SOUTH AMERICA.

THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.

DIFFICULTIES OF THE BRAZILIAN PURSUIT—ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY OF LOPEZ—HIS INDIAN ALLIES—TRIUMPHAL RETURN OF GEN. FLORES TO MONTEVIDEO—COUNT D'EU'S LATEST DISPATCH—DECISIVE CAPTURE OF IGATEMY.

MONTEVIDEO, Dec. 31.—The flying column of Gen. Camaras from which so much was expected, has fallen back, from the impossibility of pursuit in the fearful heat of Paraguay. Having recently returned from the interior, I can testify to the blazing temperature of this region and to the absolute fatality which must attend unusual exertion under these broiling tropical suns. Lopez retreats, and at every step he takes the allies have a doubly painful advance to make to reach him, with the laborious mountain transportation which the northern part of the country necessitates. Previously, this region had been untrodden by white men, and it is truly known only to the Indians, who are supposed to be in sympathy and alliance with Lopez. As the Brazilians advance they have a hostile country to fight through, with an enemy who knows his ground and is accustomed to a warfare on his own soil, with resources ample for present wants, so that pursuit has in it much of the character of hopelessness. Whether it will be renewed in the cooler season, or whether the difficulties will be regarded as insurmountable, is a question for the future to decide.

Deserters from Lopez have recently come into the Brazilian lines, who report the Paraguayan force as consisting of three divisions of infantry, each composed of three battalions of 120 men, with the exception of the rifles, which number 600 in one battalion. The cavalry consists of three regiments, of 120 men, and the artillery is composed of nine heavy guns, drawn each by four oxen, aided by soldiers. In retreating order, the train is increased by the carts which convey the personal effects of Marshal Lopez from one point to another. To speculate upon his whereabouts is worse than useless. Neither his exact situation nor plans are known to the outside world. Many intelligent, informed persons, to whom Lopez is well known, express the opinion that he will worry the Brazilian power out of Paraguay, and, biding his time, make incursions with his Indians into the heart of the country again, and ultimately drive the Provisional Government to the wall.

It is distinctly understood that both the Argentine Confederation and the Banda Oriental (Uruguay) are practicable withdrawn from the struggle; and it will be in the future a simple question between Brazil and Paraguay. Whatever may be the real facts regarding the character of Lopez, nobody here can fail to admire the Paraguayan people for the noble defense they have made, single handed, for five years against a powerful triple alliance.

The remnant of the division of Gen. Flores, which was recruited five years ago and sent to the front, was received in Montevideo yesterday. It consisted of 130 men, all that was left of a valiant army after five years' campaigning. The reception was worthy the sacrifices and sufferings of these men, and worthy the community which accorded it to them, and was a magnificent demonstration of popular feeling. The troops were received by the National Guard at the landing. The route of the procession was strewn with laurel leaves and hope, a fragrant grass, which filled the air with the aroma of anise. The streets were lined with an enthusiastic people, eager to do honor to the veterans. The balconies were draped with silk and damask hangings; flags of all nations, and streamers were hung in graceful folds from the windows, and from every staff floated the white and blue stripes of the Banda Oriental, under which these braves had fought and bled. From the low, flat roofs of houses, from balconies filled with ladies and children, wreaths, garlands, and cut-flowers were showered upon the troops, who decorated their muskets as they marched along. In the van of the procession were the children of the public schools, each with his blue silk sash for decoration; and their voices gave rattling "Viens" in response to every cheer of the people. The gay procession moved at quick-step over a carpet of green leaves and flowers to the Plaza, where, under triumphal arches, they were received at the Government House with every demonstration of honor and respect. The day was made a public holiday, and fireworks and music closed the festivities. This ends the chapter of history which Uruguay contributes to the Paraguayan war.

RIO JANEIRO, Jan. 7.—The last official dispatch of Count d'Eu, published by the Government, gives an account of the fight near the bridge that crosses the river Jerony-my, by which the allies were able to release some 4,000 of the wretched inhabitants and obtain possession of the village of Igatemy. The Count says, in speaking of the contest, and the subsequent movements of Lopez:

"This, perhaps, will prove to be the final action of the present war, since the village of Igatemy was the last settlement in Paraguay—a territory over which Lopez had exercised his rule.

"The ex-Dictator is now moving to a place called Panadero, situated on the left bank of the river Aguary.

"Everything induces the belief that from here he will seek to pass to the other side of the Sierra of Maracazu, to that narrow and deserted tract which lies between this mountain range and the river Parana.

"It is not impossible that, failing to find here any resources, he may continue without delay his march to the north and try to reach Bolivia through the valley of Apa."

The Count declares his intention to pursue Lopez to Panadero, if possible, since from that point he can open communication with the forces operating in the district of Conceiçao, under the command of Brigadier Camara. This is the very latest reliable information that has been received touching military operations in Paraguay.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN BRAZIL—QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF FINANCES—EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION—MAGALHAENS AND SARMIENTO—BRAZIL AND THE ARGENTINE STATES COMPARED.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 7.—The annual holiday season is now about over. It commences with the 25th of December and is supposed to continue until the 10th of January. In some parts of the Empire it does not end till the 15th. The school holidays beginning on the 7th of December and ending with the 7th of January also chime in with this period of general festivity. At this season one may look for an almost entire cessation of the customary employments, at least among the natives. The only exception to this rule is in the large cities, where, as here in Rio, there is a strong foreign element among the population, an element which is little disposed to accommodate itself to the festal spirit which is one of the marked characteristics of the Brazilian people.

The *Presepe*, as it is called, a miniature representation of the City of Bethlehem and the Birth of our Lord, is the chief spectacle that attracts the notice of the people during these days. I am told that in all parts of the Empire much attention is given to it by the natives. Curiosity led me to visit recently one of the places where it was on exhibition. I was not a little surprised to find so large a crowd of well-dressed and orderly people in attendance. Joining the stream that poured through the door at the main entrance of the building, I soon reached the hall. There at one side, on a raised platform perhaps five feet square, was the representation of the City of Bethlehem, evidently the product of some native artist, and as such not likely to excite the highest admiration. It consisted of a mass of some kind of soft, earthy material, so molded and fashioned as to represent the hills and valleys, the circuitous paths and by-ways of that ancient place. Curious-looking structures, intended to represent the habitations of the period, were scattered about in a most disorderly manner. Men and women clothed in the ancient garb were seen here and there variously employed. Beasts of burden—mules, camels, and horses—heavily laden and in long lines, were filing down the most precipitous of mountain sides. But of all the objects included in this artistic wonder, perhaps none were more unnatural than the human figures. Every one had the same rigidity and fixedness of air that is peculiar to dead people, or those about to have their picture taken. In the center was placed the little thatched hut or stable, and on some straw in the manger lay the tiny babe, over which bent what was supposed to be the sainted form of Mary. The whole was only a poor miniature representation of the incidents; but, judging by the respectful attention of the observers, even the reverential aspect of some, it would seem that no small importance was attached to it as a part of the external worship of the Brazilian Church.

It is rumored that Magalhaens, the present Brazilian Minister at Washington, is soon to be recalled to take the post of Inspector-General of public instruction. This branch of public service greatly needs reformation. All admit it. The system of public instruction now in vogue here is a farce, and to a man who knows something of public schools in the United States, the extreme of absurdity itself. There is, probably, no one among the Brazilians who would be better fitted than Magalhaens to take hold of this work in the true renovating and progressive spirit. Already, like Sarmiento, who is doing wonders in the Argentine Confederation, Magalhaens has passed some years in the United States, and had an opportunity to give the question of education special study under the most favorable condition. Furthermore, his name is intimately associated with the literature of his country, he being the author of several important works, and, by his poetry, perhaps better known and more warmly appreciated than any other living writer of Brazil. This gives him a prestige that would insure a fair trial of any plans which he should propose.

The quarterly statement of the national finances, made by the Prime Minister on the 31st ult., has called forth sharp comments from the opposition press, who see in it only fresh evidences of coming disaster, and even ruin, to the country. The following are the principal items in the Minister's statement:

Bonds in circulation, including those of the national loan of 1868, reduced in the sum of three hundred contos of reis ($300,000,000), which were paid up on account of that loan in October last	$221,272,500,000
Paper money in circulation, emissions under the credits of Sept. 12, 1866; Sept. 20, 1866; and Aug. 3, 1868, less the sum applied to substitute notes of the denomination of (5,000) five mil reis of the 6th impression and of (10,000) mil reis of the 4th impression	97,403,328,000
Treasury bills not in circulation	64,575,400,000
Remittances to London at different rates of exchange, £1,370,122,672; to the River Plate, at par, $6,331,071,544—total	99,751,794,216
Payments of drafts—Montevideo, $5,624,740,796; Par Department of the Army, $2,443,254,628; special mission in the River Plate, 1,159,425,441—total	79,067,420,324

Among the bonds in circulation are included not only the sum of $5,000,000,000, which were to have been emitted in December, by virtue of the contract lately entered into with the Bank of Brazil, but also that of $2,500,000,000, corresponding to bonds which, according to this same contract, were to be paid in the present month of January, the amount of which the bank paid at once into the Treasury, without waiting till the expiration of the time fixed upon.

The imperfect character of this statement gives general dissatisfaction. It tells us nothing about the foreign debt of the country, which is some £12,000,000. Also, in calculating the amount of paper money in circulation, the Minister leaves out of account entirely the 50,000 contos of reis ($19,000,000,000) which were issued before the war commenced. Instead of giving the remittances already made, which is of course desirable and important, it would be much more satisfactory to give those also that are still to be made for the settlement of debts that are unquestioned. In other words, give the country a clear notion of its financial condition. It would seem, however, as though it were regarded necessary to beclouds this whole subject as much as possible.

It is well-known that Brazil has apparently been making vigorous efforts for many years to induce emigrants to settle within her territory, in preference to other countries, and that these efforts have up to the present moment proved abortive. Some have boldly said, in commenting upon the facts, that the mass of Brazilians did not really want emigrants to come among them, and that all this interest in the matter was only affected to quiet one or two of the leaders who were progressive, and wanted to see the country developed. Be this as it may, certainly the fact is clear that no emigrants are now coming to Brazil; and, furthermore, the emigrants that have come during the past two years are now making every possible effort, aided by their Consuls and Ministers, to return to their homes again. The contrast between Brazil and its adjoining neighbors in the Plate, the Argentine Confederation, and the Banda Oriental, as regards this subject of emigration is most striking. There, emigrants are constantly arriving from Europe at the rate of a thousand and more a month; while here, there do not come so many during the entire year.

One of the illustrated papers of the Capital recently caricatured the fact very happily. Sitting astride the Sugar Loaf at the mouth of the harbor was a gigantic Indian in full feather, representing Brazil, looking toward the sea, which was covered with steamers, all sailing in a southerly direction for the Plate and crowded with emigrants. In the rear, upon the summit of one of the morros, lay the figures of Industry stretched at full length on the ground sleeping, and Commerce leaning in the most dejected manner against a bale of cotton. The surroundings suggested a ruinous state of public affairs. Immediately underneath, however, was the contrasting picture. The place was the river Plate. The steamers had arrived and the emigrants were going ashore in long files. Behind were seen railroad trains shooting away into the country in every direction. Here appeared a large flock of sheep and men shearing them. There were huge piles of goods being shipped. In short, the greatest activity prevailed everywhere, and the whole was intended to represent the highest state of commercial and national prosperity.

I was forcibly reminded of this caricature to-day while reading the report of the Brazilian Consul-General at Montevideo to his Government upon the subject of emigration to the Banda Oriental. The Consul presents the following reasons for the preference of that section by emigrants coming from Europe: 1st. The climate and soil resemble that to which they have been accustomed in Europe, and therefore it is very easy for them to engage at once in agriculture and pasturing. 2d. There is great facility in forming relations, since many of the emigrants speak the same language, and the others learn it without great difficulty. 3d. Finally, the advantageous return upon which every one counts who dedicated himself to any kind of labor in this region, where living is cheap. Besides this, the emigrant here meets all the facilities for acquiring landed property, there being little or no difficulty in effecting readily contracts for sale and purchase. He thinks, furthermore, that the Spaniards from the Basque Provinces, and the French, are the most desirable emigrants for that Republic, since they have simple and patriarchal habits, and readily apply themselves to agriculture and the mechanic arts. The Italians do not make good emigrants, having always in view the purpose of acquiring riches with which to return to their native country.

I have said that the emigrants who have come to Brazil during the past few years are now seeking to return home again. This is generally the case with emigrants from the United Kingdom, and is especially the case with those included in the recent emigration from the Southern States of the United States—and emigration that at one time certainly looked as though it were destined to be considerable, and even formidable. This latter element is now almost to a man striving to get back. Already the Home Government has, by timely orders to the navy, furnished free transportation for a large number, and the American Benevolent Society of Rio de Janeiro has freely expended its funds for the same purpose. The number of Americans, however, still remaining in the country and who want to return is very large. The "Emigrant Home" is to-day crowded with them. They declare that the Brazilian Government has not fulfilled its engagements with them, and that they have been grossly deceived. I am glad to state, however, that they do not want for the proper official protection. The American Minister and the Consul are nobly exerting themselves on their behalf, and will soon, it is believed, effect some arrangement with the Brazilian Government by which the claims of the emigrants will be satisfied, and a passage home furnished them.

EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY AND BUTCHERY.

RIO JANEIRO, Jan. 7.—A horrible butchery of San Juan merchants, with their servants, is reported as having occurred on the Cordillera of the Andes a few days ago. An English gentleman who met and bivouacked for dinner with this party a few hours before they were murdered, and who had just then reached Rosario, where I met him a week ago, told me that an Italian, whom he met at an inn on the Andes, who appeared to be a gentleman, and who conversed fluently in English, had joined and accompanied him a whole day on his journey, mysteriously disappeared at night. The next day the party from San Juan came in sight and halted for refreshment, and after an hour's pleasant intercourse, they parted, to be butchered in cold blood by this very Italian, who, with a band of bricands, were lying in wait for them in the narrow pass of the Paramillio de las Cueras. These merchants had with them from $25,000 to $30,000 in gold and silver, intended for purchases in Valparaiso, and the prize was a rich one. The party were surprised and overpowered, and, while the butchery was going on, Mr. Thomas Jameson, one of the merchants, after a severe struggle, being at the moment unarmed, and seeing that certain death awaited him, plunged over the precipice into the river, hundreds of feet below. His fall was broken by earth and stones, and he rolled into the water. This revived him. Beside the injuries from this fearful leap, he had been stunned by a blow from the butt-end of a musket which had nearly fractured his skull. Faint and bleeding he climbed up the opposite bank of the river, the brigands not daring to follow him. One of the peons, also in the affray, secreted himself and was saved. After plundering the baggage and driving off the mules the bandits started back into Chili. Fortunately a party of travelers came in sight that came afternoon and gave these two unfortunate men every assistance and helped them on their way. The news of this fearful butchery reached the Chilian Government promptly, and by telegram and post horses to every town and village, they have succeeded in tracking and arresting all of the murderers except the Italian leader, who is one Ferrari, well-known in Valparaiso. The utmost vigilance is exercised all along the coast to prevent his escape. Mr. Jameson is reported to be in a very precarious situation, and his escape from instant death is regarded a miracle.

THE VOORHIES MURDER.

The Coroner's jury yesterday morning rendered the following verdict in the case of Mr. Dominicus S. Voorhies, who was murdered on Sunday evening last:

We find that the deceased, Dominicus S. Voorhies, came to his death by a pistol ball discharged from a pistol in the hands of William Chambers, on the evening of the 13th day of February, 1870, in the saloon of Peter Fogarty, on the north-east corner of Columbia and Carroll-sts., in the City of Brooklyn and State of New-York.

James Stephens is reported as being "in *good* health, and in no way destitute," in Paris.

XLIST CONGRESS—2D SESSION.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.

NEBRASKA AND THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) forwarded to the Clerk's desk, and had read, a telegram he had received from the Governor of Nebraska, announcing the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment by the Legislature of that State with but five dissenting votes.

Mr. SUMNER also presented the memorial of the Faculty of Harvard College, asking that such rank be accorded to the medical officers of the Navy as is befitting an honorable profession and conducive to the efficacy of the naval service. Referred.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio) presented a petition from many thousand citizens of the States of Connecticut and Maryland for the recognition of Cuban independence. Referred.

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. HOWARD (Rep., Mich.), from the Committee on the Pacific Railroad, reported with amendment the joint resolution authorizing the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to issue bonds for the construction of its road, and to secure the same by mortgage; and also to construct its main road to the western terminus, via the Valley of the Columbia River.

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) introduced a bill to make the importation of emigrants under labor contracts unlawful.

ENCOURAGING STEAMSHIP LINES.

Mr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) introduced a bill to encourage the building of steamships in the United States, and to provide for the transportation of the United States mails to Europe in such vessels. Referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads.

It directs the Postmaster-General to contract with the North American Steam Navigation Company of New-York for the transportation of the mails between New-York and Antwerp or Bremen, touching at Plymouth, for the term of fifteen years. The steamers are to be exempt from State and Federal taxation, and to receive the ocean and inland postages on mails carried by them.

THE FUNDING BILL.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio), the Funding bill was taken up, and by a vote of 21 to 14 was made the special order for Wednesday next, Monday being assigned for the consideration of business from the Committee on Commerce.

On motion of Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.), the bill creating the office of Solicitor for the State Department and for other purposes, was taken up.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) said the question suggested by the bill was whether we were to have in each Department of the Government a Law Department, and consequently a variety of decisions upon every question. He preferred that such officers should be subject to one head; in other words, that there should be an accumulation in the Attorney-General's Office of the business belonging to it.

Mr. SUMNER said the immediate wants of the State Department required the assistance of a solicitor and the proposed clerical force. The innumerable applications relating to claims on foreign Governments, and kindred questions, which it was impossible for the Secretary himself to peruse, rendered the adoption of this bill necessary. He then read a letter from the Secretary of State upon the necessity of the office.

The bill was amended to provide for an Examiner of Claims in lieu of a Solicitor, and then passed.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Me.) introduced a bill relating to appropriations and appropriation accounts, directing estimates of appropriations to be made through the Secretary of the Treasury, and prescribing a method of keeping the accounts of appropriations.

Bills were considered and passed extending the time for the construction of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad relating to settlers on the late Sioux Indian reservation in Minnesota; amending the Usury laws of the District of Columbia.

THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

The bill to encourage and promote the international exhibition, to be held in Washington City in 1873, was debated by Messrs. HAMLIN (Rep., Me.), PETTIGREW (Rep., S. D.), NYE (Rep., Nev.), and SHERMAN in favor of the bill, and Messrs. THURMAN (Rep., Ohio), MORRILL (Rep., Vt.), STEWART (Rep., Nev.), and SCHURZ (Rep., Mo.) in opposition.

Mr. THURMAN (Dem., Ohio) said that upon the pretext of making the exhibition creditable to the nation the Government would be obliged to shoulder the bulk of the expense; otherwise it would prove a miserable failure. He regarded the whole thing as a humbug, and with the view of saving time he moved to postpone the bill indefinitely.

Mr. HAMLIN (Rep., Me.) said he had been informed by wealthy men of Washington, and others having the matter in charge, that they could make the project a success without further charge to the Government than was specified in the bill. This entire charge was embraced in two items—that of the transportation to Washington by Government vessels of foreign articles to be delivered at the various ports of the country, and the preparation of the ground for the exhibition.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) said that the experiment of the citizens of Washington in attempting to silence the cry about the removal of the Capital by getting up an international exhibition would be proved a dangerous one in the event of the failure of the project, for these reproaches upon the city would be multiplied. He believed the time appointed was not propitious, as the South, crippled by war, could not compete with other sections. He would have Congress take care of Washington, but did not desire ever to see the nation's Capital take rank with the great overgrown city of New-York. Where it is held that our form of government was a failure. A serious objection to holding the proposed exhibition in Washington was the fact that, in order to get here, we had to pay Maryland a tax of about 50 cents, and, in addition to that, all who came from the North-East had to pay New-Jersey a tax of about $1.

Mr. STOCKTON (Dem., N. J.) desired the Senator to repeat his remark about New Jersey, as he did not hear it.

Mr. MORRILL replied that his remark was in reference to the tax of $1 to which all travelers had heretofore been subjected in riding across the State of New-Jersey; but he was informed that the monopoly has recently died out.

Mr. STOCKTON said he would improve upon the opportunity afforded by the gentleman's observation, to correct a slander which has for years been circulated against the State of New-Jersey. That State had never directly, or indirectly, taxed a single passenger for crossing the State. Their method at one time was to collect a tax upon the business of the Camden and Amboy Company, which their really a privilege to the traveling public, because the tax assessed in any other way would have been much larger, and the difference might have come from the pockets of the passengers; but this special method of taxation was now obsolete, not because the system was not a wise and fair one, but because of misunderstandings in regard to it.

Mr. MORRILL inquired whether the practice of the Company at one time was not to demand a dollar more fare from through travelers than from way travelers.

Mr. STOCKTON replied that his object had simply been to answer a remark which applied to the State of New-Jersey, whether the railroad company did at any time make a discrimination between local and through travel. He could not answer directly.

Mr. MORRILL of Vermont remarked that that was the fact to which he alluded; that contrary to general custom the corporation of New-Jersey charged through passengers a larger sum than was paid by a way traveler for the same distance. He further opposed the bill as calculated to create a useless expense to the Government.

Mr. THURMAN (Dem., Ohio) remarked that on account of high rents it was almost impossible for poor mechanics in Washington to find a shelter. If the exhibition was authorized, the landlords would raise their rents and poor families be almost rendered homeless.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio) made some remarks in favor of the bill, taking the view that to deny to the people of the District their simple request of authority to hold an exhibition, would be an indication of Congressional illiberality.

Mr. SCHURZ (Rep., Mo.) argued that Washington lacked all the qualifications essential to make an international exposition successful.

At 6:15 the Senate went into Executive session, and shortly after adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REGULATING OCEAN TELEGRAPH CABLES.

Mr. WOOD (Dem., N. Y.) introduced a bill to regulate ocean telegraph communication between the United States and foreign countries. Referred.

Mr. BUTLER (Rep., Mass.) made an effort to have the House proceed to the consideration of a bill to remove political disabilities, but Mr. DAWES (Rep., Mass.) pressed his motion to go into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. BUTLER stated that he was directed by the Reconstruction Committee to report a general bill for the removal of disabilities. There were now some 3,000 or 4,000 names awaiting the report. Two bills had passed the Senate, and some were prepared in the House. He desired that the House should indicate whether it was disposed to pass a general bill, or what course it would pursue. He thought this legislation as essential as any other. Hundreds of men were awaiting to be restored to their rights, while the appropriation bills were not to take effect till July.

Mr. BANKS said he recognized the importance of the measure which his colleague desired to have considered, but that it was important that this appropriation bill should be sent to the Senate as soon as possible.

Mr. BROOKS (Dem., N. Y.) remarked that one of the calamities of the country was the late passage of the appropriation bills. The Senate usually added on large appropriations at the last moment, when the House had no opportunity to discuss them, but had to leave them to Committees of Conference. He hoped, therefore, that the appropriation bills would be sent to the Senate at the earliest day.

After further discussion as to the order of business, the House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. CESSNA (Rep., Penn.) in the chair, on

THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

The discussion in reference to the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, which was opened yesterday, was resumed, and occupied over 1½ hours. Finally the vote was taken on Mr. Farnsworth's motion to strike out the whole paragraph for the construction of a branch of the Treasury Department, and it was rejected—40 to 24.

Several amendments were offered and discussed to increase the salaries of the Second Controller of the Currency, of messengers, and of women employed in the Departments.

In reference to the Second Controller, Mr. DAWES stated that he had been informed that the law withdrawing the 10 per cent additional compensation allowed during the war to the clerks in the Department had been construed as not applying to the heads of bureaus, and that those officers were still drawing that additional compensation.

The discussion relative to the women caused some excitement and amusement, Mr. ROGERS taking the ground that the employment of women in public offices was demoralizing and disreputable, and should be abandoned by the Government, and that suggestion being repelled by Mr. STEVENSON and others.

Mr. DAWES, referring to the influence of politics on public offices, told the members of the House that they were always to the vile politicians from all parts of the country, who flocked to Washington last March, and had been hounding members for the last two months to raise the salaries of the very offices that they had crawled for in the first month of the Administration. And that was the position in which it was proposed to place women, by giving them the same compensation as men and leaving all these offices to be contended for.

All the propositions for increase of salaries were rejected, and the Committee rose after disposing of four pages of the bill.

Mr. BENNETT (Rep., N. Y.), rising to a personal explanation, referred to the accusations made against him in *The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*. He declared them false and wholly without foundation, and said that he proposed to vindicate himself in the courts of law.

Mr. LOGAN (Rep., Ill.), from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill appropriating $3,000 for the investigation into the alleged sale of cadetships, which was passed. Adjourned.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.....ALBANY, Feb. 18.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Designating the day for town and charter elections; to widen Madison-ave. and other streets in New-York; abolishing the Board of Supervisors of New-York; abolishing the Metropolitan Police Commission.

BILLS PASSED.

Amending the charter of the Fire-proof Warehousing Company; for the relief of corporations organized under general laws.

Mr. PIERCE reported a bill for the benefit of married women by insuring the lives of their husbands.

The bill to abolish the Contracting Board and contracting system on Canals, was made a special order for Thursday next. Adjourned till Wednesday evening next.

ASSEMBLY.

The bill abolishing the Court of Special Sessions in New-York was reached and passed.

REPORTS.

In favor of the resolution to pay the State debt, principal and interest, incurred prior to 1862 in coin. The motion was laid on the table.

Mr. ALVORD moved to take from the table the Ways and Means report on the payment of the anti-war State debt in coin.

Mr. JACOBS stated that the Committee was willing to accept the preamble, as it did not affect the resolution at all, and it was necessary to adopt this resolution before the recess.

The preamble was then adopted, as, also, the resolution. The vote on adopting the resolution stood 85 to 20.

The following bills were reported: The One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st. Railroad bill; relative to express companies, requiring them to deliver packages within 12 hours after their arrival in New-York, where 24 hours are now allowed; amending the charter of the Working-women's Protective Union of New-York; to facilitate the payment of taxes by railroads; to establish a court of civil jurisdiction in Morrisania; also providing for the election of inspectors and canvassers of election in Brooklyn.

A large number of bills chartering charitable and other societies in New-York were reported. Adjourned to Wednesday evening next.

THE WIFE MURDER.

CORONER'S INQUEST—THE HUSBAND IS COMMITTED TO THE TOMBS.

Coroner Flynn and a jury, yesterday, at the West Thirty-fifth-st. Police Station, investigated the circumstances attendant on the death of Mrs. Margaret Sheridan, who was shot by her husband on Wednesday evening, in her apartment at No. 317 West Forty-first-st. There were present a number of persons, who seemed to be interested in the proceedings, but the crowd was not so great as had been expected. The following is the evidence taken:

Michael Powers testified—I am a laborer, and reside at No. 317 West Forty-second-st. On Wednesday evening, about 8 o'clock, I was sitting in my room reading a newspaper. Mrs. Sheridan was in her bedroom, and her niece, Jane Webb, was in the front room with me when the prisoner came into the room; her niece went and told her he was there, and she came out and asked him if he had come to execute his threats on her; he asked "what threats," she replied that the last time he was there, he had told her he would be revenged, and pointed a pistol at her; he said "I have not come to do anything to you," and she said, "ask your little girl who is here," he did so, and she said, "yes, you did;" then call the girl "Dolly," she is 11 years old; the prisoner said, "you are not afraid of a pistol," and she said "he's got it," and he fired; I then jumped up and seized him, and he fired the second shot over my shoulder; he was about a yard and a half from her when he fired the first shot, which I think entered her skull; it did not take within five minutes after he entered the room; I never saw the prisoner until the night of the murder; I held on to him until the police came, and gave the prisoner into custody. I slept in the kitchen, sometimes on the floor, sometimes with the children; never cohabited with Mrs. Sheridan; don't know the age of the baby; have lived there since last May, and paid $3 a week for board; never asked who was the father of the baby; understood her husband was in the army; Mrs. Sheridan slept in the back room with her niece; first knew her in Westchester County; did not board with her there; was not home when the baby was born; did not ask her about the father of the baby; thought it was not my business; never heard that I was accused of being the father of the child, but it might have been talked about by the neighbors.

Jane Webb of No. 317 W. Forty-first-st., testified that she is a niece of Mrs. Sheridan; she had been with her since last May; last Wednesday evening Mr. Sheridan came in and sat down near the door; Mrs. Sheridan was in the bedroom with the baby; she came out and sat down near the prisoner, and said "Good evening;" witness corroborated the testimony of the previous witness as to what occurred previous to the shooting and after he had fired. After the first shot Mrs. Sheridan commenced bleeding herself, and exclaimed, putting her hand on her side, "The Lord have mercy on me, I am shot;" was there when the prisoner called witness, and told him to say that "her down was sealed;" he asked her then to come and live with him, and she refused; an aunt of Mrs. Sheridan asked witness if she thought Powers was the father of the baby, and she said she thought he was; she thought so because he appeared to be very fond of the baby; it was called William Sheridan; never saw she undue familiarity between Powers and Mrs. Sheridan; witness was twenty or thirty feet from the prisoner; heard in the country and before that that Powers was living with her as her husband.

Mary Sheridan, a daughter age 11 years, testified—We lived at one time in West Forty-sixth-st. for eight months; Michael Powers lived there with us; we then went to Tenth-ave., and after living there for eight months, moved to No. 317 West Forty-first-st.; we have lived there for six months; Michael Powers also lived with us there; on the evening of Feb. 16, father came to our place for the first time there in a week or two; I was in the front room with my mother; heard father say to mother, "I have come to see you;" and told my mother that her down was sealed; he had a pistol in his hand at that time, and shot my mother; he fired at her twice; Michael Powers and Jane Webb were there.

Patrolman Hadnar testified that he arrested the prisoner and Powers; the latter charged Sheridan with having committed the murder; the prisoner had the pistol in his hand; he said "I have done it, and it can't be helped; that lady was moving in a foolish; she had another one in Englewood, but that is dead."

Thomas Sheridan, the prisoner, was then questioned relative to his guilt, and made the following statement:

I am 55 years of age. I have not lived with my wife since 1861, as I went to the army. I was absent three years, during which time I sent her my pay regularly and my bounty; when I came back I went to my wife's place in Westchester County; I should think it was about 1864; she was gone two years ago; she came to New-York to live; I went to her several times, but she would not answer me; I went to Forty-first-st. to see her five or six times; I heard that she and Powers had lived together since she left the country; he left the country the day after her; my object in going to see her was to ask her to return and live with me; I also asked her who was the father of her baby, and told her to put it out nursing, and I would have it with me and live with my daughter, Mary; from what I could see she was not its father; I never received a cent from my wife for eight years; her excuse for keeping the child from school was that she had no money to buy shoes for her; I then gave my girl $5 to buy a pair; on the evening of Feb. 16 I went to her place, and intended to turn Powers out of what should be my place; I did not know him when I went in, and did not recognize him; my wife endeavored me to leave the room, and said that Powers would kick my head off; I replied that he was a desperado; I carried the revolver to protect myself, and becoming excited, I fired and shot her."

After a brief charge by the Coroner, the jury retired to deliberate, and after an absence of nearly half an hour, they returned, and the foreman read the following as the verdict arrived at:

"We find that the deceased came to her death by a wound from a revolver in the hands of the prisoner, and we sympathize with him in his offence, as we consider that the conduct of his wife greatly exasperated him."

The Coroner declined to accept this verdict, declaring that it was the province of the Jury merely to ascertain by whom the woman had met her death, and that the provocation the prisoner had received was for the courts to determine.

The following was then agreed to by the jury:

We find that the said woman came to her death by internal hemorrhage, the result of a gun-shot wound of the heart and lungs, at the hands of her husband, Thomas Sheridan, on Feb. 16, 1870, at No. 317 West Forty-first-st.

On this verdict the Coroner committed Sheridan to the Tombs, to await the action of the Grand Jury, and sent the first three witnesses to the House of Detention.

THE SHOPLIFTERS—ADDITIONAL COMPLAINTS.

Two more complaints were taken, yesterday, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, before Justice Cox, against Edward Hale, who was arrested a few days ago for robbing the store No. 35 Mercer-st. It may be remembered that Hale and his accomplice, "Charles Wilson," "worked" with a large valise, ingeniously constructed so as to conceal effectively a large amount of plunder. Louis Squadrelle of No. 63 Nassau-st. deposed that on the 14th inst., Hale and another person whom he did not recognize in Wilson, entered his jewelry store and priced some goods. Hale, who is a tall, fine-looking young man, very prepossessing manner, represented himself as Mr. Dubine of the firm of Dubine & Co., Cincinnati, with whom Mr. Squadrelle has had business relations. He was politely received and shown through the establishment. Meanwhile his companion busied himself in pocketing various articles of valuable jewelry, and at the termination of their visit, which only lasted a few minutes, the jeweler found that 14 sets of jewelry, valued at $465 50, had disappeared. When he visited Wilson the latter screwed his features up so that Squadrelle was unable to positively identify him, but there is strong reason to think that Wilson was Hale's companion at this time.

William Braunenlich, with the firm of Ruhle & Steinheimer of No. 2 Maidenlane, made affidavit that Hale and a companion entered that jewelry establishment on the 10th of January; that Hale introduced himself as Mr. Van Cott of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with whom Ruhle & Steinheimer have had business correspondence. The thieves operated as they did at Squadrelle's place, and secured lockets, earrings, &c., to the value of $135. A bold attempt was made yesterday morning to obtain the release of Hale and Wilson upon straw bail. A man presented himself and asked what was the amount of surety necessary. The Justice told him $2,000 for each of the accused, on each charge. The stranger said that he was the owner of $50,000 worth of real estate at No. 1,491 Broadway. Something in the man's appearance led Justice Cox to suspect an imposition, and upon inquiry it was found that the gentleman was not competent to become bondsman. The prisoners' counsel, Messrs. Howe and Hummel, apparently aware that others, who may have been victimized by their clients, will seek to obtain a look at the operators, and perhaps identify them, have shown much anxiety to have Hale and Wilson sent to the City Prison, where access to them will be more difficult. Justice Cox intends to give business men, who may have been swindled of late, further opportunity to look at the sharpers.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

The U. S. steamer Seminole (third rate), carrying seven guns, which arrived a few days since, is to be put out of commission at once, at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard. She will be hauled alongside the Roanoake to-day, and commence delivering her stores.

The Yantic is nearly ready for sea. She has several thousand fathoms of deep-sea sounding lines on board, and a score or more of sounding leads. One of Andrews's steam engines is being placed upon the port side of the spar deck, to drive a reel by which the sounding line will be hauled in. By this means the labor and time saved will be very great, and far better results will be obtained. The Yantic, it will be remembered, goes out to run a line of deep-sea soundings from the West India Islands to the main land. It is uncertain how long she will be absent.

The Saratoga, sailing sloop, has been hauled into the berth lately occupied by the Yantic, and will soon be completed for sea. Her destination is not positively known. Some aver that it is Samana Bay, and others the East Indies.

The Cahaudaigua is in the Dry Dock being rebuilt from the copper up. The award for the refitting of her machinery has been given to the Cotwell Iron Works of this city, as has also that of the Hartford.

Gen. George B. McClellan and Mr. Isaac Newton, the engineers of the Stevens bomb-proof battery, now building at Hoboken, visited the Navy-Yard yesterday and viewed F. E. Stekler's new and improved method of steering by steam. A working model of the machinery was in operation, as well as two models of vessels with the machinery applied to the screw and rudder.

It is said that several of the vessels of the United States Navy are to be fitted with Wiers's Atmospheric Telegraph, which bagged the approval of the British and French Admiralty, and is now on board the Bellerophon of the Royal Navy and the Joan de Arc of the Imperial Navy. One was put on board the United States steamship Ticonderoga while she was attached to the European fleet, and Admiral Farragut and Capt. Wyman indorsed it in the highest terms.

A BROOKLYN DEN OF THIEVES DISCOVERED.

On Thursday evening, Sergeant Ferry of the Forty-third Sub-Precinct made a move upon a nice little haunt of thieves in South Brooklyn, which had evidently been used as a depot for the receipt of valuable stolen goods. The move originated in the incautious actions of the parties in their greed for gain. An expressman named James Dougherty had received a quantity of dry-goods, valued at $200, from Messrs. Rouse & Co. of Columbia-st. for shipment, and had temporarily left them locked in his stable at 200 Columbia-st., but the goods were removed by unauthorized parties. He lodged information at the Forty-third Sub-Precinct Station-House, and Sergeant Ferry, with Roundsman Kenney and Officer Roche traced the matter, and arrested Philip Shannon, a plumber, age 21, Henry Curtis, a Canadian and a longshoreman, and Henry Anderson, a Swedish peddler, age 31, on suspicion of the theft. The goods were found in an old stable at the Delaplaine House on Yellow Hook point. Beside there were found three bags of coffee (250 lbs.) marked Y. P. & Co., No.