XLTH CONGRESS—IID SESSION.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1867.

PETITIONS.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate a petition from citizens of Michigan, declaring that there are many defects in the Homestead bill, which operates to the injury of settlers, and asking for appropriate legislation. It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Also a petition largely signed by adopted citizens, praying that some action be taken defining their rights in view of recent occurrences abroad. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. DIXON (Dem., Conn.) presented a petition from the Trustees of the Taylor Orphan Asylum of Racine, Wisconsin, praying for the removal of the present tax on bequests, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

GOVERNMENT LANDS AT HARPER'S FERRY.

Mr. WILLEY (Rep., West Va.) introduced a bill to sell lands and water privileges of the United States, at or near Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF CONGRESS.

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.) introduced the following joint resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That the Select Committee of the two Houses revise and equalize the pay of the employés of each House, and be authorized to report by bill, joint resolution, or rule, such provisions or regulations as may be necessary or proper for rearranging and defining the duties of officers or persons employed by each, or under their joint authority, for reducing the number of such employés, and generally for a reduction of the employés and the more economical expenditure of the contingent fund of each House.

REBEL CONFISCATION ACTS.

Mr. ANTHONY (Rep., R. I.) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Be it enacted, &c., That all and singular the laws, declarations, and acts of confiscation, or forfeiture, passed, made, or done, by the late so-called Confederate States of America, or made, had, or done, directly or indirectly, by or under the color of their authority, or by the judgment or decree of any Court acting under their, or the color of their, authority or jurisdiction, shall be, and they are hereby absolutely null and void to all intents and purposes.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR AND PUGET'S SOUND RAILROAD.

Mr. HOWARD (Rep., Mich.) introduced a bill to amend an act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Lake Superior to Puget's Sound, by the northern route, which was referred to the Committee on Railroads.

PROCEEDS OF CAPTURED PROPERTY.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio) the Senate took up a bill directing that certain money in the hands of Mr. Spinner, United States Treasurer, as special agent, received from the sale of captured and abandoned property, shall be covered by warrant into the Treasury, and not drawn therefrom except by authority of law. Mr. Sherman stated that the bill passed the House at the first session of the present Congress, and was considered by the Senate Finance Committee, but, in consequence of representations of the Secretary of the Treasury, it had been deferred until now. But no reason against its passage had been shown, and it was now desirable that it should become a law.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) said the Committee on Retrenchment, to which the joint resolution had been referred after its passage by the House, had instructed him to report a resolution broader in its terms. In the hands of employes of the Government, here and there, were sums also received from the sale of such property. There might be good reasons for the retention of such sums, but the Committee thought best that they should be paid into the Treasury. He therefore moved to amend by striking all out after the enacting clause, and inserting a resolution, "That all moneys which have been received by any officer or employe of the Government, or any Department, from the sale of captured or abandoned property, under color of the several acts of Congress providing for the sale of such property, which have not been paid into the Treasury, shall be paid into the Treasury, together with the interest received, or which has accrued thereon." Also, a further resolution, "That any officer or person having the custody or control of such money, who shall convert the same to his own use, or refuse or neglect for the 30 days after the passage hereof to pay the same into the Treasury, or shall in any way pay away or dispose of the same otherwise than by paying it into the Treasury, shall be deemed an embezzler of public moneys, and punished by imprisonment, not more than ten years, and pay a fine equal to the sum embezzled."

Mr. SHERMAN had no objection to the amendment. But supposing there had been property seized and sold which did not come under the head of "Captured and Abandoned Property," should not that also, he asked, be included in the resolution?

Mr. EDMUNDS was aware that other cases existed, but he had simply offered the amendment as instructed by the Committee.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) hoped the amendment would be adopted. The preamble to the House resolution carried with it an implication that the Treasury Department had authority over the money. The preamble recites that such property, being in the control of the Treasury Department, it is not proper that claims on such property should be settled without the sanction of Congress. He thought it very clear from the law that it was not so. He denied every implication to be drawn from the preamble. The statute authorizing the sale said the proceeds must be paid into the United States Treasury. He read the second section of the Act of March 12, 1863, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint such agents, showing that his position was correct. The law further provided that claims against such property might be preferred in the Court of Claims, and that on satisfactory proof and evidence of loyalty, the proceeds should be paid over. This property amounted to over $34,000,000. Now, after years have elapsed, a resolution comes in here declaring that it was in the control of the Secretary of the Treasury to settle claims. It never was in his power, but was subject to be disposed of according to law. In 1865 the question was submitted to the Attorney-General, who said that this property must be sold and the proceeds paid into the Treasury according to the second section of the Act. Hundreds of thousands of dollars had since been paid by the Secretary of the Treasury which had never come through the Court of Claims.

Mr. DRAKE (Rep., Mo.) said there was now in the Treasury nearly $380,000 which parties had been endeavoring to get the Secretary of the Treasury to adjudicate.

Mr. TRUMBULL continued. Speaking of the amount restored to the claimants by the Secretary of the Treasury, after the opinion of the Attorney-General, and claiming that he had no power to do it without the action of the Court of Claims. He was, therefore, opposed to the action of the House resolution; particularly to the language of its preamble.

Mr. DRAKE was understood to say that the Secretary of the Treasury did not claim the power to decide upon the question.

Mr. SHERMAN said there were other points not covered by the decision of the Attorney-General. There were several important claims pending, and those large sums had been allowed to lie in the Treasury to await the decision of those claims.

Mr. TRUMBULL said the opinion of the Attorney-General had not been followed, because here was a resolution to compel the money to be paid in. The entire proceeds of this cotton were two millions, and the net proceeds were the modest sum of ten millions. The law was plain enough, but he would support the amendment offered by Mr. Edmunds.

Mr. EDMUNDS construed the law, as did the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Trumbull), but the Secretary of the Treasury had, he believed, the right to decide first whether the property was captured or abandoned. It was known that Treasury agents had gathered a large amount of cotton, and doubtless absorbed a good deal of it. Many claimants asserted that such property was not abandoned, but that they were driven from their homes by the Rebels. This much he would say in justice to the Secretary of the Treasury.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.) the further consideration was postponed until to-morrow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Senate took up, and passed, on motion of Mr. CRAGIN (Rep., N. H.) the resolution in regard to the salaries of messengers, pages, &c., retained during the recess. The Committee revised the resolution, by providing that the amount be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) presented a petition from Gen. Brisbane and 30,000 colored citizens of Kentucky, asking for them the rights of Suffrage. He read the petition, which claims that a spirit of robbery, arson, and murder exists in that State.

Mr. DAWES (Dem., Ky.) announced the petition as a foul and false libel on Kentucky. It was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The concurrent resolution to adjourn on Friday, the 20th inst., until January 6th, was received from the House, read, and laid over.

THE CURRENCY.

The Senate then took up Mr. Morrill's (Rep., Vt.) bill to raise the value of legal-tender notes to par. The bill, heretofore published, directs the Secretary of the Treasury to pay all legal tenders, not bearing interest, in coin, after July 4, 1869, and authorizes him to sell any surplus gold in the Treasury up to the January preceding, receiving therefor United States notes, compound interest notes, three per cent certificates, and National bank notes. It requires the National banks with less than three per cent specie of capital on hand to retain in coin all interest received on United States bonds deposited by them—this not adding, however, to their required reserve. It also requires them after that date to pay in coin all their currency of five dollars and under when presented—higher bills to be paid optionally in legal tenders. A penalty of forfeiture of charter is entailed for non-compliance on the part of the National banks, and the Controller of the Currency is empowered to authorize others instead.

Mr. MORRILL spoke in advocacy of the bill. [A full report of Mr. Morrill's speech will be found on the second page of this paper.]

Mr. CORBETT (Rep., Oregon) rose to speak on the bill, when

Mr. GRIMES (Rep., Iowa) said, as many Senators desired to speak on the bill, he would now move to go into Executive Session.

At the suggestion of Mr. JOHNSON (Dem., Md.), the further consideration of the bill was posponed till Friday next.

The joint resolution to allow Admiral Thatcher to accept a decoration from the King of the Hawaiian Islands was then taken up on motion of Mr. CONNESS (Rep., Cal.), and passed.

The Senate then went into Executive Session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, asking further appropriations to supply the pension deficiencies for the current year. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER stated that he had been asked to present the proceedings of a meeting in Faneuil Hall on the subject of the rights of naturalized citizens abroad. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MR. JULIAN OF INDIANA.

Mr. JULIAN (Rep., Ind.), rising to a question of privilege, had read by the Clerk an extract from the Washington correspondence of THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE of the 6th inst., analyzing the vote of the Indiana delegation on the Impeachment question, and stating that the Indiana delegation had "voted almost solidly for impeachment, in the belief that some future deed of the President would justify their course," &c.

The SPEAKER stated that he was unable to ascertain what question of privilege was involved in that.

Mr. JULIAN supposed that the question of privilege arose out of the statement of the correspondent as to the motives of the Indiana delegation.

The SPEAKER ruled that it was not a question of privilege.

Mr. JULIAN then asked unanimous consent to make a personal explanation on the subject, and unanimous consent was given.

Mr. PRICE (Rep., Iowa) asked Mr. Julian whether the correspondence was not written by one of the men professing to be loyal who were now security for Jefferson Davis, now running at large?

Mr. JULIAN thought it probable.

Mr. PRICE supposed so.

Mr. JULIAN added that he was not, however, certain about that fact. [Laughter, and a general expression of enjoyment of the scene].

Mr. JULIAN then proceeded to defend the vote of the Indiana delegation. He said:

Mr. Speaker: This is certainly a remarkable display of the freedom of the press, and I must claim the right to refer to that portion of the extract which relates to the Indiana delegation. The writer says, "We voted for impeachment because we believed that some fut ure deed of the President would justify our course." Sir, I do not speculate about the future deeds of the President; I know the past, and in the light of the past the Indiana delegation judged of their duty, and acted; that the President will pause in his career of mal-administration and crime, I do not for a moment believe; his capacity for evil stands out in frightful disproportion to the other gifts. He is a genius in depravity, and not merely an obstinate man who means honestly to deal with the problem of reconstruction. His hoarded malignity and passion have neither been fathomed nor exhausted, and will not be during his term of office. If I may judge of the effects of the President's late message of defiance, acting on the inflammable temper of the Southern Rebels, and followed swiftly by the strong vote of this House, renouncing its jurisdiction over his crimes, I can have no hesitation in believing that a new dispensation of rapine and misrule will be the result. This will be morally and logically inevitable, and while I respectfully commend it to the consideration of the gentlemen who voted against impeachment, I desire to say in behalf of myself and the five of my colleagues who voted with me, that in the votes we gave we assumed no jurisdiction whatever over the acts of the President which have not yet transpired. We have neither the right nor the disposition to do this, but gave our vote for the following good and sufficient reasons: Because he assumed the power to call Conventions, set up governments, and decide the qualifications of voters in seven of the States lately in rebellion; because he recognized these governments unconstitutionally established by himself, as valid governments, and condemned and denounced Congress for lawfully exercising the powers and performing the acts which he exercised and performed in violation of the Constitution; because he created the office of Provisional Governor as a civil office, which is unknown to the Constitution, and appointed to such office in the Rebel States notorious traitors, well-knowing them to be such, and they could not enter upon the duties of the office without the crime of perjury; because he deliberately trampled under foot a law of Congress in 1862, prescribing an oath of office, and which law he was bound to execute, and appointed to offices under the laws of the United States men who were well-known to him as traitors, who could not take the oath required; because he refused to execute the Confiscation laws and the laws against treason, and by the most monstrous abuse of the pardoning power in innumerable instances, made himself the powerful ally and best friend of the conquered traitors of the South, whose unmatched crimes have thus utterly defied even the ordinary administration of criminal justice; because the power of impeachment as defined in the Constitution, clearly comprehends political offenses like those of which the President has been proved guilty in the case recently before the House, and would otherwise be an empty and unmeaning mockery, leaving Congress wholly powerless to protect the nation against the most wanton act of Executive maladministration and lawlessness; and, because, finally, in the language of the majority of the Judiciary Committee, he had retarded public prosperity, lessened the public revenues, disordered the business and finances of the country, encouraged insubordination in the people of the States recently in rebellion, fostered sentiments of hostility between the different classes of citizens, revived and kept alive the spirit of rebellion, humiliated the nation, dishonored republican institutions, obstructed the restoration of said States to the Union, and delayed and postponed the peaceful and fraternal organization of the Government of the United States. Sir, these are some of the reasons which compelled six of the Indiana delegation to vote solidly in the affirmative. We had no occasion to carry our researches into the future in order to find a justification for our votes; and I desire to say as emphatically as I can, that, under our views of the evidence and the law, there was but one alternative left us. We could not allow our sense of duty under the oaths we have taken to be swerved by our calculations as to the effect of impeachment upon the finances of the country or upon our own party relations, and upon the success of the Republican party next year; neither could we have to consider whether this impeachment would be sustained in the Senate; or whether it would provoke the President to renewed acts of violence and render him more devil-bent than before. We had nothing whatever to do with considerations of this character. Sir, impeachment is not a policy, but a duty under the Constitution, which expressly provides for its performance. "Impeachment," says THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE itself, "is a Constitutional safeguard between the people and a dictatorship. To regard the Presidency as an impartial, independent office, responsible only to the moral influence called the people, and to a political mob called a Convention, is to make our ruler as absolute as the Emperor of China." Sir, not to impeach in a case plainly requiring it is truly an act revolutionary and rebellious in its character. As the Indiana delegation believe, and so they acted under their sworn duty of fidelity to the Constitution of the United States; and having so believed and acted, they have no apology to make, and no favors to ask in any quarters. In common with the 59 members who voted in the affirmative, and the other 108 who voted in the negative, we shall be judged by the people. None of us can escape history, and for one I am willing to accept its final verdict. I only beg leave to say, in conclusion, that if the leading newspapers of the country had allowed the people to see the report in full of the majority of the Judiciary Committee, the correspondent of THE TRIBUNE would probably have felt less inclined to volunteer an apology for the Indiana delegation, which is dishonorable to himself as it is to them.

While Mr. Julian was speaking he was interrupted by

Mr. WOOD (Dem., N. Y.), who asked the Speaker, as a question of order, whether, under the permission to make a personal explanation, it was in order for a member to go on and make a speech on the question of impeachment.

The SPEAKER reminded Mr. Wood that when the House, by unanimous consent, gave a member leave to make a personal explanation, it was very difficult for the Chair to limit him.

Mr. WOOD submitted that the gentleman should confine himself simply to personal explanation, and added that gentlemen on his side of the House would avail themselves of the same kind of privilege.

To that remark the SPEAKER replied that that was a matter for the House, not for the Chair.

Mr. MOORHEAD (Rep., Penn.) offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish a copy of the report of John Miller, Special Revenue Agent, in reference to the inspection of oil in the XXIId Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Adopted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MR. PRUYN OF NEW-YORK.

Mr. PRUYN (Dem., N. Y.), rising to a personal explanation, referred to some interchange of compliments between himself and Mr. Butler, last Monday, on the subject of the treaty with Russia for the cession of Alaska, and went over the prominent points of the question, contending that the President and the Senate had been by the Constitution made the treaty-making power of the Government, and that the House of Representatives had no authority to interfere to thwart the execution of a treaty.

Mr. BUTLER (Rep., Mass.) asked a similar privilege as that granted to Mr. Pruyn, but as several others desired a like privilege, objection was made.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MR. BROMWELL OF ILLINOIS.

Mr. BROMWELL (Rep., Ill.) asked for five minutes to make a personal explanation, promising that his remarks would be entirely personal.

On that condition unanimous consent was given.

Mr. BROMWELL said that several of the country newspapers had been attacking him, but as the 300 persons in this House exceeded the number of people who read such papers he would not advertise them by referring to them by name. He had nothing to complain of in regard to THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE. No man in his district could be elected to Congress if he could not stand THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE and say nothing about it. [Laughter.] What he wished to say was that after filibustering for two days in aid of the 57 men who sought to carry the vote of Impeachment, himself and two other members had been published as having dodged on that occasion. In making up the reports of the Associated Press for the West, the lines containing the names of Messrs. Broomall (Penn.), Butler and himself were omitted. On the strength of that *The Chicago Republican* predicated an editorial charging them with having dodged on that occasion. He did not wish to be placed in the category of a man who dodged his vote, or who voted on the wrong side. It was true that *The Chicago Tribune*, which claimed the proprietorship of public opinion in Illinois, congratulated the country on the happy event of that vote. He had had the honor to stand and vote, before God and man, on his oath and on his knowledge of law, that Andrew Johnson was guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors, and he wanted him impeached therefor. If he had had the drafting of the resolution of impeachment, he would have reported two resolutions, one declaring the turpitude of the President, and the other directing his impeachment. For the first resolution he was well advised there would have been 100 votes in the House. It had been his object, in approaching the impeachment question, to withhold his judgment, and to preserve his mind in such a condition that he could vote understandingly and honorably on it. For that reason, he had neither lectured nor made speeches on impeachment, either before or since his election. He had striven to avoid, on the one hand, any partizan, blind malice, and, on the other, of that sharp cunning of law of which some of the enthusiastic and expert gentlemen of the House were pleased to use, and who were never better pleased than when they could cut so sharp as to pierce the Constitution between the joints of its harness. In his opinion, this had been done.

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. McCLURG (Rep., Mo.), from the Select Committee on the Southern Railroad, reported that that Committee had concluded taking testimony on all the points referred to it, except as to the expediency of declaring as forfeited the United States lands granted in aid of the railroads to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas, on which some testimony was now being procured through the War Department from the military commandants. On the other point the Committee would be prepared to report in a short time after the testimony had been printed. He now reported the testimony, and asked that it be printed. It was so ordered.

Mr. MERCUR (Rep., Penn.), from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to incorporate the First Presbyterian Church of Washington. The bill was read three times and passed.

THE HUDSON RIVER WESTERN SHORE RAILROAD.

Mr. KETCHAM (Rep., N. Y.), from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill introduced by Mr. Robinson, giving the consent of the United States to the Hudson River Western Shore Railroad Company to construct and operate its railroad on the shore line across the property belonging to the Government at West Point. The bill was read the third time and passed.

BREVET COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY.

Mr. DODGE (Rep., Iowa), from the same Committee, reported back the bill to amend the act of April 10, 1806, for establishing rules and articles for the government of the army. The bill provides that commissions by brevet shall only be conferred in time of war and for distinguished service in presence of the enemy. The bill was read the third time and passed.

MUSTERS OF STATE VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. DODGE also reported back the joint resolution directing the Secretary of War to furnish, on application of the Governor of any State, certified copies of the muster in and muster out rules of volunteer organizations. Read the third time and passed.

WEEKLY PAYMENT OF THE ARMY.

Mr. HAWKINS (Rep., Tenn.), from the same Committee, reported back adversely a proposition to pay the army once a week.

PAY OF COMMITTEE CLERKS.

Mr. GARFIELD (Rep., Ohio), from the same Committee, reported a resolution directing the Joint Committee on the pay of the employes of the two Houses to inquire into the expediency of fixing by law the pay of the committee clerks. Adopted.

REINSTATEMENT OF CASHIERED ARMY OFFICERS.

Mr. GARFIELD, from the same Committee, reported back to the House the bill declaring that no officer of the army having been cashiered or dismissed from the service by sentence of general court-martial, formally approved by the proper reviewing authority, shall ever be restored to the military service, except by reappointment, confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. NIBLACK (Dem., Ind.) inquired whether the bill was intended to meet the case of Gen. Fitz-John Porter.

Mr. GARFIELD declared that if it were conceivable that the President could restore an officer under such circumstances, that would be the best possible reason for passing such a law.

After considerable discussion by Messrs. Garfield, Dawes, Logan, Paine, and Mungen, the bill was, on motion of Mr. Logan, recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs.

THE AMERICAN FENIANS.

Mr. BANKS (Rep., Mass.), Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, presented a letter from the Secretary of State, informing him that the papers called for in reference to the trial of naturalized citizens in Great Britain, were being copied, but that they were very voluminous, and it would require considerable time to copy them.

THE TWENTY PER CENT ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS.

Mr. WELKER (Rep., Ohio), from the Committee on Retrenchment, reported a resolution directing the heads of the various Departments to furnish a statement as to the amount of the 20 per cent allowance to their employés last year. Adopted.

Several adverse reports were presented from the Committee on Claims, including one on the petition of the inhabitants of Chambersburg, Penn., for damages done in McCausland's Rebel raid.

THE ACQUISITION OF NEW TERRITORY.

The House, at 2 o'clock, went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, Mr. DAWES (Rep., Mass.) in the chair.

Mr. WASHBURN (Rep., Wis.) addressed the Committee against the recent treaties for the possession of territory. He reminded the House that he had at the last session offered a resolution, which had been passed by a very decisive vote, declaring any more purchase of territory inexpedient, and that the House would feel itself under no obligation to vote money to pay for any such purchase, except there were more urgent and pressing necessity for it than now existed. He argued that the treaty for the acquisition of Walrussia should never have been made, and that the House should not appropriate the money to carry it into effect. The territory could never be a source of wealth, power, or benefit to the United States, and yet the House was called upon to vote $7,200,000 in gold for a tract of country in reference to which the Secretary of State knew little or nothing, and which, so far as known, was entirely worthless. He hoped that the Secretary of State would be given to understand that the representatives of the people had other duties to perform than to sanction such a scheme. The Secretary of State having exhausted the regions of perpetual snow and ice, had, it seemed, turned his attention to the tropics, and had negotiated another treaty, proposing to pay a still larger sum to purchase a possession more worthless, if possible, than Russian America. He referred to the fact that Anthony Trollope, having been sent some years since, by the British Government, to examine the Danish Island of St. Thomas with the purpose of acquiring it, reported that it was one of the hottest and most unhealthy ports among all those hot and unhealthy regions. He had procured, he said, a copy of the 4th article of the treaty with Denmark. He would read it to the House for the purpose of showing that the Secretary of State contemplated the acquisition of the Island without any previous action by Congress.

Mr. BANKS inquired how the gentleman had procured the copy of the treaty.

Mr. WASHBURN remarked that it was unimportant how he had got it.

Mr. BANKS affirmed that it was important, adding that the gentleman ought to explain by what manner the paper came into his possession.

Mr. WASHBURN repeated that it was unimportant how it came into his hands, but he assured the gentleman that he had come by it honestly. [Laughter.]

The fourth article of the treaty was sent to the Clerk's desk and read. It provides that, "Immediately after the payment, by the United States, of the sum of money stipulated in the fifth article, the King of Denmark would appoint an agent for the purpose of delivering to a similar agent on behalf of the United States the territory, island, property, and appurtenances ceded, and including any fortifications or military posts that may be in the ceded territory.

Mr. WASHBURNE proceeded to show, by quotations from the report of the early navigators and discoverers, from the correspondence of *The New-York Herald* and THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, and from other sources, that Russian America was of not the slightest value, but was a useless and uninhabitable territory. He trusted that this House would give the Secretary of State such a rebuke as would be a lesson in all future time to men in his position. The Secretary might now arrange his position with Baron Stoeckel, and get out of the scrape as he best could.

Mr. PRUYN (Dem., N. Y.) remarked that if the majority in Congress had during the last few years taken the advice of the minority, there would have been saved to the country fifty times as much as would pay for Walrussia and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. MAYNARD (Rep., Tenn.) said he had no doubt that Great Britain would be willing to take the Walrussia bargain off the hands of the United States and pay Russia the amount stipulated in the treaty, with, perhaps, a bonus, and he asked Mr. Washburne whether he was willing that the Government should take that course?

Mr. WASHBURNE inquired what reason Mr. Maynard had for believing that Great Britain had any such desire.

Mr. MAYNARD replied that he reasoned *a priori* from the general purpose of Great Britain to get all the land she could under the sun, and also from the feeling manifested there when it was known that this treaty was on hand.

Mr. WASHBURNE, referring to the first reason given by Mr. Maynard, reminded him that it did not apply to Walrussia, as that land could hardly be considered to be under the sun. [Laughter.] He had seen no evidence that the Government of Great Britain had any desire to acquire possessions that were entirely worthless, but if it had, and would take Walrussia off our hands, he would not have the slightest objections. He did not believe that Great Britain would be induced to take and hold possession of it, even by being paid $7,200,000 for doing so.

Mr. PAINE (Rep., Wis.), referring to an incidental remark in Mr. Washburne's speech not complimentary to the Coast Survey, made some remarks in defense of that Department of the Government.

REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS.

Mr. BROOMALL (Rep., Penn.) addressed the Committee on the question of finances, particularly as to whether the principal of the five-twenty bonds was payable in gold or currency. He argued that they were payable in currency. At the same time he looked upon Mr. Butler's scheme as dangerous, because it was plausible, and because it set off the apparent interests of the many against the real interests of the few. He could not consent to the payment of any part of the bonded debt, principal or interest, against the will of the holders; but he could not denounce that as repudiation, unless he had some harsher term to apply to the daily transactions of the Government. When the soldier was forced to take in payment the paper which the Government caused to be depreciated after his enlistment, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. Blaine) had sat in his seat, and raised no cry of repudiation. Was the claim of the man who loaned depreciated paper to the Government at par, and who for five years had been receiving interest on it as if he had loaned the full face of his bond in gold, more sacred than that of the soldier on whose side of the contract there had been no discount? He would not maintain that the Government had the right to pay the principal of the bonds in depreciated paper, but he would maintain that that debt stood on no higher platform than any other debt of the Government. If the Government was bound in law or in morals to pay the principal of the bonded debt in any currency of the world, it was equally bound to pay every other debt in the same currency. He denied that any promise on the part of Jay Cooke or other agents was binding on the Government. Did not the bondholders, he asked, know that those agents were hired to sell the bonds for a commission, and did they not look on those promises as they would on the promises of any other vender of commodities? These creditors, he argued, had not been deceived. He proposed to show that they took the loan as one the principal of which was to be paid in currency, and that the loan had since that time passed from hand to hand in the markets of the country and abroad, and was at this time passing as one, the principal of which was to be paid in currency. He declared that nobody would be as much surprised as the holders of the loan by the announcement that the Government would pay them in gold. The road of specie payments was no easy road. It could not be reached except through terrible privations and sufferings, especially on the part of the laboring masses of the country who had nothing to fall back upon. But yet a return to specie payments was a necessity. The only question was how it was to be done. His own plan was embraced in a bill, which he had introduced some days since, requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem greenbacks from month to month, at a fixed rate, say 136, to be diminished one-quarter per cent each month, until the specie basis is reached. He warned the Republican side of the House that if members allowed themselves to be led away by the senseless clamor of expansion their seats would soon be filled by others.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep., Ill.), referring to the statement of his colleague (Mr. Ross) some days since, that he was in favor of a further depreciation of the currency, declared that it was that admission which had desired to get from his colleague, and now he would hold him to his declarations of a policy the most fatally destructive to every interest of the laboring classes and to the best interests of the country. That was the policy of the speculators, the gamblers, the stock-jobbers, and the "shysters" of Wall-st. His colleague would let them grow rich, but would impoverish his constituents. His colleague had confessed that he was in favor of watering the currency—a sort of swill-milk operation. [Laughter.] He would hold his colleague to that swill-milk policy, and would not let him squirm out of it. He understood his colleague's sympathy with soldiers, and with their widows and orphans. He had appreciated his crocodile tears. [Laughter.] How had his colleague shown his sympathy for the soldiers? Was it in his vote against the bill to punish guerrillas and bushwhackers, who were butchering and murdering his soldier constituents? As to himself it would be his struggle so to appreciate the currency, that the soldier of his district would receive 100 per cent, instead of 50 per cent of his pay. His policy would be never to submit to a future robbery of his constituents by false and irredeemable paper money. He was for the largest possible reduction of taxes, consistent with maintaining the honor and credit of the Government, and carrying on its operations. He was here now, as he had been, prepared to resist all extravagant and profligate legislation, and all schemes of public plunder.

Mr. BUTLER (Rep., Mass.) asked Mr. Washburne to say "yes" or "no" whether he was in favor of paying the Five-twenty bonds in gold.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep., Ill.) replied that he was in favor of precisely what was stated in his speech. [Laughter.]

The Committee rose, and the House at 4:40 o'clock adjourned.

POLITICAL.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

THE MAYORALTY OF MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Dec. 11.—James A. Weston, Democrat, has been chosen Mayor over Clarke, the present Republican incumbent, by 350 majority.

PENNSYLVANIA.

THE PHILADELPHIA UNION LEAGUE.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11.—Mayor McMichael was reelected Vice-President of the Union League on Monday night, and not defeated, as erroneously reported.

THE CONVENTION.

THE PROPOSITION TO ADJOURN TO NEW-YORK—A DAY OF FILLIBUSTERING—THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS DECIDES AGAINST THE REMOVAL.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Dec. 11.—The floor of the Convention this morning presented an array of delegates from New-York City, who have long been strangers to its sessions. It was understood that they had been summoned by telegraph to join in a determined effort to adjourn this body to the metropolis after the Christmas holidays. It was evident at once that they had a slight preponderance of numbers, and it was determined by the Albany men to keep some of them here over night by way of a new sensation. The President announced as a committee to confer with the Mayor and Common Council of Albany with reference to suitable accommodations for the Convention, Messrs. Merritt, Bell, and Morris. He also presented a communication from Col. Emmons Clark tendering the use of the Armory of the Seventh Regiment. Gen. Morris moved to reconsider the vote taken yesterday by which the above Committee was appointed. A spicy debate ensued, in which Judge Daly and Gov. Alvord took leading parts. The motion to reconsider was adopted by a vote of 54 to 52. Gen. Morris then moved a substitute, by which the invitation of Col. Clark was accepted. Gov. Church offered an amendment to the effect that the article on the Judiciary be completed and submitted, and that the Convention then adjourn, subject to the orders of the next Legislature as to reassembling. The President ruled this amendment out of order. Then ensued the liveliest specimen of filibustering that the Convention has seen. Repeated motions were made to adjourn; and were repeatedly lost. The Yeas and Nays were demanded on every question, in order to put off the final vote until 12 o'clock, when the special order of the day would intervene and cut off debate. The majority staved off the special order by renewed motions to adjourn, until the minority were wearied out. Finally, Senator Folger said that it was evident, from the present state of mind of the Convention, that very little work would be done, and he moved an adjournment, which was carried by a vote of 64 to 36. This adjourns the Convention to Thursday morning. The Democracy boast that they will not only remain here until the question is decided, but that they can summon ten more absentees to be present to-morrow, and assist in carrying it. Their plans are well laid, and they are very determined, as may be judged from the fact that a city Judge was in attendance to-day, whose continuous absence was lately excused to the Convention on the grounds that he had conscientious scrupples as to the legality of the reassembling of the Convention, which would continue to prevent his return. Three Albany Democrats, and Mr. Potter of Erie, joined the 48 Republicans who voted to remain at the Capital, while the 56 who were in favor of a change were equally divided between the two political parties.

The Republican members of the Convention held a caucus immediately after the adjournment, at which about 50 of the delegates were present. The opinion prevailed that the Democracy, in accordance with their tactics since the first assembling of the Convention, were desirous of adjourning to the City of New-York to still further embarrass the Convention; that there was no difficulty in securing a quorum; that regard should be paid to the fact that six members of the Convention were also members of the Legislature, and that a change might be disastrous to the interests of the people of the State. A resolution was unanimously passed declaring it inexpedient to remove the Convention from Albany at present.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT announced the following Committee to confer with the Mayor and Common Council of Albany with reference to securing a suitable place in which to hold the sessions of this Convention after the meeting of the Legislature: Messrs. Merritt, Bell, and Morris.

The PRESIDENT presented a communication from Col. Emmons Clark, tendering the Convention the use of the 7th Regiment Armory, N. Y., in the event of the adjournment to that city.

Mr. ALVORD, from the Committee on Revision, made the following report:

The Committee on Revision, to which was referred the resolution of Mr. Cobham in relation to the State Medical Board, and the petition of Berkimer Steubergh for a temperance system of medical theory and practice, has instructed its Chairman to ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

The report was agreed to.

The President presented a communication from L. R. Woolworth, Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University, reviewing the petitions that have been presented to the Convention, asking for the abrogation of that Board.

Mr. MORRIS moved to reconsider the vote taken yesterday, by which a resolution was adopted, providing for the appointment of a Commissioner to confer with the Mayor and Common Council of Albany, with reference to procuring a suitable hall in which to hold the sessions of the Convention after the meeting of the Legislature.

After debate, the motion to reconsider was carried. The following is the vote in detail:

YEAS.

Ballard,	Curtis,	Ketcham,	Rust,
Barto,	Daly,	Lawrence, A. R.,	Russell, A. D.,
Beadle,	Dewitt,	Lathington,	Russell, L. W.,
Bergen,	Dugmore,	Magee,	Schell,
Bowen,	Fisher,	Mather,	Schoonmaker,
Brown, E. A.,	Fowler,	Merritt,	Silvester,
Brown, W. C.,	Gaylord,	Morgan,	Sloan,
Chatfield,	Gibbs,	Morrell,	Stevens,
Church,	Hardenburgh,	Myers,	Stewart,
Cooke,	Harris,	Nelson,	Townsend, S.,
Cole,	Hitchcock,	Parker, C. E.,	Van Campen,
Cooper,	Hitchcock,	Parker, A. J.,	Weaver,
Cook,	Hopkins,	Pomeroy,	Wakeman, 57.

NAYS.

Allen, A. F.,	Corbett,	Hiscock,	Parker, A. J.,
Allen, C. L.,	Corning,	Hitchcock,	Potter,
Allen, N. M.,	Cromwell, C. C.,	Houghtaling,	Priddle,
Alvord,	Cushman,	Kinney,	Rathbun,
Andrews,	Ferry,	Krum,	Reynolds,
Astell,	Folger,	Lansing,	Roy,
Baker,	Francis,	Lawrence, A.,	Sawyer,
Barker,	Goodrich,	Lawrence, M. H.,	Smith,
Beckwith,	Graves,	Lee,	Spencer,
Bell,	Hadley,	McDonald,	Stratton,
Bickford,	Hale,	Merrill,	Townsend, M. I.,
Case,	Hammond,	Merritt,	Wales,
Cassidy,	Hand,	Mercein,	Williams—62.
	Harris,	Miller,	

Mr. MORRIS then moved the following substitute:

Resolved, That this Convention hereby tender its thanks to Col. Clark for his offer of the 7th Regiment Armory to this Convention, and that when the Convention shall adjourn, on the last day of its sessions during the present month, it do adjourn to meet at said Armory, or such other place in the City of New-York as may be secured free of expense to the State, by a Committee of Three, to be appointed by the President.

Mr. CHURCH offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That this Convention will proceed to the completion of the article on the Judiciary to the exclusion of all other business, and recommend its submission to the people for their adoption by the Legislature; and that the Convention will then adjourn, subject to being reassembled by the Legislature, if that body shall deem it wise and proper to reassemble the Convention for the purpose of completing its business.

The PRESIDENT ruled Mr. Church's substitute out of order, as not being germain to the subject under consideration.

Mr. ALVORD moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Lost: 52 to 56.

Mr. MORRIS moved the previous question on his resolution, and it was ordered: 56 to 52.

Mr. ALVORD moved to adjourn.

Mr. VEEDER raised the point of order that a motion to adjourn could not be entertained, the previous question having been ordered on the resolution offered by Mr. Morris.

The PRESIDENT ruled that the point of order was not well taken.

The motion to adjourn was lost—41 to 66.

Mr. ALVORD moved to postpone the whole question indefinitely.

The PRESIDENT decided the motion out of order under the operation of the previous question.

Mr. ALVORD appealed from the decision of the Chair. The Chair was sustained—Yeas, 109. Nays, none.

Mr. FOLGER moved to adjourn. Lost—42 to 65.

Several motions were made to postpone and adjourn, when the PRESIDENT announced the special order