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WASHINGTON.

THE GEORGIA RECONSTUCTION BILL SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT—NEARLY ALL THE CIRCUIT JUDGES CONFIRMED—JUDGE HOAR'S NOMINATION TABLED—THE IRON-CLAD TRIUMPH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

The Georgia bill having been signed by the President to-day, Gov. Bullock will leave here to-morrow for Atlanta. He has already telegraphed orders for the issuing of a proclamation convening the Legislature, as proclaimed elected by Gen. Meade, on the 12th of January. Of the original members of that body, 12 or 15 have been assassinated. The fate of half of these is known, but the remainder are "missing." Of the remaining members there were about 25 disqualified by the Fourteenth Amendment, and of these some ten have been relieved by act of Congress. The rest cannot take the oath required by the bill just passed. There were 28 colored members who were expelled by the Democrats. The Republican majority on joint ballot will be about 15. It is reported that Dr. Miller, one of the Senators elect, comes out in a letter to the people of the State in support of the Congressional plan of settlement. He was the choice of the Democrats, though not himself a member of the party. The cause of the attack on Gov. Bullock's character by the State Auditor, read in the House yesterday by Mr. Beck of Kentucky, arises from the fact, as the Governor states in his letter to Mr. Whittemore, that the Auditor is now being sued for certain alleged defalcations in his accounts.

In the Senate a hot time was had on the nomination of Judge Hoar in Executive Session, and discussion ran high for several hours. The session lasted from 3 o'clock till 7. All of the nominations for Circuit Judges, except two (Pearre and Sawyer), were confirmed during the session. The objection to Hoar was, as heretofore stated, that he lived north of the Potomac, as well as all the other Judges on the Supreme Bench. There was, of course, some opposition to him on account of his personal manners, and some on account of his decisions. The New-England Senators did not make particular objection to his confirmation, and some favored it. The Judiciary Committee were unanimously opposed to him, it is said, because of his locality, and he was reported to the Senate without recommendation. The opposition to him was so strong and unyielding that it became evident to his friends that if a vote was pressed he would be rejected. When it was suggested that his nomination had better be laid on the table, this action was taken immediately. In effect it is equivalent to a rejection, as it is a confession of weakness on the part of his friends. It is not at all probable that a motion will ever be made to take the case from the table, and it is believed that the President will withdraw his name. Mr. Hoar's friends say he will not leave the Cabinet.

The Senate Military Committee to-day decided to report a bill dismissing a number of army officers who cannot be reached by a court-martial.

The House was in a very sleepy condition to-day, not more than fifty members being present. Several prosy speeches on prosy subjects were read to the empty benches, and their constituents will be delighted to read them in to-morrow's *Globe*. More than two-thirds of the members left for their homes last night, as it was understood that no business of importance would be transacted, and the day was devoted to speech-making.

The President promptly complied with the request of the Senate in secret session, and sent the correspondence and recommendations in the cases of the Circuit Judges. The Judiciary Committee this morning agreed to report back the nine nominations for confirmation. Mr. Trumbull, therefore, asked for an Executive Session, and all the nominations were confirmed except two, that of Pearre, for the Maryland Circuit, and that of Sawyer of California. These nominations went over on a single objection, and they will rest until the reassembling of Congress in January. There is no doubt, however, that they will be confirmed.

Gen. Tate, the Haytien Minister, returned from Philadelphia to-day, after having seen the Iron-clad Triumph under way for Port-au-Prince. This vessel, formerly the ram Atlanta, has been reported as belonging to the Cubans. There is no truth in the statement, as it was bought by Salnave, and was expected to have saved his Government from the dangers that now surround it. Gen. Tate is about to negotiate the purchase of a couple of monitors.

A direct vote was taken in the Ways and Means Committee to-day, on the tariff on steel rails, and the duty was changed to two cents per pound.

The subject of a postal telegraph, under the management of the Government, and the alleged frauds in the building of the New-York and Boston Post-Offices, was before the House Postal Committee to-day. Mr. Farnesworth, the Chairman of the Committee, made a prepared speech in opposition to the postal telegraph scheme. Mr. A. B. Mullett, the Government Supervising Architect, was examined in regard to the New-York and Boston Post-Offices. He stated that $402,000 had been remitted to the disbursing agent of the New-York Post-Office; of this sum $200,000 was appropriated last March, and the other was from the balance of the $500,000 appropriated in 1856 for the New-York Post-Office; of this last sum $220,000 had been previously expended on the present Post-Office, leaving a balance of $280,000, which, with the last appropriation made $480,000; so that he has yet a balance of $78,000 to the credit of the appropriation. For the Boston Post-Office there was appropriated $200,000, of which there has been placed to the credit of the disbursing agent the sum of $167,000, leaving a balance of $33,000 in the Treasury. Mr. Mullett was further examined as to the various plans submitted for the building, especially that of New-York, and the reason why the plan proposed by the New-York architect was not adopted, &c. Mr. Mullett gave as one reason, that the objections made in his report were affirmed by the present Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster-General, and that they were prepared, in accordance with their direction. The question was asked, "What loss the Government would sustain if Congress decided to change the present site," &c. Mr. Mullett replied, that all the labor so far would be a loss, and also some of the material; thought the larger portion of the latter could be used again if the site was changed. Mr. Miles, Chief Clerk of the Supervising Architect's Bureau, was also before the Committee, and was examined in relation to the details of expenditures, &c. Mr. Mullett will conclude his statement to the Committee to-morrow. The Committee have resolved to go to New-York and Boston to take evidence, and it is now thought that they will all go, instead of appointing a sub-committee, as was originally intended. During the giving of the evidence of Mr. Mullett to-day it leaked out that it is proposed to change the site to some point on Chatham-st.

Commodore John Rodgers, the recent Commandant of the Boston Navy-Yard, has been in town for several days, in consultation with Admiral Porter and the Secretary of the Navy. The Commodore has been appointed to command the Asiatic fleet on the coast of Japan and China, and will sail on the 15th of January from New-York in his flag-ship, the Colorado. On the passage he will meet Rear Admiral Rowan, the present commanding officer of the squadron, at Singapore, and then take formal command about the first of April.

The New-England Society had a dinner this evening in the large hall of the new Masonic Temple. About 300 ladies and gentlemen sat down to table, and after justice had been done to the eatables, the Hon. E. B. French, President of the Society, made a few pertinent remarks, introducing R. D. Muzzy as toast-master. The responses were brief and to the point. Senator Hamlin responded for Maine, Gen. O. O. Howard for the army, Senator Patterson for New-Hampshire, Judge Poland for Vermont, Mrs. Lippincott (Grace Greenwood) for the women of New-England, Senator Wilson for Massachusetts, Major B. B. French for Washington City, Ben Perley Poore for the press, and S. C. Fessenden for the free schools of New-England. The entertainment was prolonged until a late hour, and meanwhile the younger people enjoyed a dance in another hall of the same building.

Four Representatives in Congress and one Delegate have, thus far, not made their appearance on the floor of the House, namely: Banks of Massachusetts, Golladay of Kentucky, Hopkins of Wisconsin, Van Aken, Pennsylvania, and Hooper of Utah. All of the Senators have answered to their names.

Gov. Bullock of Georgia gave a large dinner party to-night, at which many Senators and Members were present.

Mr. H. S. Benson, proprietor of the National Hotel, died to-night, after a protracted illness.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS—PROCLAMATION FROM GOV. BULLOCK.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

The President sent to the Senate to-day the following nominations: B. Whitman Williams, to be Postmaster at Rome, N. Y.; Amasa B. Tracy, to be Postmaster at Middleburg, Vt.; Gabriel C. Wharton, to be District-Attorney for Kentucky, vice Bristow, resigned.

The Senate remained in Executive session from 3 o'clock this p. m. until after 7 this evening. After confirming a number of nominations of comparatively minor importance, the nominations for Circuit Judges were taken up, and the following were confirmed:

George F. Shepley of Maine for the First Circuit.
Lewis R. Woodruff of New-York for the Second Circuit.
Wm. McKennan of Pennsylvania for the Third Circuit.
Wm. B. Woods of Alabama for the Fifth Circuit.
S. L. Withey of Michigan, for the Sixth Circuit.
Thomas Drummond of Illinois, for the Seventh Circuit.
John T. Dillon of Iowa, for the Eighth Circuit.

The nomination of George A. Pearre of Maryland for the Fourth Circuit is understood to have met with some unfavorable action in the nature of a postponement, but is still pending, together with that of Lorenzo Sawyer of California for the Ninth Circuit.

A considerable number of nominations were not reached at all, and the failure of the Senate to confirm them cannot therefore be considered significant of their ultimate fate. Among the number were the nomination of Gen. Sickles as Minister to Spain, and various Consular appointments. The following nominations were confirmed in the early part of to-day's session:

Collectors of Customs—Richard F. Gaggin, at Erie, Penn.; William Reynolds, at Marblehead, Mass., and Owen B. Chadbourne, at Saco, Maine.

Inspector of Steamboats—VIth District, Samuel Houston.

United States Attorneys.—Warren Cowles of Pennsylvania for the Territory of Dakota; Henry Ackerman, for Georgia; Henry J. Rolfe for New-Hampshire.

Collectors of Internal Revenue—Willett N. Hawkins, First District, New-York; Joseph Shields, Third District, West Va.; John T. Harper, Eighth District, Illinois; A. C. Matheys, Ninth District, Illinois; George W. Henderlite, Eighth District, Virginia; Jonathan C. Willis, Thirteenth District, Illinois; Beverly B. Botts, Sixth District, Virginia; Delos W. Cameron, Twenty-second District, New-York.

Assessors.—Michael Scanlon, Third District, New-York; William Jennings, Fourth District, Georgia; David B. White, Fourth District, Virginia; Thomas J. Kinney, Ninth District, Illinois.

Postmasters.—George W. Parmenter, at Braddon, Vt.; George W. McKean, at Lexington, Mo.; E. B. Head, at Harrodsburg, Ky.; R. W. Clarke, at Brattleboro, Vt.; John B. Bass, at Quincy, Mass.; Wm. L. Poland, at North Brookfield, Mass.; Wm. H. Needham, at Oskaloosa, Iowa; P. M. Shelby, at Rome, Ga.; R. Tompkins, at McGregor, Iowa; James S. Upton, at Battle Creek, Mich.; John M. Moore, at Salt Lake City; John P. Palee, at Henderson, Ky.; Mrs. Lucy Morehead Porter, at Louisville, Ky.; Elias Porter, at Russellville, Ky.; Albert G. McDaniel, at Hannibal, Mo.

Gov. Bullock has issued a proclamation convening the Legislature of Georgia on the 10th of January, in accordance with the act to promote the reconstruction of that State.

FOREIGN NEWS.

SPAIN.

THE ELECTIONS.

MADRID, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

Elections for the *Ayuntamientos*, which were dissolved by the Government, have been ordered and will commence on the 3d of January. The elections to fill the seats in the Cortes left vacant by the Republican deputies who took an active part in the late insurrection will take place on the 20th of January.

In the Cortes the republican minority have made an energetic protest against these elections, and they demand the restoration of the former *Ayuntamientos*. They declare that they will carry the matter before the legal tribunals, but counsel the people in the mean time to keep the peace, and make vigorous efforts at the new elections to return their true friends.

FRANCE.

RELIEF OF THE SPANISH REFUGEES.

PARIS, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

A subscription has been opened for the relief of the Spaniards, who were recently expelled from the country by the French Government.

GEN. BANKS.

The French journals allude to the fact that Gen. Banks had several interviews with the Emperor before his departure for America, but, in the absence of further information, abstain from comment.

FATHER HYACINTHE.

Father Hyacinthe has arrived at Havre on the steamship Pereire.

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

INFALLIBILITY LOSING GROUND.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

The tenor of the latest advices from Rome indicates that the advocates of Papal infallibility are losing ground in the Council.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NEW BISHOPS—THE TROOPS IN IRELAND.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

The newly-appointed Bishops of Exeter, Bath, and Wells, and the Falkland Islands were consecrated yesterday at Westminster Abbey. The troops in Ireland are hereafter to be more generally billeted on the inhabitants.

Leave has been granted the Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint a Suffragan.

PORTUGAL.

PENINSULAR UNION.

LISBON, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1869.

Rumors that secret negotiations are in progress for a peninsular union are current, and cause much public excitement.

CUBA.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

HAVANA, Dec. 21.—The planters have held a meeting and adopted a resolution refusing to sell sugar on a basis of 15 per cent tare. The steamer Morro Castle, from New-York, arrived yesterday.

THE SPANISH GUNBOATS.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 22.—Sixteen of the Spanish gunboats convoyed by the frigate Pizarro, have arrived inside the Capes, and anchored in Lynn Haven Bay.

As rapidly as the cañoneras are completed they will be manned by their engineers and a temporary crew, and anchored off the Battery, where they will be under the surveillance of a United States war vessel. This movement will preclude the possibility of a demonstration against them, and no civil authority need be invoked to protect either private or Spanish property. It is expected to have the last of the fleet ready on Friday night, so that their convoy, the Isabel de Catolica, can make a start with them on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. All the stores and equipments of the vessels, at the Delamater Iron-Works, are going on board as rapidly as the work on the hulls will permit, so that when steam is raised to go to the anchorage the boats will be ready for sea, with the putting on board of the Spanish officers and sailors. The engineers and many of the assistants have been selected for the vessels, and a majority of them are already on board.

PROCLAMATION FROM PRESIDENT CESPEDES—THE RESOURCES AND PROGRESS OF THE REVOLUTION.

President Cespedes has issued a proclamation from Guaimaro, dated Nov. 30, in which, having detailed the operations of three army corps, he says:

We have no means of telling the world of our achievements. When we win victories, our enemies, who hold the outside belt around us, pervert all information. We have kept a large standing army of Spain and Spanish volunteers in a state of constant anxiety and alarm. We have compelled our enemy to employ upward of 75,000 men yet we have gradually expanded our territory. We have attacked every convoy which the Spaniards have undertaken to send across the country, and have turned seven of them back into their starting-place.

It occurs, in the several reports rendered, that we have captured 1,326 Spanish soldiers, 1,471 of whom we have released on parole. We have captured 6,322 stands of arms and 29 pieces of artillery from our enemy. Our lines to-day are within rifle shot of every city and town on the island east of the City of Matanzas, and we are able to engage our enemy at one point or other daily. On the 9th day of October last, myself and Gen. Figuerdo formally declared our slaves free. We owned some 570. The males were enrolled on our army rolls, and started from Majuaga with us when we began our crusade against our oppressors. They helped us to capture Yara on the 10th of October, and a freeman who, two days before, was a slave, first held aloft the banner of independence in the plaza of Yara. Liberated slaves have been engaged in every battle with our enemy since that glorious day. In February last our first little Congress declared all men on the island free and equal. After my Cabinet had been selected and a National Congress of duly-elected representatives chosen, that august body framed a Constitution for our better government. In that Constitution slavery was declared unconditionally abolished!

We may count upon 40,000 well-armed men, with passable discipline. We are receiving supplies of arms and munitions of war now quite regularly; but of this matter the least I may say is the best, especially as long as we are refused those rights which we claim should be accorded us by our great sister Republic, the United States. Perhaps it is just that the administration of the Washington Government should delay recognizing us until the Congress shall have met. I have endeavored to convince my Cabinet and our National Congress that we must not rely too much upon aid from the United States. I have endeavored to impress all around me with the vast responsibility resting resting upon us, and that it is better for us to abandon all hope of succor from abroad. I have considered that, hemmed in as we are, we stand before the world in a more formidable array than Mexico, Chili, Peru, or any and all other Spanish-American republics ever presented against tyrannical Spain.

Conquer our enemy we must. There is no backward track. We ask you all to stand firm. Obey the important orders which have been lately issued for the destruction of our enemy's source of income. March onward and upward as have other peoples while struggling for their liberties, and God and right will sustain us at all until victory stands inscribed in letters of fire upon our banners, and the fraternity of republics welcomes us into the magnificent sisterhood of free nations. *Viva la Independencia! Viva la Libertad! Viva la Reforma Dios y Patria!*

CARLOS EMANUEL DE CESPEDES.

THE STEAMER ANNA.

This steamship, about which so much has been published in the sensation journals recently, has *not* left the city in pursuit of the Spanish gunboats, neither has she had an engagement with them, nor any one of them; and it is even denied that she belongs to the Junta Cubana of this city, or to the Cubans in general, although some ex-officers of the Hornet are apparently in charge of her.

"The Anna left Newburg on Tuesday night of last week at 11, for this city, arriving at 4 on Wednesday morning. On nearing the city, she was met by the Revenue cutter Bronx, and a United States Deputy Marshal on board, under whose surveillance she has since remained. The Anna immediately proceeded to a pier in the East River, opposite South Tenth-st., Williamsburgh, where, with the exception of a trip to the pier adjoining, the Wall-st. ferry, a day or two ago, she has remained."

The Anna was registered on the 27th of July, 1868, as owned and belonging to Mr. Orison Blunt, by whom, on the 29th of October, 1869, she was transferred to Sig. Ramon Hernandez Coriado, said to be a member of the Junta Cubana of this city, by whom, on the very next day, she was ostensibly sold to Mr. John H. Harnett, in whose possession, however, she did not long remain, as the next heard of her, the 15th of the present month, she was registered to her present ostensible owner, Mr. Geo. W. Brown of the firm of Brown & Phillips, No. 155 South-st., the firm that fitted out the Hornet, in the interests of the Cuban patriots, who disclaim her identity with the Cubans or any of their enterprises.

Mr. Brown says that he bought her for $19,000, but is anxious to dispose of her now for $15,000. The Anna is a steam-yacht, with a registered tunnage, in new measurement, of only 55 2-7 tuns, with passenger accommodation for between 12 and 15 persons, and totally incapable of carrying any armament. A larger than a 24-pounder would be her destruction. She can only carry coal for a few days, but is one of the swiftest yachts of her class, and few vessels could overtake her in case of a pursuit.

POLITICAL.

NEW-YORK.

In the XXVIth Senate District the Republican Convention nominated the Hon. Abraham V. Harpending of Yates County for Senator, to succeed Mr. Folger. He was a member of the Assembly of 1857, is a sturdy Republican, and an able man. The election will take place on Tuesday, the 28th inst.

MONTANA.

GOV. ASHLEY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Gov. Ashley telegraphs the following in answer to the charge made against him that he was working in collusion with the Democrats:

"VIRGINIA CITY, M. T., Dec. 21.

"I never made a speech anywhere denouncing the President's appointments, nor a speech in Montana against the negro, as a bid for Democratic support. On the contrary, in my message I congratulated the Democratic Legislature of Montana on the certainty of the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, and recommended that they enact its exact words into law. A public man ought to be judged by his official acts. My record in favor of the negro and Republican principles has no blot, and, if examined, will vindicate me against all misrepresentation. JAMES M. ASHLEY."

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 22.—The State Temperance Convention met in this city this afternoon to consider the advisability of organizing a Temperance party in the State. The Rev. C. A. Delevan of Schenectady was made Chairman, and the Rev. Dr. Love of Auburn Vice-Chairman.

A Business Committee of nine members was appointed. This Committee reported an address to the people of the State, and a series of nine resolutions. These resolutions favor political action to further the temperance cause, and inaugurates a political party called the "New-York Anti-Dramshop Party." The address and resolutions were written and reported by Gerrit Smith.

The Rev. Mr. Goodwin of Ontario made a minority report, favoring a declaration against Romanism, and favoring the Bible in schools, which was rejected. Speeches were made by Gerrit Smith, William H. Goodwin, F. A. Spencer, and others.

There were no opponents of the new party movement in attendance. In the evening a large public meeting was held and addresses made in support of the new party organization.

THE BUFFALO BREAKWATER—HIGH WATER.

BUFFALO, Dec. 22. — George E. Fell, United States Inspector, reports that the contractors for the breakwater in Buffalo harbor have suspended operations for the season, having planked over or wholly completed 417 running feet of work to a hight eight feet above the standard low-water mark, and 550 feet to the water level. The work has been carried on at a great disadvantage, the season being the worst that has been experienced here for a number of years, storms coming up when the cribs were partly filled, driving the workmen from the work and washing the cribs ashore. The portion completed has not been damaged in the least by the heaviest storms. The only test to which they will be subjected now is the running ice in the Spring. The contractors intend to build 1,000 feet next season should it prove favorable.

The rainy weather the last few days, followed by a south-west gale this afternoon, has caused the water in Buffalo Creek to rise to an unprecedented hight for this season. The cellars along the line of the docks and canals are flooded with water, which is still rising.

A MURDERER EXECUTED.

CARLISLE, Pa., Dec. 22.—Adam Titus was hanged here to-day, for the murder of Henry Stahm, at Shippensburg, Pa., on Dec. 29, 1868. When the murderer was arraigned for his trial last June, he pleaded guilty and refused to be tried. He was afterward sentenced without trial, and unhesitatingly detailed the circumstances of the crime which he had committed. But few persons were present at the execution. Dr. Schoeppe was also sentenced to be hanged at the same time, but a stay of proceedings was ordered some time ago in his case.

THE DR. OLIVER MURDER CASE.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., Dec. 22.—Mr. G. S. Ayres was examined to-day, for killing Dr. Anthony R. Oliver for alleged seduction of his daughter. The testimony was the same as at the Coroner's inquest, with the addition that the widow of deceased testified that her husband held Ayres's due-bill for $3,000, payable at ten days' notice; but there had never been any trouble about the money. The examination was continued until to-morrow.

GENERAL TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

....Immense quantities of iron ore have been discovered in Calaveras County, Cal.

....The woolen mills of H. Bull at Petersburgh, Ill., were burned on Tuesday evening. Loss, $30,000.

....J. C. Ward & Co.'s patent roofing manufactory at Nashville was partially burned yesterday. Loss about $7,000; insurance, $3,000.

....E. J. Byrd was shot at New-Orleans by P. V. Ducros, and probably mortally wounded. Ducros has been arrested. Both young men are highly connected.

....Heavy seizures of property have been made in the southern counties of California, by the revenue authorities, for illicit distilling.

....The office of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company of Mauch Chunk was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. The loss is about $5,000; partially insured.

....Over 400 colored men have left Richmond, Va., during the past week to go to work in Louisiana and Mississippi. It is estimated that over 2,000 left the State last month for the South.

....The ruins of the Allegheny City school building, which was burned on Tuesday, fell in yesterday, injuring two children named Jackel so severely that they will probably die.

....The weather in Los Angeles County, Cal., is colder than it has been for many years. Great damage has been done to the young fruit trees, and orange trees under two years are badly sapped.

....The proposition to pay Charles Burrill $25,000 for obtaining men on the City of Boston quota during the war, was defeated in the Boston Board of Aldermen yesterday by a tie vote.

....There were six fires in Chicago between 10 o'clock on Tuesday night and 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The only serious one was the destruction of Fleishmann's brewery. Loss, $15,000; insurance, $7,500.

....A deep feeling prevails among all classes of citizens of Nashville, Tenn., at the prospect of a suspension of the city schools. The schools are attended by about 4,000 pupils, and are in a highly prosperous condition. The suspension is urged by the city authorities as a measure of economy.

....The Grand Chapter of the Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity held a session in Philadelphia yesterday. Full delegations were present from nearly all subordinate Chapters, and much business was transacted. A grand reunion of the members of the fraternity will be held in Philadelphia during August, 1870.

....In the case of the Sheriff of Boyle County, Ky., against Cobb & Co. of Buffalo, N. Y., for the restoration of 1,500 bushels of wheat, seized from him while under attachment, Judge Ballard of the U. S. District Court of Louisville decided that the U. S. Marshal could not take from the possession of a State officer property held under process. The grain will be returned at the expense of Cobb & Co.

....Several alleged relatives of the late Senator David C. Broderick commenced suit in the U. S. Circuit Court of San Francisco against John A. McGwynn, Andrew J. Butler, and others, for the possession of Broderick's property. The prosecution maintain that the will and estate were administered upon a forgery, written after Broderick's death, by Alfred A. Phillips, and signed by Moses F. Lanagan.

Coopers' Union No. 6 last evening voted a small sum to the Cleveland coopers, now on strike against a reduction of wages.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 22.—The President to-day sent to the Senate a reply to the resolution of the Senate of the 20th inst., requesting the President to communicate to that body, if compatible with the public interest, copies of any correspondence between the United States and Great Britain concerning the questions pending between the two countries since the rejection of the Claims Convention by the Senate.

MR. FISH TO MR. MOTLEY.

[*Extract.*]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, 15th of May, 1869.

SIR: Your predecessor has already been directed to notify Lord Clarendon that the Senate has refused its advice and consent to the ratification of the Convention signed at London on the 17th of January last for the settlement of all outstanding claims.

Under some circumstances the announcement made to your predecessor of the rejection of this Convention might be sufficient; but the magnitude of the claims involved, and the gravity of the questions depending between the two Governments, require more than the mere announcement to which the delicacy of his own relations to the negotiations limited the directions to him. The Government, in rejecting the recent convention, abandon neither its own claims nor those of its citizens, nor the hope of an early, satisfactory, and friendly settlement of the questions depending between the two Governments. You will so say to Lord Clarendon, or, in your discretion, you may further proceed to communicate the views given below. The terms of the convention having by accident become known to the public in this country before the action upon it by the Senate, were disapproved by the people with an approach to unanimity that foreshadowed possibly even a less favorable vote on the question of ratification than was actually given. This adverse judgment, while unanimous, or nearly so, in its conclusion, was not reached by any single train of argument, nor from any one standpoint of policy, nor with any single standard of estimate of the claims, either of the nation or of its citizens, nor with the same degree of importance attached to various points that have been discussed in the correspondence referred to in convention. Various sources furnished currents running through different and widely separate channels, but meeting to form one common strain of thought, both with the people and in the Senate—different minds receiving it from different standpoints—each measuring by its own standard and judging in its own way, arrived at the one conclusion. The time and circumstances under which the Convention was negotiated were very unfavorable to its acceptance, either by the people or by the Senate. The nation had just emerged from its periodical choice of a Chief Magistrate, and having changed the depository of its confidence and its power looked with no favor on an attempt at the settlement of the great and grave questions depending by those on the eve of retiring from power, without consulting or considering the views of the ruler recently intrusted with their confidence, and without communication with the Senate, to whose approval the treaty would be constitutionally submitted, or with any of its members. It is wholly unnecessary to say to statesmen of the intelligence which always marks those of the British Empire that the rejection of a treaty by the Senate of the United States implies no act of discourtesy to the Government with which the treaty may have been negotiated. The United States can enter into no treaty without the advice and consent of the Senate; and that advice and consent, to be intelligent, must be discriminating, and their refusal can be no subject of complaint, and can give no occasion for dissatisfaction or criticism. On the 12th of May, 1863, a convention between the United States and Great Britain for settling the boundaries on our North-Eastern and North-Western frontier was signed at London by Mr. Rufus King and Lord Hueskesbury, on the part of their respective Governments, and submitted to the Senate by President Jefferson, with a message of the 24th of October in that year. The Senate approved of the Convention, but upon the condition that the 5th article should be expunged, a condition which was never complied with. Upon one point the President and the Senate and the overwhelming mass of the people are convinced, namely: That the Convention from its character and terms, or from the time of its negotiation, or from the circumstances attending its negotiation, would not have removed the sense of existing grievance, would not have afforded real substantial satisfaction to the people, would not have proved a hearty, cordial settlement of the pending question, but would have left a feeling of dissatisfaction inconsistent with the relations which the President desires to have firmly established between two great nations of common origin, common language and objects in the advancement of the civilization of the age. The President believes the rejection of the Convention to have been in the interest of peace and in the direction of a more perfect and cordial friendship between the two countries; and in this belief he fully approved the action of the Senate. That action is quite recent, and has been the cause of some excitement and popular discussion on both sides of the Atlantic, and, possibly, of some little disappointment, if not of irritation, in England. The tone of the press and the proclaimed opinions of some public men in each country suggest that the present is not the most hopeful moment to enter upon a renewed discussion either of the objections to the lately proposed Convention, or of the basis of a new negotiation. A suspension of the discussion on these questions for a short time will allow the subsidence of any excitement growing out of the negotiation or rejection of the treaty, and will enable the two Governments to approach the more readily to to a solution of their differences. But in communicating with Lord Clarendon you will be particular to assure him that the desire on our part is that their suspension be limited to the shortest possible time consistent with its object. The President hopes that her Majesty's Government will view the propriety of the suspension in the same light in which he proposes it, as wholly in the interest and solely with a view to an early and friendly settlement of the question between the two Governments. He hopes that when the question shall again be considered it may comport with the views of Her Majesty's Government to embrace within the scope of the negotiation some agreement by the two Governments defining their respective rights and duties as neutrals, in case the other Government became unfortunately involved in war with a third Power. The absence of some agreement or definition on this subject was among the causes leading to the rejection of the recent Convention under which, had it been adopted by the two countries, none of the grave questions which have arisen would have been passed upon by a tribunal whose decision, either party, much less other nations, would regard as authority so as to prevent repetition or retaliation. It might indeed well have occurred in the event of the selection by lot of the arbitrator or umpire, in different cases involving, however, precisely the same principles that different awards resting upon antagonistic principles might have been made. It, however, the two great leading maritime commercial nations of the world establish a rule to govern themselves, each with respect to the other, they may reasonably hope that their conclusion will be accepted by the other powers and will become for the future recognized as a part of the public law of the civilized world. The President recognizes the right of every Power, when a civil conflict has arisen within another State, and has attained a sufficient complexity, magnitude and completeness, to define its own relations and those of its citizens and subjects toward the parties to the conflict, so far as their rights and interest are necessarily affected by the conflict. The necessity and propriety of the original concession of belligerency by Great Britain at the time it was made have been contested and are not admitted. They certainly are questionable, but the President regards that concession as a part of the case only so far as it shows the beginning and the animus of that course of conduct which resulted so disastrously to the United States. It is important in that it foreshadows subsequent events. There were other nations that acted cotemporaneous with England in making a similar concession; but it was in England only that the concession was supplemented by acts causing direct damage to the United States.

The President is careful to make this discrimination, because he is anxious as much as possible to simplify the case, and to bring into view the subsequent acts which are so important to determining the question between the two countries. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HAMILTON FISH.

To John Lathrop Motley, esq., &c., &c., &c.

DEPARTM'T OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., June 28, 1869.

SIR: The President wishes that whenever negotiations or discussions on the subject of the "Alabama Claims," so called, shall be renewed, they be considered in the United States; and he desires that at the proper time you should convey this wish to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is impossible to say at present when that time will arrive, but it will certainly have arrived whenever the British Government shall propose a discussion or shall intimate a desire to reopen the negotiation. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HAMILTON FISH.

To John Lathrop Motley, esq., &c.

MR. FISH TO MR. MOTLEY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 25, 1869.

SIR: When you left here upon your mission, the moment was not thought to be the most hopeful to enter upon renewed discussion or negotiations with the Government of Great Britain on the subject of the claims of this Government against that of Her Majesty, and you were instructed to convey to Lord Clarendon the opinion of the President, that a suspension of the discussion for a short period might allow the subsidence of any excitement or irritation, growing out of events then recent, and might enable the two Governments to approach more readily to a solution of their differences. You have informed me that Lord Clarendon saw no objection to this course, and agreed with you that it would be well to give time for emotions, which had been excited of late, to subside." The President is inclined to believe that sufficient time may have now elapsed to allow subsidence of those emotions, and that thus it may be opportune and convenient at the present conjunction to place in your hands for appropriate use a dispassionate exposition of the leading causes of complaint of the Government of the United States against that of Great Britain. In order to do this in a satisfactory manner, it is necessary to go back to the very beginning of the acts and events which have in their progress and consummation so much disturbed the otherwise amicable relations of the two Governments.

When in the Winter of 1860 and 1861, certain States of the American Union undertook by ordinances of secession to separate themselves from the others and to constitute of their own volition and by force a new and independent republic under the name of the Confederate States of America, there existed between Great Britain and the United States a condition of profound peace, their political relations were professedly and apparently of the most friendly character, and their commercial and financial relations were as close and intimate in fact as they seemed to be cordial in spirit—such as became the two great liberal, progressive, and maritime and commercial powers of the world. Associated as they were by strong ties of common interest, language, and traditions, the Government of the United States had no reason to presume that the amicable sentiment of the British Government would be diminished or otherwise prejudicially affected by the occurrence of domestic insurrection within the United States any more than those of the latter had been impaired by the occurrence of the rebellion in British India, or might be impaired by such occurrence elsewhere in the dominion of Great Britain. Least of all could the Government of the United States anticipate hostility toward it, and special friendship for the insurgents of the seceding States in view of the inducements and objects of that insurrection, which avowedly, and as every statesman, whether in Europe or America, well knew, and as the very earliest mention of the insurrection in the House of Commons indicated, were to secure the establishment of a perpetual and exclusive slave-holding republic. In such a contest the Government of the United States was entitled to expect the earnest good-will, sympathy, and moral support of Great Britain. It was with painful astonishment, therefore, that the United States Government received information of the decision of Her Majesty's Government which had already been made, namely, on the 6th day of May, 1861, and was announced on that day in the House of Commons by her ministers, and was followed by the issue, on the 13th of May, 1861, of a proclamation which, in effect, recognized the insurgents as a belligerent power, and raised them to the same level of neutral rights with the United States. The President does not deny, on the contrary he maintains, that every sovereign power decides for itself, on its responsibility, the question whether or not it will, at a give time, accord the status of belligerency to the insurgent subjects of another power, as also the larger question of the independence of such subjects and their accession to the family of sovereign States. But the rightfulness of such an act depends on the occasion and the circumstances, and it is an act like the sovereign act of war, which the morality of the public law and practice requires should be deliberate, reasonable, and justified by reference to surrounding facts, national belligerency, indeed, like national independence, being but an existing fact officially recognized as such, without which such a declaration is only the indirect manifestation of a particular line of policy. The precipitancy of the Queen's Government, as Mr. Bright characterized it, the remarkable celerity, undue and unfriendly haste with which it was made, appears in its having been determined on the 6th of May, four days prior to the arrival in London of any official knowledge of the President's proclamation of April 17, 1861, by reference to which the Queen's proclamation has since been defended, and that it was actually signed on the 13th of May, the very day of the arrival of Mr. Adams, the new American Minister, as if in the particular aim of forestalling and preventing explanations on the part of the United States. The premature character of the measure is further shown by the very tenor of the proclamation, which sets forth its own reason, namely: "Whereas, hostilities have unhappily commenced between the United States of America and certain States styling themselves 'The Confederate States of America.'" Moreover, it is not pretended by the proclamation that war exists, but only a contest, in reference to which it is not unimportant to note that the language used is such as would fitly apply to parties wholly independent one of the other, so as thus to negative or to suppress at least the critical circumstances that this bare commencement of hostilities, this incipient contest, was a mere domestic act of insurrection within the United States. But that which conclusively shows the unreasonable precipitancy of the measure is the fact that on that day (May 13, 1861) and indeed until long afterward not a battle had been fought between the insurgents and the United States, nor a combat even, save the solitary and isolated attack on Fort Sumter. Did such a bare commencement of hostilities constitute belligerency? Plainly not. There was at that time no such thing as a population elevated into a force and by the prosecution of war, which Mr. Canning points out as the test of belligerent condition. The assumed belligerency of the insurgents was a fiction—a war on paper only, not the field; like a paper blockade, the anticipation of a supposed belligerency to come, but which might never have come if not thus anticipated and encouraged by the Queen's Government. Indeed, as forcibly put by Mr. Adams, the Queen's declaration had the effect of creating posterior belligerency, instead of merely acknowledging an actual fact, and that belligerency, so far as it was maintained, proceeded from the ports of Great Britain and her dependencies alone, with the aid and cooperation of the subjects of Great Britain. The Government of the United States, that of Great Britain and other European Powers had repeatedly had occasion to consider this question in all its bearings. It was perceived that the recognition of belligerency on the part of the insurgents, although not so serious an act as the recognition of independence, yet might well be prejudicial to the legitimate Government, and therefore be regarded by it as an act of unfriendliness. It was a step, therefore, to be taken with thoughtfulness, and with due regard to exigent circumstances. Governments had waited months, sometimes years, in the face of actual hostilities without taking this step. But the circumstances might arise to call for it. A ship of the insurgents might appear in the port of the neutral, or a collision might occur at sea imposing on the neutral the necessity to act; or actual hostilities might have continued to rage in the theater of insurgent war; combat after combat might have been fought for such a period of time; a mass of men may have engaged in actual war until they should have acquired the consistency of military power, to repeat the idea of Mr. Canning, so as evidently to constitute the fact of belligerency, and to justify the recognition by the neutral, or the nearness of the seat of hostilities to the neutral may compel the latter to act on either of these contingencies. The neutral would have a right to act; it might be his sovereign duty to act, however inconvenient such action should be to the legitimate Government. There was no such fact of necessity, no such fact of continued and flagrant existing hostilities, to justify the action of Great Britain in the present case. Hence the United States felt constrained at the time to regard the proclamation as the