New-York Tribune.

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FOREIGN NEWS.

THE ASSAULT ON QUEEN VICTORIA.

ARRAIGNMENT OF O'CONNOR—HIS ANTECEDENTS—A CRAZY SCHEME FOR PARDONING FENIANS—ENTHUSIASTIC POPULAR RECEPTION OF THE QUEEN.

LONDON, Friday, March 1, 1872.

The assault upon Queen Victoria, yesterday, by O'Connor is the theme of universal comment and condemnation in the morning journals. They draw a comparison between the act of this one individual and the immense demonstration of loyalty made by the entire populace of London, as well as other demonstrations throughout the United Kingdom, on Tuesday last.

Previous to his attack upon Her Majesty, O'Connor scaled the iron railing, ten feet in height, which surrounds the court-yard of Buckingham Palace. When he approached the carriage of the Queen, he first saw Lady Churchill, lady-in-waiting, who was riding with Her Majesty, and was about to assault her, but he soon discovered his mistake, and turned upon the Queen.

Her Majesty's groom, John Brown, who was riding behind her carriage, upon witnessing the action of O'Connor, leaped from his horse, and arrested and disarmed the assailant. O'Connor's house has been thoroughly searched by detectives, but nothing whatever was found to criminate any one with him.

EVENING.—The assailant of the Queen was brought before the Police Magistrates at Bow-st., at noon, to-day, for examination. The court-room and all its approaches were densely crowded. The prisoner presented a very boyish and not unpleasing appearance, and, to-day, was quiet and unassuming in manner. He made no attempt at bravado, and listened quietly to the testimony, without seeking to interrupt or contradict the witnesses. On being interrogated by the magistrate, he stated that his name was Arthur O'Connor, that he was born in England, but that his father was a native of Ireland. It was subsequently elicited that his grandfather was the well-known Feargus O'Connor, one of the leaders of the Chartist movement.

John Brown, Her Majesty's groom, Col. Hardinge, Equerry to the Queen, and Prince Leopold, testified to the circumstances of the assault, of which they were eye-witnesses. Their statements do not differ materially from the accounts already telegraphed.

One of the policemen into whose custody O'Connor was delivered, swore that the prisoner said the reason he had not loaded the pistol was because it was broken; that he repeatedly exclaimed, "I wish to God I had succeeded!" that he avowed he had intended to present the petition for a Fenian amnesty to the Queen in St. Paul's Cathedral, on Tuesday, when she was surrounded by her Ministers; that he then had pen and ink ready for her to sign the document; that he would have made the attempt, but the crowd was so great that he could not get near Her Majesty.

Two papers, found on the prisoner when he was seized, were produced in Court and read. One, pardoning all the Fenian convicts, is in substance as follows:

I, Victoria, Queen, by grace of God make the following declaration:

Whereas, There are now confined in various prisons throughout the Kingdom a number of Irishmen known as celebrated Fenians;

Whereas, They were imprisoned with my sanction, having rebelled and conspired against the Crown and to weaken and destroy my power;

Whereas, Sympathizers with these men have petitioned for their pardon, and, notwithstanding, they are still unliberated; now I, Victoria, Queen, &c., do grant full pardon to each and every Fenian prisoner unconditionally; and, notwithstanding this my agreement is made under fear of my life, I will not depart therefrom.

This is dated Feb. 22, 1872. The other document is a commutation in advance of the punishment of the prisoner for his present act from hanging to shooting, and is dated Feb. 27.

At the conclusion of the examination the prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes, and taken back to jail under a strong escort.

It is evident that the papers found on the prisoner are his own work, and the impression of all who heard them read is that they are the product of a deranged mind.

The Queen left Buckingham Palace, to-day, for Windsor Castle. On her arrival at Windsor she was met by almost the entire population of the place, with the warmest demonstrations of loyalty and affection.

MISCELLANEOUS ENGLISH NEWS.

OVER TWO HUNDRED PERSONS INJURED DURING THE THANKSGIVING PROCESSION—MOVEMENTS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

LONDON, Friday, March 1, 1872.

The Lancet gives the number of casualties in this city on Tuesday last, during the Thanksgiving demonstration, at 229, only two of which, it says, resulted fatally. The most of the injuries consisted of broken legs and ribs, dislocations of other limbs, and cuts.

Her Majesty's proposed visit to Germany will be of two weeks duration. It is now stated that the Prince of Wales will go to the South of France, instead of to the Italian Lakes. A special dispatch from Paris says he is expected to arrive in that city on Sunday next, en route to Nice.

The Queen has written a letter to Prime Minister Gladstone, saying she is anxious to express publicly her own personal very deep sense of the reception that she and her dear children met on Tuesday from millions of her subjects; words are too weak to convey how deeply she was touched and gratified by the immense enthusiasm and affection of all, from highest to lowest; she returns her heartfelt thanks to the whole nation, and declares that she herself and all the members of her family will ever affectionately remember the Day of Thanksgiving.

A public meeting is to be held in Hyde Park on Sunday, to protest against the Parks Regulation bill.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

FOURTEEN PERSONS KILLED BY THE FALL OF A DWELLING-HOUSE.

FRANKFORT, Friday, March 1, 1872.

A shocking accident occurred in this city this morning. A building, in which a number of persons resided, fell, burying the inmates in the ruins. Fourteen dead bodies have thus far been taken from the ruins, and a large force of men are yet engaged in searching for the bodies of other victims.

FRANCE.

PARIS, Friday, March 1, 1872.

THE ORLEANS PRINCES RESTORED TO THEIR FORMER POSITIONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The Prince de Joinville has been reinstated in his rank as Admiral in the navy, and the Duke d'Aumale in his military rank as General. The Committee of the Assembly has reported in favor of the restoration of their property to the Orleans princes

Gen. Ladmirault threatens to resign his office as Governor of Paris because the *Rappel* newspaper has been permitted to reappear.

SPAIN.

INCREASING THE ARMY.

MADRID, Friday, March 1, 1872.

A decree has been issued for the formation of 80 provincial battalions of infantry.

CUBA.

MOVEMENTS OF GRAND DUKE ALEXIS—REWARDS OFFERED FOR FUGITIVE SLAVES.

HAVANA, March 1.—The Grand Duke Alexis visited the unfinished Vento water-works to-day. He will go on board the fleet to-morrow to celebrate the anniversary of his father's accession to the throne of Russia, when religious services will be held on board the flagship, at which a solemn *Te Deum* will be sung. In the evening a dinner will be given to Captain-General Valmaseda and about 40 others.

The journals publish the following decree, issued by Captain-General Valmaseda, and dated at Santiago de Cuba, Feb. 1:

"A white male or female, or a free colored male or female, who will bring in 25 free or slave negroes now roaming in the mountains, to headquarters, will receive a full pardon and $600 reward. A male or female negro slave who will bring in 25 negroes from the insurrectionary districts will receive his freedom; if bringing in a number with arms, $17 will be paid for each negro so brought. Parties unable to bring in the required number, but who bring in some, will receive a pardon, and the value of their services will be taken into consideration in the matter of recompense."

The Spanish troops captured and executed near Canto del Embarcadero, the Cuban Col. Calixto Piedra and Capt. Landelino Perez.

A heavy engagement is reported to have taken place in the Torre Mountains, in which the Spaniards were victorious.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Mazzini having challenged Garibaldi to give his adhesion to a Republic in Italy, the latter has replied by the following note: "Caprera, Jan. 28.—To my friends and brothers in arms of the Romagna: The question between Mazzini and myself belongs to history. On the day when that camel—which is called the people—shall be weary of its burden and cudgelings, he, I, and our friends will be all at our posts. GARIBALDI."

Among the distinguished men who were present at the funeral rites of M. Conti were M. Rouher, the Duke de Grammont, M. Magne, M. Valette, M. Forcade, Gen. Fleury, M. la Guerronniere, M. Clement Duvernois, M. Nelaton, M. Sartiges, M. Pinard, Count Benedetti, M. Alhouet, and M. Cambaceres.

Some of the richest copper and silver mines in Chile, the property of the late Mr. Sampson Waters, have lately changed hands, through the agency of a London firm. They were the whole of the San Pedro and parts of the Descubridora copper mines, and shares of the Juana and Colorado silver mines, with valuable plant, and realized upward of $530,000.

The Frankfort correspondent of *The London Standard*, writing on the 12th ult., says that the "Alabama difficulty has caused a good deal of excitement at Vienna, which is easily understood, as it would be impossible to convince an Austrian that Russia would not take advantage of England having her hands engaged, to press her claims on the Danube, if not to force a direct quarrel on Austria. At a recent *soiree* at the Italian Embassy, Mr. Jay, the American Minister, is reported to have said that the Alabama question was not merely a matter of money—that it was a matter of a very large amount of money; Jonathan, as well as John Bull, being a very shrewd hand at running up an account."

In the vote in the House of Lords on Earl Stanhope's resolution censuring the Gladstone Ministry for its conduct on the Collier affair, six bishops supported the government, viz.: Chester, Chichester, Durham, London, Ripon, and Winchester. Two prelates voted with the Opposition—the Bishops of Lichfield and Rochester. Of the law lords, the Lord Chancellor and Lords O'Hagan and Romilly were in the majority; Lords Cairns and Westbury were in the minority; while Lords Chelmsford, Penzance, and St. Leonards took no part in the division. The Duke of Somerset, Viscount Ossington (the late Speaker of the House of Commons), and Lord Blachford (better known as Sir F. Rogers), voted with the Government; while Lord Sandhurst paired in its favor. Earl Grey supported the vote of censure, but the only other Liberal peer in the same lobby, beside Lord Westbury, was Lord Vivian. Earl De La Warr, the mover of the Address to the Crown on the 6th ult., and his brother, Lord Buckhurst, were in opposite lobbies. So also were the Earl of Wilton and his brother, Lord Ebury. The Marquis of Westminster paired for the Government. The Archbishop of York did not vote, while the Archbishop of Canterbury paired against Earl Stanhope's resolution. The numbers, as corrected, show that 88 peers voted with the Ministry and 87 against them.

After being detained in prison nearly a year, and undergoing a tedious trial, Blanqui has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in a fortress by a Paris court-martial for complicity in the revolt of Oct. 31, 1870. This veteran conspirator was born at the foot of the Alps, and was a mountaineer in his youth. At an early age he went to Paris and distinguished himself in Latin, history, and geography at the College of Charlemagne. After remaining as a tutor for a couple of years near Toulouse, Blanqui went to Paris in the year 1826, where his troubles soon commenced. One of the most remarkable conspiracies in which he was implicated was that of the "seasons," in 1839. Each group of conspirators was subdivided into years, months, and weeks, and the men were days. The police were quite outwitted, and Blanqui and his friends, taking advantage of a ministerial crisis, burst suddenly on Paris and seized on the Hotel de Ville and other public buildings. But for the energy of a Lieut. Tisserand and some old soldiers, there is no knowing where the émute would have stopped. While in Paris Blanqui married a woman to whom he was devotedly attached, in fact the attachment was mutual; but Mme. Blanqui soon died of a broken heart on hearing that her husband had been condemned to perpetual imprisonment. Writing a few years ago about the death of that excellent woman, Blanqui said: "Compared to that crushing misfortune 28 years of captivity sit as lightly on me as a feather. And to think that I am sometimes treated like a wild beast who has tumbled into a pit! But through all vicissitudes I have remained face to face night and day with the shadow of her who is no more."

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH CUBA.

From The Evening Post, March 1.

The following extract of a letter from Mr. Bryant, dated Havana, Feb. 22, will be read with deep interest:

"About to set sail for Vera Cruz, on the Mexican coast, I sit down to write what may interest your readers as news of no little importance. I dined yesterday in company with several gentlemen who hold important posts in the Government of the island, and among them was the Intendente of the Hacienda, an office which, in the administration of public affairs here, is nearly equivalent to that of Secretary of the Treasury. After we had withdrawn from the table—for the Spaniards do not sit sipping at their wine—he came to me and said, as near as I can recollect his words: 'Why do you Americans of the North seek to make us your enemies? Why do you, with your vast possessions, envy us the island of Cuba? It is rich and fertile, but it is ours, and a great nation like yours should be magnanimous; a free and prosperous nation should be jealous of its reputation for justice. Spain is anxious to cultivate friendly relations with the United States, and at this moment our Minister Roberts is at Washington armed with full powers to conclude a treaty of commerce on the most liberal and satisfactory terms.' I interrupted the Intendente by asking: "'With reference to the island of Cuba?' 'Certainly,' was his answer, 'with reference to the island of Cuba, we require the products of your fields and workshops, you want what we can send abroad in abundance, the growths of our tropical climate. A free commerce in these would be for the advantage of both you and us; it would encourage and reward our agriculture and would give you all of Cuba that you desire and substantially all that you could have if you annexed her to your possessions. Señor Roberts is fully empowered to arrange a treaty on that basis.' 'May I state that fact in my journal?' 'You may, and you may state also, that you had it from the Intendente de la Hacienda, at Havana. Such a treaty would give rise to an active and profitable commerce between the two countries. It would remove restrictions of which the people here complain as a grievance, and give them a surer market and more certain returns. We shall get rid of slavery, and I am a believer in free labor. With a better market for our products, the population of our island will increase. For more than half of its fertile lands are lying waste and uncultivated; they have never felt the plow. With such a treaty to stimulate our agriculture, these would be gradually brought under cultivation and covered with crops of sugar-cane, tobacco and pine-apple.' Such was, in substance, the conversation I had with the Intendente, in the course of which he grew eloquent, expatiating on the advantages of such a treaty to both countries, and repeating several times with emphasis that the Spanish Minister at Washington has full authority to conclude it."

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 1, 1872.

Mr. Bryant's assertion in *The Evening Post* of this afternoon that the Intendente de la Hacienda at Havana tells him that Minister Roberts is armed with full powers to conclude a treaty of commerce on the most liberal and satisfactory terms, for free interchange of commodities between Cuba and the United States, is looked upon here as one of the canards, so many of which have their origin in Havana. Señor Roberts has never intimated to Mr. Fish that he has been intrusted with any such powers, and has never made any propositions to the State Department that would indicate that he had received instructions of that nature. The Administration repudiates any intention of making a Reciprocity Treaty with any nation, and particularly with Spain, for several reasons. Among them are these: We cannot afford to lose the revenue now derived from importations from Cuba. If we were to make such a treaty, it would be with some nation with which our relations are more cordial than they are with Spain, because the "most favored nation" clause, put into all of our commercial treaties, would oblige us to extend the same privileges to all—that is, establish free trade, because it is not believed that the Senate would ratify or the House pass the necessary legislation to carry such treaty into effect. The Spanish Government is far more secret in its diplomatic transactions than the United States, and it is not therefore to be supposed that the Intendente at Havana, who is only a Sub-Treasurer, would know what instructions the Madrid Cabinet have given to Mr. Roberts. The whole story is probably a Spanish lie, told to tickle Mr. Bryant's fancy for free trade.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF MIGRATION.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 1.—The meeting of the National Bureau of Migration was held to-night, W. F. Parker presiding. Horace Greeley, the first President of the Bureau, gave a consise account of the formation and experience of the Union Colony in Colorado; and also of the advantage of associated capital and labor accruing to the working classes of the large cities who have formed colonies in new States and Territories. Mr. Greeley's address was eminently practical, and gave evidence of familiarity with the subject, suggesting favorable locations in New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the West. Mr. J. T. Goodenough of Kansas gave the details of agriculture, prices of land and live-stock and fruit culture. S. R. Wells followed in illustration of the advantages of the colony association. The next meeting will be held at Boston, to promote colonization along the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Another will be held at Charleston to colonize the Southern States.

NEW-JERSEY METHODIST CONFERENCE.

TRENTON, March 1.—The Methodist Conference met at 9 o'clock this morning. The Rev. Dr. Harris of New-York presented the statement of the Missionary Society for the year. He urged prompt payment of collections, and continued liberality toward the objects of the Society. The claims of "worn-out preachers" on the Conference funds was reported at $6,229, and the amount received thereon only $5,890 94, leaving a deficit of $338 06. An amendment to the Marriage law was urged, requiring persons to produce a certificate or license from some civil magistrate that they have duly complied with the law, and are of full age. A long debate took place in regard to Vineland Seminary, which finally resulted in the adoption of a resolution to raise $20,000. A committee was appointed to confer with the Lay Conference, and solicit their cooperation. Those who were on trial last year were continued; those who had continued for four years were elected Elders, and those who had passed a satisfactory examination for two years were appointed Deacons.

HARBOR PIRATES

THE HARBOR-MASTERS' RING—HOW MERCHANTS ARE PLUNDERED—SYSTEMATIC BLACKMAIL.

The labors of THE TRIBUNE against the evils that have sapped the foundations of the commerce of New-York, and driven so much of her trade to Baltimore and Boston, will not cease with the removal of the nefarious Quarantine Ring. Other grave abuses still exist and flourish, despite the exertions of the merchants, and the appeals which THE TRIBUNE has repeatedly addressed to the Governor and the Legislature. Such outrages and exactions as are daily inflicted on the great shipping interests of New-York by the Harbor-Masters' Ring cannot escape the attention of THE TRIBUNE, and the extortionate officials need not hope for silence on its part. Based upon the statements set forth in former articles on the subject, the Legislature has ordered an investigation of the abuses of the Harbor-Masters, and the Committee will shortly convene in this city.

Invested with legal authority which gives them supremacy over the commerce of New-York, the Harbor-Masters have it in their power to enforce the collection of extortionate fees to an extent unequaled perhaps by any other set of public officials. They have never lost sight of the clause in the law which makes them the absolute judges as to whether a vessel is loading or unloading, or whether a berth is occupied or vacant; and it is frequently discovered by the unfortunate ship-captain whose vessel is moored in a slip, that his berth has been declared "empty" and sold to some one else. It is not seldom that the loading or unloading of vessels is stopped before completed, and the ship ordered to seek another pier at which to discharge.

The regular fees of the Harbor-Masters, established by statute, give to each an average income of $5,000 per year. The text of the law is:

Banks Statutes, Vol. II, 423, Sec. 4.—"The Harbor-Masters shall have power to demand and receive from the commanders, owners, or consignees, or either of them, on all ships or vessels * * * which shall enter the said port of New-York and load or unload, or make fast to any wharf thereof, one and one-half of one per cent per ton, to be computed from the tonnage expressed in the register or enrollments of such ships and vessels respectively, *and no more*; and also on all other foreign ships or vessels which shall arrive at and enter the said port, * * double the amount of fees above specified."

This very respectable income, arising out of the reasonable charges laid down by law, the Harbor-Masters more than quadruple by shameless fees levied for imaginary services. They make a practice of taxing every one with whom they have any dealings, and although selected from the ranks of oystermen and ship-carpenters, are as anxious regarding the "letter of the law" as the Lord Chancellor of England. So carefully do they interpret the statute that the owners of the wharves and piers, although paying from $1,500 to $7,000 per annum to the Dock Commissioners, are prevented by them, often for days at a time, from having their docks full; and thus lose fees to which they are justly entitled.

Still dissatisfied with the direct taxation of vessels when they reached the docks, the Harbor-Masters entered into a compact with several tow-boat companies for the better systematizing of their extortions and to screen their exactions from public knowledge. The boat firms in question are C. P. Raymond, No. 261 South-st.; William Marshall, No. 69 South-st.; Parker & Gibbs, No. 52 South-st.; Chamberlain & Hewlett, Nos. 83 and 106 South-st., and Jacob Henyon, No. 79 West-st. As explained to a TRIBUNE reporter by one of "the ring," the game consisted in charging exorbitant rates for the towing, and after paying 10 per cent to a middleman appointed to receive the money, turning over the remaining surplus above their regular charges to this person for the Harbor-Masters' benefit. For this extortion and enrichment of the officials these firms were to receive the exclusive right to tow vessels to the docks of New-York. The compact was duly entered into, and the Harbor-Masters pledged themselves to uphold this direct outrage upon New-York ship owners. To explain more fully: If a vessel is moved from Martin's stores to Pier No. 5, E. R., the tow boat agents send to the owners a bill of from $25 to $50—varying according to the urgency with which the ship-owners desire to have their vessels berthed. The legitimate fees do not exceed $10. The tug-boat captains pay to the Harbor-Masters' agent the whole sum received, minus the $10, and this, minus the 10 per cent which the middle-man retains, is paid again by him to the Harbor-Master in person. The bills thus presented do not bear on their faces any evidence of collusion between the Harbor-Masters and the tow-boat men; yet the proof can be readily elicited. The past season has abounded in cases of extortion, and bills have been rendered for amounts varying from $50 to $120, for services worth from $10 to $20. This extortion, be it remembered, is carried on in the face of a statute dated April 27, 1865, which declares, in its eighth section, that "no Harbor-Master shall take or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or fees in addition to those prescribed by law." This clause is a dead letter, and at this moment scarcely a vessel arrives at or departs from her berth on the East River without a bribe to the Harbor-Master of the district.

The effects of the evils from which the merchants and ship-owners seek relief are to be seen in the empty docks, the decaying piers, the wretched streets near the North and East Rivers, and in the gradual yet sure decline of the shipping interests of the port. Men naturally object to investing their capital in a business which is to be subjected either through misgovernment or unwise statutes, to the extortions of unnumbered Tammany vultures.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY TRUNK MYSTERY.

The Coroner's inquest in the case of Anna Royce, the victim of the recent Wurtsboro, Sullivan County, "trunk mystery," shows that she was taken to New-York by Dr. Geo. F. Perry, in December last, for Charles Harden, "to get rid of her shame," Harden giving him $100. Perry took her to a "Lying-in-Hospital and Infant's Home," at Lexington-ave and Fifty-first-st., where he left her. Feb. 11 he received a note from a Dr. Beckwith, stating that Miss Royce was dead, having died in puerperal convulsions. Harden went to New-York on the 14th, and to the hospital, and on inquiring about Miss Royce, was told that she died in natural child-birth, and had left a full-grown, living child. Harden had her remains brought home.

ANOTHER APACHE MASSACRE.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—A dispatch from Wyckenburg, Arizona, says the Apaches attacked two trains between that place and Phœnix, and murdered Samuel Culhember and Thos. Harris. At Martinez Ranche they ran off the stock and plundered the station of all movables. Culhember and Harris were employés of the Stage Company. The station is but four miles south of Camp Date Creek, where are posted three companies of regular troops—two companies of infantry and one of cavalry. The ranche is distant about 25 miles from the scene of the Wyckenburg stage massacre were Loring was killed.

THE MURDER OF DANIEL KRAMER.

PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—Isaac Hummell, Emmanuel Achenbach, and Wm. Kramer, arrested at Pottsville, Penn., on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Daniel Kramer, and the probably fatal wounding of his wife, were released to-day. Joseph Brown, the alleged murderer, was committed to answer the charge at the April term of the Criminal Court. Mrs. Kramer returned to consciousnes and is still living, although in a precarious condition.

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY IN INDIANA.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 1.—A farmer named Willis Williamson, living near Muncie, Indiana, followed his daughter to Dalesville, where she had gone to marry one Landry. He found the young woman at the house of a relative, and cut her throat, killing her instantly. He then shot himself twice in the mouth with a revolver. His wounds are supposed to be mortal. He has a large family.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

....Dr. John C. Everson was thrown from a vehicle in Philadelphia on Thursday, and instantly killed.

....The dwelling and outbuildings of Nelson Tompkins, at Poughkeepsie, were burned yesterday. Loss, $3,000.

....Mrs. Hayes, wife of E. T. Hayes of the firm of Hayes & Ryder, Norwich, N. Y., was fatally burned yesterday, her clothing having caught fire from a stove.

....James Falkner of Delaware Village, Ohio, jumped from a Central Railroad train while it was in motion, some eight miles from Albany, on Thursday, and was so badly injured that it is thought he will die.

....A fire, originating in the basement of No. 295 Mainst., Buffalo, occupied by T. J. Beller as an auction room, destroyed $20,000 worth of furniture and dry goods. The building was badly damaged. Beller is insured for $4,000.

....Henry A. Joy, who had both shoulder-blades and collar-bone broken, skull fractured, and back and hip badly crushed in the railroad accident at Wellsville, Mo., on the North Missouri Railroad, last November, has brought suit against that Company for $15,000.

WASHINGTON.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

AMERICAN REPLY TO THE GRANVILLE NOTE—THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FRIENDLY AND FIRM—HOPEFUL VIEW OF THE CASE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The form of the reply to Earl Granville's note was determined in the Cabinet meeting to-day, and the document, which covers about five pages of official paper, was sent off this evening. The members of the Cabinet are unwilling to make public the contents of the reply, but say that it is entirely friendly in form and spirit, as much so as Granville's, and that it will leave with England the entire responsibility of breaking up the Treaty, if it fails at all. It is understood that Mr. Fish's letter takes the ground that we cannot withdraw any part of our case, as presented; that we still hold that the text of the Treaty, and the general understanding on the part of the American Commissioners (at least, the Senate and American statesmen generally), give us the right to present claims for consequential damages; that we would have no right, indeed, to have withheld them, since we should thus have failed to allow the Treaty to settle all the causes of difference between the two nations. At the same time, there is understood to be a broad hint in the note that the United States will not be very much surprised or disappointed if the Geneva Conference decides that we have no just claim on England for indirect damages, which, after all, cannot be estimated in cash. Besides, it is held that the Geneva Conference is the only tribunal that can decide over what matters its jurisdiction extends, and that we are willing to stand by the award of that tribunal, and shall expect England to do the same. The President and Cabinet are understood to feel hopeful that, unless some new political excitement arises in England between now and the meeting of the Geneva Conference, the questions in dispute will be allowed to go there, and that the Treaty will be sustained. The fact that no protest against our Case was made for so many weeks after it was in the hands of the British Cabinet, and that the excitement arose just as Parliament was meeting, and subsided when the vote testing the strength of parties had been taken, convinces our Government that the whole proceeding was a political necessity on the part of the Gladstone Ministry, and that it will be so anxious to find its way out of the trouble that it will be successful.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The result of an inquiry is that there are no such serious complications with European Powers as some of the newspapers and members of Congress imagine or assert, upon what appears to them substantial grounds. The most important of the pending questions is that between England and the United States with regard to the interpretation of the Treaty of Washington. The note of Earl Granville has been answered in terms equally amicable, so as to leave no doubt in the English mind of the friendly feelings of our Government, and of its desire to have a full, perfect and final settlement of all claims, through the means specified in their Treaty, namely: Either by arbitrators who may award a sum in gross, or by assessors, who are required to subscribe to a solemn declaration that they will impartially and carefully examine and decide to the best of their judgment, and according to justice and equity all matters submitted to them. Of course, should the arbitrators end the question by awarding a sum in gross, there will be no occasion to resort to the alternative of assessors. Thus the United States Government adheres to its position as heretofore indicated, and sees no occasion to modify its statement of the case. Having in good faith submitted the questions involved to the arbitrators or assessors, it will, as required by the Treaty, abide the result. The reply of the Secretary of State was sent to New-York by this evening's mail, and will be dispatched thence by to-morrow's steamer. The Cabinet agreed to all the points presented, and were in session several hours on the subject.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND ITALY.

OBJECTION TO MINISTER SICKLES BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT—HIS REMOVAL PROBABLE—A COMPLAINT AGAINST MINISTER MARSH FROM THE ITALIANS.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—It is authoritatively stated that the Spanish Government has verbally, through its Minister near this Government, complained of Gen. Sickles's interference in Spanish politics, thus making himself objectionable as a Minister. The complaint was made in a friendly way, but showed that his continued presence would not be agreeable at Madrid. Our Government has no disposition whatever to impose a minister upon any other Government against its wishes, and will, it is intimated, act in this matter as it acted in the case of Mr. Buchingame, who was appointed Minister to Austria, but that Government having expressed an indisposition to receive him in that capacity owing to his havings, in 1860, while a member of the House of Representatives, offered a resolution showing his deep sympathy for Sardinia, he was transferred to the Chinese mission. The friendly intimations by Spain to our Government are not, however, of recent occurrence. They were made about three months ago.

Another diplomatic trouble, between the United States and Italy, is an objectionable dispatch of Minister Marsh to the State Department, reflecting upon that Government. There is no doubt that it has only recently been discovered, though written in September, 1870, and unintentionally published in the diplomatic correspondence of that year. There may have been comment upon it in diplomatic circles here, but it has not been brought to the attention of the State Department.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

THE FRENCH ARMS DEBATE RENEWED ON THE COMMITTEE QUESTION—THE LAND GRANT BILL STILL UNDECIDED IN THE HOUSE—KU-KLUX CONVICTED IN ALABAMA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 1, 1872.

Mr. Sumner's friends were deeply pained, this morning, to hear his announcement that some of the distressing symptoms of the disease which, a year ago, prostrated him, had returned within the past two days, and that he would, therefore, be unable to serve on the Committee to investigate the sale of arms to France. During Wednesday night, Mr. Sumner suffered several hours from an attack, which, though not very severe, was of a somewhat serious nature. Last night the attack was repeated, and this morning his physician placed him under medical treatment, and told him that it would be absolutely necessary for him to refrain from labor. He did not remain long, to-day, in his seat in the Senate, but is no worse, to-night. His friends are urging him to visit the West Indies.

It is not certain that Mr. Cameron consulted with the leaders of the Administration "Cabal" before presenting a list of names to constitute the French Arms Investigating Committee, for they did not spring to its support, but seemed rather anxious to let the matter lie over until to-morrow. No member of the Committee, as nominated by Mr. Cameron, had taken any part in the debate favorable to the objects of the resolution, while Mr. Hamlin, the Chairman, Carpenter and Harlan, had been very active in opposition, and Mr. Trumbull's motion to substitute the name of Schurz for that of Sherman, who asked to be excused, was well received. No caucus of the Republican members has been called to arrange this Committee. A most painful exhibition of party whip-cracking occurred in the Senate just before the Executive Session this afternoon. Everybody knows that it would not hurt the Senators if they did a little more work, but a majority, including the Democrats, were in favor of adjourning until Monday, and, for this purpose, voted to-day the Appropriation bill, upon which it had been at work, on the table. Then Edmunds brought out the whip, and, in some very offensive remarks, accused Trumbull of leading the opponents of the Republican party in an attempt to impede the public business. Of course, Trumbull could not sit still under this, and retorted that some men could not act even on a motion to adjourn without seeing a party movement in it. And Edmunds replied by saying that Trumbull had not injured the Republican party lately by acting either in it or for it. A debate as long as that on the sale of arms might have sprung up but for a motion to go into Executive session, which, under Edmunds's vigorous party cracks, was carried by one majority.

The haste with which the House rushed through the bill repealing the duty on tea and coffee has caused great alarm among merchants throughout the country, who have large stocks of these commodities now on hand or soon to arrive, and Senators have been almost overwhelmed with petitions and remonstrances from persons interested. Very many of these persons declare their desire to see these duties repealed, but ask that some time, several months after the passage of the bill by the Senate, be fixed for the law to go into operation. A sudden abolition of the tariff would ruin many dealers who have large stocks on hand. Mr. Sherman, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, to dispel this alarm, promised that, so far as that Committee can control the matter, no change in the rates of tariff on those articles will take effect before the 1st of July.

Senator Bayard's resolution, calling for an official copy of the President's instructions to District-Attorney Davis, directing him to prosecute all of those who, from the testimony taken before the Investigating Committee in New-York, appear to have broken the law against bribery, though it did not pass to-day, brought out several important admissions by Senator Buckingham, the Chairman of the Committee. He admitted, first, that there have been abuses in the New-York Custom-house, in which office-holders as well as merchants have been implicated. This is more than any Administration Senator has publicly admitted before, and is a conclusive answer to Mr. Harlan's extraordinary speech of Wednesday, defending the management of the New-York Custom-house in general, and the General Order business in particular. The second interesting fact brought out is that the Committee will not report for several weeks at least, and, from Mr. Buckingham's manner, the impression was obtained that it would be a good many weeks, perhaps not until after the Philadelphia Convention, before they will lay the result of their labors before the Senate. This idea is sustained by the anxiety of the Administration Senators to get all the business done as soon as possible, and adjourn before the 1st of June. Some uncharitable people have said to-day, that this is probably "the New Departure" of the Administration, to order investigations, but have no reports from them in time to debate them this session.

The friends of the St. Croix Land Grant bill distrusted their strength to-day, and did not make an attempt to get a reconsideration, but, with surprising submissiveness, permitted Mr. Holman to add further instructions to the Public Lands Committee, in addition to those ordered yesterday, limiting the grant so as to deprive it of the greater part, if not of all its value. Perfect good feeling prevailed between members who yesterday brandished their oratorical tomahawks over each other's heads in the most savage manner, and although a half hour was consumed in making the House understand and assent to an arrangement agreed to by the opposing leaders, by which the Committee were to have leave to report back the bill, amended according to instructions, on any day next week after Monday, there was no renewal of yesterday's acerbity of temper. Some amusement was occasioned by a difference between two Pennsylvania members. The delegation from that State usually stand together like brothers, but to-day, when Mr. Killinger wanted to instruct the Committee to provide that the railroad should use only American iron, Mr. Scofield deprecated with considerable sharpness such a "peddling out of petty privileges," as he styled it, which he said was calculated to bring the tariff into ridicule. Mr. Stevenson vehemently protested against putting a ribbon of honor around the neck of pig iron. Mr. Killinger finally withdrew his demand, and two or three obstinate objectors to the proposed compromise, having been in turn coaxed and placated by groups of earnest and gesticulating members who surrounded them, the arrangement was at last declared agreed to. The friends of the bill hope to gain strength enough, before it comes back to the House next week, to vote off the objectionable amendments, and pass it in its original form as it came from the Senate. After the passage of several private bills, Mr. Garfield got the House into Committee on the Deficiency Appropriation bill. The most interesting feature of the debate was the testimony given by several members to the value of the weather prognostics made by the Signal Corps. The bill was not completed when the House adjourned.

Gen. Wetzel, engineer of the Louisville and Portland Canal, has arrived here to urge the appropriation of $400,000 to complete that national work. The bill for the appropriation has not yet been considered by either House. Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by members of the Committees which will have charge of the matter at the manner in which this work has been prosecuted. They state that for the last two or three sessions sums of money have been appropriated which, it was understood, would complete the work, and the Committees will be slow to make further appropriations until they are satisfied of the total amount which will be required to fully complete the work.

A telegram was received by the Attorney-General, today, from Huntsville, Ala., stating that three perpetrators of the Ku-Klux outrages in that State had been convicted in U. S. Judge Busteed's Court. These are the first trials which have been conducted in that State.

Senator Wilson of Massachusetts returned from New-Hampshire to-day, and was warmly greeted by his colleagues in the Senate.

The Senate, in Executive session, confirmed a number of appointments, but adjourned as soon as a motion to take up the calander was made. The first business on the executive calendar, is the Arkansas nominations, the consideration of which will involve Clayton's official action while Governor of the State.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

Gen. O. O. Howard, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, has consented to visit Arizona in the character of Special Agent of the Government, to report upon the spirit of the Apache Indians in respect to hostilities against the whites, to talk with the Indians personally, and find out exactly what is the truth of matters about which there is no definite official information. He has a large discretion to take any action which may appear to him to be for the interest of peace with these Indians. Gen. Howard takes with him a large number of his staff, and leaves here next Thursday.

The Committee on Ways and Means to-day considered the question of iron in connection with the tariff, but came to no conclusion.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following nominations: Seth J. Comly, to be Collector of Customs at the Port of Philadelphia; John L. Haynes, Collector of Customs at Brazos Santiago, Texas; James Atkins, Collector of Customs at Savannah, Ga.

In the Criminal Court, Judge Cartter, this morning, Mr. William B. Stokes, convicted of having received money for prosecuting claims against the Government while he was a Representative in Congress, appeared on the opening of the Court with his counsel, who stated that Gen. Stokes had come into Court to subject himself to such penalty as the Court saw fit to impose. Judge Cartter said: "Gen. Stokes, the Court has come to the conclusion to impose on you a penalty of $1,500 and the costs of the prosecution. I have been governed in my action by several considerations, among them, your uniform good character, your advanced age, and the request of men of all parties in your State that your punishment should be light. It is unnecessary to a person of your intelligence to say more." Mr. Stokes thereupon paid the amount and departed.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day called in $1,600,000 three per cent temporary loan certificates. The denominations of the certificates called in are: 3,415 to 3,519 of $5,000 each, and 3,349 to 3,495 of $1,000 each, on which interest will cease April 30, 1872.

The Japanese Embassy remained in their quarters today, to recover from their fatigue of travel. The same course will be observed with them as with other foreign Ministers. The Department of State will first be officially informed of their arrival, and then arrangements will be made for their presentation to the President, which may occur on Monday or Tuesday.

XLIID CONGRESS—IID SESSION.

SENATE....WASHINGTON, March 1, 1872.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) rose to a personal explanation. He said that as his name had been mentioned more than once in connection with the membership of the Special Committee provided for yesterday, to investigate the sales of arms by the War Department, and also as the possible Chairman of the Committee, he would now state that his health was in such