860.

A few advance parties of emigrants for Pike's Peak have arrived in this city. To prevent a recurrence of the distressing scenes of last year it is urged upon those intending to emigrate to wait until the 1st of May before starting, as subsistence on the plains for man and beast will be very precarious prior to that time. The Overland Express from this city is crowded to excess, all the seats being engaged to April 1st, at which time the proprietors will commence running coaches thence weekly, and soon thereafter a daily line. The running time to Denver is seven days.

Loss of the Ewan Crerar.

BOSTON, Friday, March 9, 1860.

The British brig Ewan Crerar, Capt. Crerar, from London for Boston, struck near the Graves about 7½ o'clock this morning, and sunk in 45 minutes. The Captain and crew were saved. The vessel and cargo are a total loss.

The chemical oil-works in East Boston, owned by Page & Mitchell, were destroyed by fire this morning. Loss $10,000. A young man named Francis Dunbar perished in the flames.

The Ship De Witt Clinton Ashore.

SQUAN, N. J., Friday, March 9, 1860.

The ship De Witt Clinton, from Liverpool, is ashore eight miles south of Squan Inlet, with broadside on the bar.

Seven O'clock, p. m.—The foremast of the De Witt Clinton has been cut away to ease the ship. She is lying along the beach and in an easier position than she was in this morning. At sunset her hold was filled with water to the depth of 7½ feet.

From Our Marine Reporter.

The ship seen ashore North of Barnegat, by the steamship Yorktown, Capt Parrish, arrived on Thursday, proves to be the packet ship De Witt Clinton, Capt. Funk, from Liverpool, January 26, for that port. She is owned by H. L. Rich & Co., is 1,079 tuns, rates A1½, built by J. A. Westervelt of this city in 1848.

Capt. Lienan of the steamtug Jacob Bell came up to the city last night. He reports the De Witt Clinton, ashore eight miles S. of Squan, as having bilged. Her foremast is gone close to the deck. When he left she was lying very easy, and it is his opinion that, after discharging a portion of her cargo, she will be got off. Her passengers are all safe, and were put on board the pilot-boat Christian Bergh, No 16, which will probably arrive at Quarantine to-night.

At an early hour this morning the Christian Bergh had arrived at Quarantine, and the passengers whom she brought up were comfortably quartered, to await passage to the city at a later hour. Nothing additional had been communicated from the ship. A stiff breeze was blowing toward the shore.

The following is a list of the ship's cargo:

1,131 bars iron, Saltes & Co.; 2,171 do., Holden, Hawley & Co.; 3,057 do., 36 bundles do., Sampson & Baldwin; 460 do., W. Outhout & Bros.; 50 bbls. mdse., F. R. & W. C. Fowler; 15 pkgs Mairet, Barber & Co.; 2 do., M. Gleason; 9 boxes, Thos. Russell; 1 case, D. Barker; 5 do., Reimer & Meeke; 4 crates, H. L. Lansing & Co.; 14 cs., W. H. Sheppard; 11 do., Linder & Kingsley; 2 do., J. Wild; 3 do., Julian, Lewis & Julian; 6 cks., R. Rafston; 15 bales, 4 cs., Spaulding, Vail & Fuller; 1 do., J. Hoyt & Co.; 6 S. B. Chittenden & Co.; 3 do., Phelps, Bliss & Co.; 2 do., Bernheimer Bros.; 4 do., Hall, W. H. Lee & Co.; 6 do., Martin Grinnell & Co.; 3 do., Snizbacker & Gutterman; 1 do., 2 bales Siegermann Bros.; 2 do., Lathrop, Luddington & Co.; 3 do., Ulmann, Fleyenheim & Co.; 2 do., J. J. Sweetzer & Co.; 2 do., A. Collins; 11 do., Selegmann & Stettheimer, 53 do., A. T. Stewart & Co.; 640 bags salt, 10 doz. mats, Williams & Guion; 334 boxes tin, Phelps, Dodge & Co.; 670 do., Dickenson, Whittemore & Co.; 2 cks., 1 cr., A. R. Van Nest & Co.; 3 cks., Norton & Jurrett; 9 bales, 6 cs., Lord & Taylor; 3 do., John Sykes jr., & Co.; 11 crates, C. F. Ogsbury; 103 do. 3 hhds., Wilson & Braine; 1,375 hand cs iron, 600 do. wire, 296 ingots tin, 20 cs. copper sheathing, 200 tuns coal, 40 frames felt, 2,625 boxes tin, 4 bales, 23 trusses, 10 cs., 12 cks., 410 bars iron, Order.

The California Overland Mail.

MELOY'S STATION, Friday, March 9, 1860.

The Overland Mail coach, with regular San Francisco dates to February 17, and telegraphic dispatches to the 18th, reached here to-night.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 17—12 m.

Arrived 15th, steamer Champion, from Panama.

Sailed 16th, ship Malay, for Manilla.

There is not much business doing, and it is raining again. The little regular trade is done at former prices. A sharp movement took place in Crushed Sugars yesterday, a speculator taking 1,000 to 1,200 bbls., paying from 12¼ @ 13c. Eastern is held at 13½c. During the week, 30,000 sacks of Wheat and 4,000 sacks of Flour have been purchased for export to Australia.

Dr. Chase has been tried for maliciously adulterating the acids used at the San Francisco Mint, but the Jury could not agree. A new trial will take place.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature proposing that the State assume the Indian war debt, amounting to $300,000, to be paid within ten years, if the United States does not sooner provide for it.

The resolutions asking Congress to dissolve the injunction against the New-Almedan quicksilver mine have passed the Assembly.

Resolutions have been earnestly debated in the Legislature, instructing the Congressional Delegation to use their best exertions against the separation of any portion of the State from which to form a territory, until a majority of the people of the entire State have consented to such disunion.

The Secretary of the Pacific Railroad Convention has sent a communication to the Legislature giving a summary of the act on of that body, from which it appears that James A. McDougal, F. L. and L. A. Booth, A. A. Tuttle, Sam. Purdy, J. S. Titus, T. G. Phelps, J. B. Crockett, and Dr. Rabe were appointed a Committee to communicate to the Legislature the action of the Convention, and urge such action by the Legislature as was recommended by the Convention.

The principal recommendation of the Convention is this: that the Legislatures of Oregon and California establish each an internal improvement fund for the purpose of building the Pacific Railroad; that the swamp overflowed lands within said States, and such lands as may hereafter be donated by them shall be sold for the benefit of that fund; that the Road in California shall run from the City of San Francisco through the counties of San Mauro, Santa Clara and Alameda to the City of Stockton, and be continued thence toward the Eastern frontier of the State in such direction as the Legislature may direct. The counties traversed by the said road shall be authorized to levy a special tax and to contract roads to enable them to subscribe to the capital stock thereof. That the Legislature propose such amendments to the Constitution to be ratified by the people as will enable the State to lend her aid in the construction of the road to the extent of not more than $15,000,000. That the Legislatures of California, Oregon, and Washington Territories cause the several passes through the mountains lying eastward of said States and Territory to be accurately surveyed.

Great activity exists throughout the State in mining exploration. This is attributable to the recent discovery of silver mines in Western Utah. The disposition since those discoveries has been to search more for silver than gold, and the result is that veins of silver have been found in Calaveras and Santa Cruz Counties, and in the coast range near Clear Lake.

There is no doubt of the discovery of silver mines in all these localities, but whether any of them are valuable cannot be ascertained without the expenditure of considerable labor and capital. The discoveries already made are operating as incentives to renewed exertions for more thorough exploration. The recent discovery of quicksilver mines in Sonora and Napa Counties is considered important. Deposits of cinnabar and rock, containing mercury in a state of purity, have been found all along the borders of what are known as the Geyser Mountains, for a distance of twenty-five miles.

The mineral is found in loose boulders on the surface and in veins extending into the mountains. The dip of these veins indicates very extensive deposits. The supposed valuable portions of the mountains have all been claimed, and several companies are preparing to commence mining. Another quicksilver mine is about to be worked in Monterey County, seven miles from the new Idra mine, already in successful operation.

Advices from Carson Valley represent considerable emigration thither, notwithstanding the inclement season. The mining accounts are as glowing as ever, but the speculative spirit so covers everything that it is difficult to arrive at the truth. Undoubtedly, many thousand Californians will visit these mines in the Spring, for the belief that there is another extensive mining region on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, rivaling California in extent and richness, is steadily growing in strength. Some parties, who have returned from Washoe, are sanguine enough to estimate the probable production of silver from the mines already opened at ten millions dollars during the present year.

New discoveries of silver mines are reported at Steamboat Springs, north of Virginia City and Genoa, and adjacent to the Truckee Meadows. At the Virginia mine the ore seems to be richer as they penetrate deeper. Some ore recently taken out is estimated to yield $2,000 per ton. At Honey Lake Valley the people think that they have struck silver ore, and have staked off claims for miles. At Black Rock, ninety miles east of Honey Lake Valley, indications of silver have led to the formation of a company for their exploration.

Schooner E. Bates Ashore.

SANDY HOOK, Friday, March 9, 1860.

The schooner E. Bates, from New-York for Mobile, went ashore on the point of Sandy Hook at 7:30 p. m. She lies well up on the beach.

POLITICAL.

—Cayuga County has elected 27 Republican Supervisors. The Administration party have not a single man in the Board. Well done Cayuga!

—The Hartford Democrats are going to build a hall on the corner of Trumbull and Pearl streets, in that city, capable of holding 4,000 people. With strange inconsistency, they propose to call it "National Hall," and at the same time devote it to the public meetings of the sham Democracy.

—Dunkirk has been redeemed from Democratic predominance. At the town election, held on the 6th inst., the following officers were elected, by from 65 to 124 majority: Opposition Supervisor, Town Clerk, President, six Trustees, Overseer of Poor, Street Commissioner, Treasurer, Collector, three Assessors, two Justices, two Constables, and six Inspectors. The "Unterrified Democracy" elected three Trustees and two Inspectors in one district.

FROM WASHINGTON.

CLAMORS FROM TEXAS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1860.

The Texas Senators are very anxious to obtain an immediate appropriation of a million and a quarter of dollars to set a mounted regiment of Texas volunteers in the field, to operate against the Mexicans and the Comanche Indians. They have made and are making very pertinacious efforts to this end. Mr. Wigfall yesterday, in quite an impressive speech, declared the population of his State was being extensively butchered and scalped, and demanded immediate succor. Both Mr. Fessenden and Mr. Toombs asserted the fighting capacities of the Texans, and doubted if their straits were as great as they were represented. Both also held that it was the duty of the Executive branch of the Government to take care of such manifestations, and use the regular force of the country in aid of Texas whenever it was necessary. If the military arm of the Government was insufficient to protect our frontiers, it was the business of that branch to come to Congress and say so.

Notwithstanding these sensible views, the proposition for the mounted volunteers holds its place in the Senate from political considerations, and may even pass that body. It is an irregular and superfluous proceeding, and were it not for Presidential aspirations, would stand no chance. Considering that the Conqueror of Texas now fills the post of Governor of that State, we need feel no extraordinary solicitude that it is about to become a prey to Mexican freebooters or predatory bands of savages. Its capacity to defend itself against both classes of these enemies, who have always infested its borders more or less, was never so great as now. We hope Congress will not be frightened from its propriety by dramatic pictures of the insufferable ills that State now endures. The many millions Texas has obtained from the National Treasury, since its admission into the Union, might properly suggest hesitancy to rush into a precipitate expenditure in her behalf, outside of the ordinary action of the Government. J. S. P.

NEW BILL FOR PRINTING—A BAD BILL.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, March 8, 1860.

The Committee on Printing have prepared a bill to reform the present scandalous system of doing the printing of Congress. It proposes to establish a Government Printing and Binding Office, under the charge of a Superintendent, and appropriates $200,000 for the purpose. The details are, perhaps, as well guarded as the system proposed admits of, but we do not believe in the system. Our Government ought to act as little by departmental agencies as possible. We have need to reduce and not increase Executive patronage. We do not want to add a particle to the influence of this branch of the Government. It is, moreover, an unsound and a pernicious idea that Congress should surrender any of its functions to the Executive. If it has printing to do, why not do it for itself, instead of handing the control of the matter over to the President? Yet the bill in question does so hand it over. It allows the President to appoint the Superintendent, and the Superintendent appoints his subordinates. The working machinery of the establishment is thus placed beyond the reach of Congress, whose servant it is, and under whose exclusive control it should be.

But the main objection lies against the system, by whomsoever operated. The bill substantially creates a new department of the Government, and one of a subordinate and irresponsible character. It opens a fresh field for favoritism, for patronage, for corruption, for extravagance. It creates a bureau for the disbursement of hundreds of thousands of dollars per annum, covering the purchase of supplies of printing and binding materials, and the pay of a small army of workmen. Of course it must become, like our navy yards, and arsenals, and armories, a partisan branch of the Government. Its stipendiaries will necessarily always be political loafers. We have enough of this sort of business all over the country, and we want no more of it. Wherever there is a Government crowd of operatives, there is a crowd of Government tools and supporters. They are a wretched, parasitical class, that require reduction instead of multiplication.

In addition to this objection to the system, there is the special objection that no plan for doing the printing would probably be more expensive than the proposed one. This consideration, though of a secondary character, is nevertheless important. It should have its weight in examining methods of reform. If we can have a system based on sound principles, and at the same time show it to be the most economical system, then the merits of that system would seem to be such as to leave no ground for resistance to it. Now, there is a way of doing the public printing that is natural, unincumbered with machinery of any kind, stripped of all offensive characteristics. This way is to let it out to the lowest bidder, on the principle of all contract service. We can build ships by contract, we can carry our mails by contract, and it is now proposed