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WASHINGTON.

THE CHIEF-JUSTICESHIP.

JUDGE WILLIAMS'S NOMINATION NOT TO BE CONFIRMED BEFORE THE HOLIDAY RECESS, IF AT ALL—SERIOUS CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM—THE NOMINATION AGAIN REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Attorney-General Williams will not be confirmed to be Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court until after the holiday recess, if at all. From the first, his confirmation has been opposed by some of the best and most influential Republican lawyers in the Senate, while it was not received with enthusiasm by any large class in that body. Still, the President had set his heart on Williams's confirmation. As no one who expects to remain influential in the Republican party can afford to displease Grant, the general belief was that the Senate would make a wry face and then vote for confirmation; but there was delay in reporting the nomination back from the Judiciary Committee, and accusations were made respecting the management of the prosecution of Judge Wright, who is charged and is probably guilty of theft, forgery, and other crimes, in connection with Indian bounties. These charges were examined by the Committee, and found to be without foundation. Further damaging statements were also made in regard to the suspension of the prosecution in the Polhemus and Jackson case in New-York, but these were also satisfactorily explained. The nomination was therefore favorably reported to the Senate and debated for one or two days.

A day or two ago a long dispatch was received by the Judiciary Committee from Oregon, preferring still further charges against Mr. Williams in connection with appointments which he has made in that State. The signers of this telegram were so numerous and so respectable, and the accusations were of such a positive and circumstantial nature, that it was impossible to avoid giving them due attention, and so, at the request of the Judiciary Committee, the nomination was returned to them yesterday for further consideration, and the Committee was authorized to send for persons and papers in the prosecution of any investigation they may make. Judge Williams's friends, while they scout the idea that he can be guilty of any corrupt practices, as charged, fear that a postponement of the vote until after New-Year's, will allow the opposition to his confirmation to gather strength and make his defeat more probable.

THE BACK PAY QUESTION.

ANOTHER REPEAL BILL REPORTED—IT PROVIDES FOR A SALARY FOR CONGRESSMEN OF $5,500—A RETROACTIVE AMENDMENT ADOPTED—MR. BUTLER ENDEAVORS TO MAKE THE WHOLE PROCEEDING RIDICULOUS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The House has at last done something to be proud of, although the motives were not of the best, for it has been seen from the first of the debate on the Salary bill that it required more effort than the members possessed to surrender with a good grace anything that favorably affected their pockets. The reform is so radical, however, that it may after all accomplish what was originally desired—the continuation of the increased salary, and the restoration of that twin calamity, the franking privilege.

The debate on the Salary bill began very lively to-day, following the passage of the Bankrupt bill. Mr. McKee of Mississippi was the first to speak. The agitation of the question was foolish, so he thought, and the thing was a humbug. Mr. Williams of Boston followed with extravagant ideas. He wanted the salaries of the Speaker, Vice-President, and Cabinet officers increased still more, and scouted the idea that members of Congress were not the equals and even the superiors of the old-time statesmen. Yet, with all this, he thought he would support the Committee's bill. Mr. Eldridge of Wisconsin made a plaintive and at the same time a patriotic speech. There were those who said it was the speech of the biggest demagogue that ever lived, merely because he referred so often to his own honesty and his firm belief in the people. He was a poor man; he had lived humbly; he had no extravagances; he had been unable to reciprocate the social hospitalities that had been extended to him; it was the first time his constituents had found fault with him; he had served them 10 years, and had advocated unpopular theories and measures, but he had never taken a dollar that he did not earn, and his constituents had never complained of him before. He said the time at which the Salary bill was passed was an unfortunate one, owing to the unhealthfulness of the air with Crédit Mobilier corruption; but he evidently had forgotten the fact that he defended the Crédit Mobilier transactions of members last Winter. His time was extended twice, and yet he did not finish his speech. He asked leave to print the rest, but Mr. Hale of Maine objected very properly. This is a very healthy sign and will save much expense if continued. Thus far this session, in the House, not a word has been printed in *The Record* but what was uttered, although it has been often attempted.

Mr. Hale of New-York made a good point against Mr. Eldridge in his speech when he said that it was not so much the increase of pay that the people objected to, but they were outraged at the sneaking manner in which the increase was made—the tacking of it on an appropriation bill in the closing hours of the session, when efforts during the session to pass the bill as an independent measure had failed repeatedly. He was in favor of restoring the old rate of pay, and also the mileage. In the early part of the discussion Mr. Kasson of Iowa had offered an amendment making in effect the repeal of the bill retroactive, that is, to provide that the rate of $5,500, should begin last March, and that the members who have drawn amounts exceeding the rate of the sum named since that time, should have the sum deducted from their future pay. After Mr. Hale had spoken Mr. Butler of Massachusetts offered an amendment to Mr. Kasson's amendment providing that all members of previous Congresses who had taken back-pay should have the amount so taken deducted from their future pay. This proposition created much laughter, as it hit a large number of the present members, including Mr. Kasson and Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio. Mr. Hale of Maine tried to say to the House what was the fact, that Mr. Butler's only idea was to make the whole proceeding trivial and ridiculous, an insinuation which fired Mr. Butler at once; but the House was in confusion, and it passed.

Mr. Kasson demanded the previous question on his amendment, and the first vote was to be on Mr. Butler's proposition. Here somebody moved to adjourn, and tellers were appointed—Messrs. Butler and Kasson. The vote was a tie on adjournment—113 to 113. The Speaker voted No. The vote showed great strength for Mr. Butler, and there was considerable confusion. Other meaningless votes followed, and Mr. Butler raised the point of order that the old members could not vote on his amendment because they were interested persons. The Speaker said if Mr. Butler raised the point on any member, he would rule on it, to which Mr. Butler responded that he objected to his colleague, Mr. Buffinton, merely for a test case. He did not want the few members of the XXXIXth Congress to vote against his amendment. The Speaker overruled the point of order very adroitly, and the roll was called on the amendment itself. It was barely defeated—121 to 129. Mr. Butler watched the proceedings with unusual interest and listened attentively to every speech made during the day. After the vote, another motion was made to adjourn, and long before this time darkness was creeping over the hall and the gas had to be lighted. A half-hour was consumed in the roll call, but the spirit was upon the House and adjournment was refused. Subsequently a direct vote was had on Mr. Kasson's amendment, and it passed, with a ringing vote—172 to 77—amid clapping of hands. A motion to reconsider was made, but it yielded to adjournment after a session of over six hours. Whether the House will now pass the Committee's bill as amended will probably be known to-morrow.

THE LOUISIANA SENATORIAL CONTEST.

MR. MORTON MAKES A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MR. PINCHBACK—HE STATES THE LEGAL ASPECT OF THE CASE, AND WISHES TO ESTABLISH A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT—THE SUBJECT POSTPONED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Senator Morton made probably the strongest possible presentation, to-day, in favor of admitting Mr. Pinchback to a seat in the Senate. His evident desire to push this case forward as rapidly as possible, and to get a vote upon it before the holiday recess, aroused not a little opposition on both sides of the chamber. Mr. Morton protests that the testimony taken last Winter has nothing whatever to do with the present case; but he comes before the Senate with no report from the Committee to whom the credentials were referred to offer in its place, and no papers or documents for the information of Senators, and asks them to act at once on one of the most important questions ever before the body.

The personal claims of McMillan and Pinchback are of little comparative moment. The question, Which Legislature or candidate for Governor was legally chosen? sinks out of sight, and the greater question, whether, under the laws of the United States, as they now stand, the President's action in recognizing one of two contesting State Governments, is binding upon each House of Congress until an act, in which both Houses and the Executive concur, decrees otherwise, hides all others. This is the position that Mr. Morton takes in the Pinchback case. Given the fact that the President has acted under the law of 1795, and, either by proclamation or by calling out the militia or military to put down the insurrection against the Government he chooses to recognize, has given his support to one of the two contending parties, according to Mr. Morton, it is not for the Senate alone to ask the question whether he has made that decision properly or not, even by refusing to receive a man who claims a seat on its floor, and who holds credentials from the recognized Government.

This question, followed out to its legitimate conclusions, would lead to some startling results. For instance, suppose that a man is not a candidate for the Governorship of a State, and does not receive a single vote, but sets up a fraudulent claim to the office, and calls upon the President to sustain him. If the President should consent to do so, and should issue his proclamation to that effect, and then, by the employment of the army, place him in possession of the Executive office, a person appearing at the bar of the Senate bearing credentials signed by this man, and the seal of the State, must be seated, and the Senate, according to Mr. Morton, would have no right before that was done, to ascertain whether the President's decision had been properly made, or to investigate in advance any of the circumstances attending the Senatorial election. The supposition is of course rather a violent one, but it is only one degree worse than the facts in the Louisiana case. This may be the law, for Mr. Morton made a strong speech to-day to prove it to be so, but the Senate has not for many years had it staring it in the face in such a striking light, and will not off hand, before the holidays, add its indorsement by seating Mr. Pinchback.

Mr. Morton, in closing, said that he had the documentary evidence to favor the most unheard-of frauds by the Fusionists of Louisiana in the last election. Those who are most familiar with the Louisiana case have no doubt that both parties in that State did all the cheating in 1872 that it was possible for them to do, but the Republicans have supplemented their election frauds with usurpations that presage more danger to the liberties of the country than the most able-bodied ballot-box stuffing. After Mr. Morton's speech, the resolution was postponed, and the Sherman financial resolution was again taken up, with Mr. Fenton on the floor.

THE DISTRICT GOVERNORSHIP.

GOV. SHEPHERD CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION—A DETERMINED OPPOSITION MADE—REPORT THAT MESSRS. CONKLING, SHERMAN AND WINDOM PROVED FALSE TO THEIR PROMISE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Mr. Shepherd was confirmed to be Governor of this District by the Senate in Executive session this afternoon, after a warm and, it is reported, very exciting debate. The opposition, although determined, was not strong enough. The violation of law by the Board of Public Works, of which Mr. Shepherd is the head, by involving the General Government in debt after being by law expressly forbidden to do so, was no reason, in the judgment of certain Senators, why he should not have larger opportunities and assume greater responsibilities. There are two classes of Republican Senators whom Mr. Shepherd could count upon for support: *First:* Those who vote for every man whose name the President sends in, because they depend upon the patronage the President gives them to sustain them politically at home; and *second:* a part of those who own houses in the District, and whose personal interests and conveniences Mr. Shepherd has carefully attended to, both by seeing the improvements they are interested in properly done, and that the bills are not too heavy.

Much disappointment is felt by the friends of honesty and economy in the District that Messrs. Conkling, Sherman, and Windom were not more zealous in keeping their promise to postpone the confirmation until after an investigation. Mr. Conkling must have suffered a very humiliating defeat in this matter, or have proved false to the promises he, with the other Senators named, made to a prominent Western Republican not long ago. It is reported that the latter is the fact, and that he even made a speech in favor of Mr. Shepherd's confirmation. The vote is said to have stood 22 to 34 on the motion to reconsider. The Senate having thus given Mr. Shepherd a vote of confidence, is probably ready for the bill appropriating $4,000,000 to pay the illegal debts of the Board of Public Works, contracted under Mr. Shepherd's management, and to vote a tax on the transportation of Western grain to pay it.

REPEAL OF THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S BILL FOR THE REPEAL DEFEATED AND A SUBSTITUTE PASSED—THE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP THE BILL IN THE INTEREST OF JAY COOKE & CO.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The majority of the Judiciary Committee, led by Messrs. Tremain and Butler, sustained a signal defeat with their Bankruptcy Repeal bill in the House to-day. It rarely happens that men of ability and influence, speaking by the authority of a leading Committee, muster so scanty a following as they did and are so badly worsted. The fight was not over the main feature of the bill. The House was so overwhelmingly in favor of the entire repeal of the whole bankruptcy system, that the opposition was too insignificant to make itself felt. It was the portion of the bill relating to the disposition of cases pending, that brought out the controversy. This provided that in all cases pending, a majority of the creditors in value should have full power to dispose of the estate in any way in which they might agree among themselves and might, if they saw fit, put it back in the banks of the debtor.

Tremain opened the debate in favor of the bill, in a set speech, which failed to command general attention. Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, a member of the Judiciary Committee and a man not given to sensations, declared that the measure as reported, ought to be called "a measure to embarrass justice," and charged that it had been prepared by the attorney of Jay Cooke & Co., to enable them to get control of their assets and go on with their speculations. The friends of the bill made a hard struggle to save it, but could not make head against the imputation of Mr. Wilson. Mr. Eldridge denied strenuously—too strenuously in fact, for effect—that the bill was drawn in the interest of Jay Cooke's firm, and Mr. Butler protested that the features objected to were adopted as the best way of disposing of pending cases, so as to give those caught in the toils of the old law the benefit of the repeal, as far as possible. Mr. Frye was the only man who spoke in favor of retaining any part of the old law, his proposition being to repeal the involuntary features only. He got up a lively dispute with Mr. Hale as to whether the people of Maine wanted the law repealed or not.

After the debate had run for three hours, first in 15-minute speeches, Mr. Tremain called the previous question, and was voted down by Yeas, 71; Nays, 121. Mr. Beck then offered a substitute for the whole bill, except the repealing section, a section providing that pending cases in which a decree of bankruptcy had been issued, should be wound up under the old law, and that all fees and charges should be reduced one-half. On this the call for the previous question was sustained, the amendment was adopted, and the bill, as amended, passed by a vote of 224 to 40.

THE CASE OF JUDGE BUSTEED.

HIS REMOVAL BY IMPEACHMENT CONSIDERED CERTAIN IF HE DOES NOT RESIGN—GROSS NEGLECT OF DUTY ONE OF THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM—REPORT THAT LEWIS C. PARSONS WILL BE HIS SUCCESSOR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Members of the Alabama delegation regard the removal of Judge Busteed, by impeachment, as certain, in case he refuses to resign. The offense charge against him is an almost total neglect of his judicial duties. It is said that he has not held court for nearly two years, and that he spends his time in New-York, and pays no attention to the appeals made to him to return to his district and administer justice. Busteed never made an acceptable Judge. He was sent to Alabama from New-York by President Lincoln during the war, and there has always been a good deal of complaint of the manner in which he has conducted himself upon the Bench. Without any very thorough knowledge of law or aptitude for exercising judicial functions, he has been exceedingly arbitrary, it is said, and has appeared to take delight in making his Court obnoxious to lawyers and clients who were obliged to come before it. As long as he kept on good terms with Senator Spencer he remained undisturbed, but as soon as a falling out occurred between the two, not long since, the Senator began to look up evidence upon which the Judge could be impeached. It is reported that Mr. Spencer has succeeded in getting something worse against him than proof of his flagrant neglect of duty, and that the President has been apprised of the facts and has intimated to Busteed that he had better resign.

Four years ago, the House Judiciary Committee undertook to investigate Judge Busteed, and a sub-Committee went to Mobile under the management of John A. Bingham, but made no report, the members preferring to spend their time in amusing themselves, it is said, to taking testimony. Judge Busteed's successor has already been selected by Senator Spencer. If report is correct, Lewis C. Parsons, who was Provisional Governor under President Johnson, is to have the place. Mr. Parsons has of late been an active Administration politician, and of course a strong supporter of Mr. Spencer. One of the Alabama members, looking to the contingency that Judge Busteed cannot be impeached, has introduced a bill limiting his jurisdiction to one county on the border of Florida, where there is no imaginable business for his court, and providing for another judge for the rest of the State.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

THE CHORPENNING CLAIM.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

Representative Cessna intends, as soon as possible, to demand an investigation of the Chorpenning claim, and of his own connection with it, with a view to his vindication and that of his constituent, Mr. Chorpenning, from the charges of fraud made against them when the claim was attacked and killed by Mr. Dawes two years ago. Mr. Cessna declares his ability to prove that the claim was a thoroughly honest one; that Mr. Chorpenning was equitably entitled to a much larger award than the Postmaster-General made him, and that Mr. Dawes's assault and the subsequent action of the House were unjustifiable.

THE GENEVA AWARD QUESTION.

The House Committee on the Judiciary is going into the consideration of the Geneva award question with a great deal of thoroughness. Three bills are pending for the disposition of the award. Senator Edmunds's bill proposes to create a commission to sit in Washington, take testimony, and decide upon the claims presented. Gen. Butler's bill provides that any claimant may bring his case before the U. S. Circuit Court for the circuit in which he resides. Judge Poland's bill proposes to throw all the claims into one Circuit Court, to be selected by the President. The bills differ widely in respect to the claims to be admitted or barred, and the preference to be given to one class over another in making payments. This morning the subject was formally taken up by the Committee and an argument was made by Judge Metcalf of Maine, who favored, first, payment to the shipping interest of the country, which lost vessels by reason of capture by Confederate cruisers; second, the indemnification of insurance companies and those who took war risks. Other arguments will be heard when the Committee reassembles after the recess.

THE NEW HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAR CLAIMS.

The House Committee on War Claims met this morning and adopted a resolution instructing its clerk to group together in classes all claims referred to it, and to report at the next meeting of the Committee, on Jan. 7, when the assignment of cases will be made. These claims comprise iron-clad, cotton, ship claims for stores and supplies furnished the army and navy, for destruction of or damage to property by armed occupation of military forces of the United States, beside a large number of miscellaneous claims, amounting to many millions of dollars. The Committee will, on the first opportunity, report a resolution asking power to send for persons and papers whenever it shall be deemed necessary to obtain additional testimony in regard to claims before it. It is not probable that the bill paying awards of the Southern Claims Commission will be reported before March or April.

THE CHARGES AGAINST GEN. HOWARD.

The House Committee on Military Affairs held a meeting to-day, and discussed the resolution of Mr. Wood which was referred to them by the House, with reference to the alleged defalcation of Gen. Howard in connection with his administration of the affairs of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands. A resolution was adopted instructing the Chairman to issue notices to Gen. Howard, Secretary Belknap, and Gen. Vincent to appear before them to-morrow morning, with a view to begin a preliminary investigation of the subject, and to guide the Committee in recommending what definite action should be taken upon the letter of the Secretary of War submitted to Congress.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

The Committee of Ways and Means has agreed to report a bill recommended by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, relating to certain details of minor importance connected with bonded distilleries.

The President has directed the division of Massachusetts into two pension divisions, and Gen. Kimball, formerly Adjutant-General of the State, will be the additional Pension Agent.

THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN

SURRENDER OF THE VIRGINIUS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SURRENDER MADE TO GEN. SICKLES.

PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

A dispatch from Madrid says Castelar made an official call on Gen. Sickles to-day, accompanied by the Secretary of State, and made a formal announcement of the surrender of the Virginius and the prisoners. The utmost cordiality was shown on both sides.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1873—5:30 p. m.

A special dispatch to *The Daily News*, dated Madrid, Dec. 16, says Señor Castelar had an interview with Minister Sickles, and officially announced the surrender of the Virginius and her surviving passengers and crew. Congratulations of the most cordial character were exchanged.

NO NEWS OF THE SURRENDER RECEIVED AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The Navy Department at midnight was without any advices regarding the surrender of the Virginius. Bahia Honda, where the delivery was probably made, is many miles from any telegraph station. Details are not expected to-night.

AFFAIRS IN CUBA.

THE AUTHORITY OF SPAIN DECRIED.

HAVANA, Dec. 16.—The *Voz de Cuba* shows that the prolonged resistance of Cartagena is draining the resources of Spain and weakening her power. Castelar is not strong enough now to oppose the exactions of foreign governments, which nearly all tend to the destruction of Cuba, and the longer his declining power is respected and obeyed in Cuba the greater is the probability that the object of these foreign demands will be accomplished.

RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT GRANT'S MESSAGE—EFFECT OF THE REFERENCE TO THE VIRGINIUS AND CUBAN SLAVERY—CONJECTURES AS TO THE MODE OF SURRENDER—THE BRITISH WAR-VESSEL NIOBE AT HAVANA.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

HAVANA, Dec. 11.—President Grant's message has just been received by mail from the United States, and there is a very general feeling of relief expressed at the official intelligence given concerning the settlement of the Virginius complications. The violent threats of demagogues having become more moderate, there is now a disposition to comply with the terms of the protocol; and while many Spaniards feel their humiliation, they are inwardly thankful that the penalties imposed for their summary and sanguinary action at Santiago de Cuba and elsewhere are not worse. That portion of the message which charges Slavery with being the primary cause of the condition of affairs on the island, is regarded with the greatest uneasiness and aversion.

It is the general opinion among American residents that the settlement of the Virginius complications, upon the basis just agreed to, would have provoked far less hostility among the Spaniards on the island were it not that they believed that it was the intention of the United States to demand the abolition of Slavery, which at present they will not allow, as all their fortunes are identified with the institution. The suggestions of the President, therefore, have been regarded as something of a moral, if not material, menace, which they are afraid will lead to a systematic attack upon Slavery, which will in the end deprive them of their wealth and power. All, however, feel that Slavery on the Island of Cuba has had its day, and that a short time will witness its entire destruction. It is with a view to prolonging involuntary servitude that the planters are endeavoring to have the emancipation of the slaves postponed for 15 years, by which time they hope to have either made sufficient out of their slaves, or be in a position to ask for another extension with greater chances for success. Should this 15 years' extension be granted, the slaves will be held in a system of servitude akin to that of peonage, but they will be none the less slaves throughout their term of servitude.

The planters are very generally willing to pay for the prolongation of involuntary servitude, whether under the name of slavery or peonage, and it is calculated that if they are taxed $100 per head for every slave whose liberty will be restrained for 15 years, the Administration and its adherents here will be benefited to the extent of between $30,000,000 and $40,000,000. The Minister of Ultramar is understood to have committed himself to the special study of the slave question, and among the most conspicuous subjects treated of in his report to the Home Government, it is said, will be the condition of the slaves, their relation to the island, and the measures which should be taken to secure their freedom in a manner that will not impair the prosperity of their owners. The free negroes in Havana are alive to the importance of the question, and a short time ago appointed a committee which waited upon the Minister and asked him his intentions. He treated them cordially, and said that he would consider the question of Slavery thoroughly.

The Virginius still lies off the Navy-Yard, and continues to attract the attention of all who are in her vicinity. She is still reported to be leaking badly, and is otherwise in poor condition. As threats had been made by some of the more bigoted Spaniards to destroy the vessel, the guards were doubled, and other precautions taken that the threats might not be executed. Despite all their vigilance, however, it is understood that a Spanish medical officer attached to the navy attempted to fire the ship yesterday morning, but was discovered and arrested before much damage had been done. Several sailors, who were his accomplices, were also arrested, but as there was a disposition to suppress the scandal, they were all released. The affair created much comment in the political circles of Havana, where the matter was believed by some and rejected by others. The survivors of the Virginius incarcerated at Santiago de Cuba were removed from the prison to the Morro Castle at that place. The reasons for the change were not made known; but it was supposed that the Governor, distrusting the populace, concluded that the prisoners would be safer within the fort. Later the prisoners were removed and transferred to Cienfuegos by the Spanish war vessel Bazan. This excited a great deal of discussion, and it was reported that, during the journey, eighteen of the survivors had either escaped or been slaughtered by the populace. I have made inquiries at official sources and am informed that there was no truth in the rumor; that all the unexecuted prisoners were still alive. Eight had been sent to the hospital, two had been released, and one was in service on board a Spanish gunboat. The remainder were on board the Bazan, which had been ordered back to Santiago, where it will remain until the provisions of the protocol have been complied with.

Interviews with Captain-General Jovellar elicited the information that he felt himself thoroughly able to carry out the conditions of the protocol, and that he had no doubt but that the people of the island would obey the orders of the Home Government. Much conjecture is expressed as to the manner in which the Virginius will be delivered to the United States. The British war vessel Niobe, which arrived here two days ago with a view to ascertaining the reasons for the removal of the prisoners from Santiago de Cuba, has been lying in the harbor, and the impression has gained circulation that perhaps it was the intention of the authorities on both sides to avail themselves of her presence and make her the medium of the transfer. But this is not credited in American circles. Gen. Burriel, who was reported as having been ordered to Madrid for the purpose of explaining his action at Santiago de Cuba, has returned to the latter place, and will probably be instrumental in transferring the survivors of the Virginius to the United States vessels at that place. The precise date of the delivery of the vessel and the prisoners has not yet been fixed upon. It is a matter of speculation as to what action Great Britain will take after the United States are conciliated. The representatives of that Government are awaiting the issue of events. It is expected that the matter will also be arranged by diplomacy.

The threat of the Madrid Government to treat all disobedient or refractory people here as insurgents has had a good effect, for the demagogues who lead the populace are well aware that their only claim to the consideration of the other nations of the world is their relation to Spain. The threats made upon the first announcement of the protocol, that the Spanish in Cuba would arm privateers for the purpose of preying upon American commerce, amounts to very little; for without authority to carry the Spanish flag the vessels would be nothing but pirates, and liable to be treated accordingly. The *Voz de Cuba* of Havana, long known for its denunciations of the United States and its citizens, has found it advisable to change its tone, for it now counsels the strictest adherence to the mandates of the Madrid Government. This course, it declares, is essential to prevent the Spanish in Cuba from falling into the snare of the enemy, who are desirous of fomenting discord between the colonies and Madrid, in order to help the rebellion and furnish a pretext for foreign interference.

The Government has ordered the release of the estates of the following citizens of the United States: José Manuel Macias, Gonzalo Poey, Fernando Dominguez, Manuel Lopez, Antonio Bachiller y Morales, Enrique Valiente, Leonardo Delmonte, Joaquin Garcia Angarica, José Garcia Angarica, and Ramon Martinez Hernandez. The representatives of the owners have not yet entered into occupation of the estates, but it is expected that those who are now in possession will be made to leave. The ultra Spanish journalists are personally disgusted with the condition of affairs. *La Constancia* has ceased to be published, and several of the leading journalists have withdrawn from the *Diario* and other papers.

According to reports from the interior, the Cubans attacked and captured Bayamo and Guaimaro. After a hard contest at the latter place, it is said, they succeeded in capturing the Cazadores de Valmaseda, a regiment of 1,200 men under the command of Col. Vilches. About 20 of the officers, including Vilches, and many of the men, were killed. The Cubans, who were reported to be under the command of Calixto Garcia, also lost a number of men. The very latest report concerning the delivery of the Virginius is to the effect that the vessel is to be sent to Bahia Honda, a place about 60 miles distant from Havana, and there quietly turned over to the United States.

THE BROOKLYN NAVY-YARD.

WORK ON THE MINNESOTA AND DICTATOR—THE BLOCKADED IRON-CLAD.

A large number of visitors were present at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard yesterday. The vicinity of the dry-dock seemed to have the greatest attraction for them, and the Spanish iron-clad and the sunken coal barge were the general topics of conversation. One of the officers of the Wrecking Company visited the Yard in reference to the raising of the barge Upland. It is expected that the work will be begun to-day. Part of her cargo will be taken out by divers before any attempt is made to raise her. The contract for the work is made between the coal contractor and the Company, the Government declining to become a party in the case, as the blame is laid at the door of the contractor.

The engine department of the Minnesota is ready for service. There is a great deal yet to be done on the vessel, but it is expected that she will be able to leave the yard on the 26th inst. She is a full ship-rigged screw frigate, built at the Washington Navy-Yard and launched Dec. 15, 1855. She is of the same class as the Colorado, Roanoke, Merrimac, and Wabash. Her extreme length over all is 302 feet, breadth of beam, 51 feet 4 inches, with a depth of hold of 33 feet 2 inches. She mounts a battery of 42 9-inch guns, two 100 pound Parrotts forward, and four howitzers. She will also carry a 11-inch gun on her poop-deck and bow—the same as the Colorado. Her engines are of 3,000-horse power of the "trunk" type, with 76 inches diameter of cylinder and 36 inches of stroke. She has four boilers and a donkey boiler, and a coal bunker capacity of 600 tons, which would carry her 28 days at cruising speed. Her propeller is a two-bladed screw so constructed that it can be hoisted out of water when not required, thus giving her the full qualities of a sailing vessel. Her maximum speed under steam and sails is 14 knots per hour. Her record is as follows: She sailed for the East Indies under Capt. Du Pont in 1858, and returned in 1859 to Boston, where she was laid up till 1861, when she was fitted for sea and attached to the North Atlantic Squadron. She was nearly destroyed by the Merrimac at Hampton Roads while under the command of Capt. Van Brunt, but was saved by the Monitor. She was flagship of Rear-Admiral Lee of the North Atlantic fleet till 1864, during which time she participated in several severe engagements, especially at the capture of Fort Fisher in January, 1865. In 1867, under command of Capt. James Alden, she took out the second class of naval cadets on a fancy cruise, and returned to New-York in 1868, where she has been ever since.

The following officers have been assigned to the Minnesota:

Captain Commanding, Stephen B. Luce; Lieutenant-Commander and Executive, H. H. Robeson; Lieutenant-Commander and Navigator, G. F. F. Wilde; Lieutenants Robert M. Berry, Uriel Sebree, J. E. Pillsbury, F. P. Gilmore; Masters, J. M. Hawley, George L. Dyer; Ensigns, C. F. Emerick, M. C. Dimock; Midshipman, A. A. Michelson; Chief-Engineer, William G. Buehler; Past Assistant Surgeon, W. J. Simon; Assistant Surgeon, C. U. Gravatt; Chaplain, J. J. Kane; Carpenter, S. N. Whitehouse; Acting Sailmaker, A. W. Stephens; Boatswain, Ansel Keen.

Lieut.-Commanders Robeson and Wilde reported for duty at the Yard yesterday. A notice of Capt. Luce will be found in a late number of THE TRIBUNE. Lieut.-Commander Henry B. Robeson, Executive Officer of the Minnesota, entered the Navy in 1856 from Connecticut. He was in active service in the Atlantic Blockading Squadron in 1861-3, and was attached to the iron-clad New Ironsides in 1863-4, distinguishing himself at the capture of the works on Morris Island in July, 1863. He commanded a landing party from the Colorado at the capture of Fort Fisher in January, 1865, and was commissioned as Lieutenant-Commander in July, 1866.

Commander James E. Jouett, who is ordered to command the Dictator, entered the Navy in 1841. In November, 1861, Lieut. Jouett, with a detachment of sailors and marines from the Santee, destroyed the Rebel schooner Royal Yacht in Galveston Bay, and was severely wounded. He was commissioned as Lieutenant-Commander in July, 1862; served on the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron, 1863-4. At the battle of Mobile Bay, while in command of the steamer Metacomet, he captured the Rebel gunboat Selma under circumstances which elicited the warmest commendations from Rear-Admiral Farragut and the thanks of the Department. He was commissioned Commander on July 25, 1866, and was for two years at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard.

OTHER NAVAL PREPARATIONS.

DEPARTURE OF THE FORTUNE AND OSSIPEE FROM KEY WEST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The following has been received from a special correspondent:

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 16.—The Fortune and Ossipee sailed from Key West at daylight, to-day. The latter had a schooner ladened with coal in tow. The coal was probably for the Virginius.

THE MANHATTAN AND POWHATAN AT SAVANNAH.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 16.—The monitor Manhattan and sloop-of-war Powhatan arrived here to-day.

TRADES-UNIONISTS INDICTED.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 16.—Bills of indictment against members of Typographical Union No. 7 of this city will be brought before the Grand Jury of the Court of Quarter Sessions to-morrow. Seventy of them are presented, and all have given bail. The evidence is such as will cause a true bill to be found against all of them. This is regarded by the members of Trades Unions throughout the State as a test case.

....A meeting of New-England patentees and owners of patents was held in Boston, yesterday, for the purpose of forming an association to promote uniformity of action, and as an auxiliary to the International Congress to be held in Washington Jan. 15.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

ANOTHER MARINE DISASTER.

THE STEAMER CELERITY LOST—TWENTY-ONE PERSONS DROWNED.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1873—5 a. m.

The steamer Celerity, from Riga, bound for Stettin, has been lost. Twenty-one persons were drowned.

AFFAIRS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

PUNISHMENT OF A PERJURER—DESTRUCTIVE STORM IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND—VISIT OF THE EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

Jean Luie, the witness for the defense in the Tichborne case, who was arrested for committing perjury, and afterward discovered to be a ticket-of-leave man, was brought up at Bow Street to-day. When asked if he had anything to say before the revocation of his license, he replied that he was sorry for what had happened, but he was invited and encouraged to do as he did. He declined to say anything further. Luie was then removed to the convict prison at Pentonville, to serve out the unexpired portion of his sentence, after which he will be tried for perjury.

A dispatch from Sheffield says that city was visited to-day by a terrible storm. The wind blew a hurricane. A large number of buildings and chimneys were blown down, and many persons were killed. One immense chimney crushed a building and a boiler located therein. The boiler exploded, killing and wounding several persons. In consequence of the great excitement in the city and the dense crowds which filled the streets but few details could be learned at the time the dispatch was forwarded.

The ex-Empress Eugenie is visiting Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle to-day.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 17—1:30 a. m.

The storm has abated. The telegraph wires were prostrated in all directions, but the lines that are now working bring news that the storm extended all over the North of England and far into Scotland. Sheffield looks as if it had been bombarded. The loss of property is immense. Churches were unroofed and many factories were compelled to suspend work. The lowest estimate places the casualties to persons in that city at seven killed and 30 wounded, many fatally. Dispatches show that the effects of the hurricane were felt at Glasgow, Halifax, Drewsbury, and Nottingham, in all of which cities lives were lost and great damage done. At Leeds it is estimated that property to the amount of $100,000 was destroyed. Extensive damage was done at West Hartlepool and Durham. Shipping suffered severely at Newcastle and Shields. A steamer is ashore at Androssan, and a railway station and several houses were blown down in Weeton, near Harrowgate, on the York and North Midland Railroad.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

RECOVERY OF SIR GARNET WOLSELEY—SICKNESS AMONG THE TROOPS.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

Advices from Cape Coast Castle to the 24th ult. report that Gen. Sir Garnet Wolseley had completely recovered his health and resumed active duty. During his illness the expedition was at a standstill, and movements had since been difficult owing to the large number of sick.

The authorities at Madeira were placing all the obstacles they could in the way of the establishment there of a hospital for British soldiers stricken with fever.

THE CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF BERGA BY CARLISTS.

BAYONNE, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

The official journal of the Carlists in this city announces that the forces of Royalists under Tristany have captured the town of Berga. The Cure of Santa Cruz, who was captured a few days ago by Gen. Lizarraga, is to be tried by court-martial.

MADRID, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

The Carlist insurrectionists are decreasing in numbers.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

An enthusiastic meeting was held at Exeter Hall to-day to hear the report of the delegates to the Evangelical Alliance. Lord Ebury presided. Speeches were made by Lord Alfred Churchill, the Dean of Canterbury, the Rev. Dr. Parker and others, who alluded with the utmost enthusiasm to their splendid reception in America.

FRENCH POLITICS.

MEASURE TO RESTRICT THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.

PARIS, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

A rumor is current that in consequence of the successes of the Republicans in the late supplementary elections for members of the Assembly, the Right has resolved to propose an alteration of the Suffrage law by which 4,000,000 persons will be deprived of the elective franchise.

TESTIMONIAL REFUSED BY COUNT STAEMPFLI.

LONDON, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1873.

The Swiss Government has reimbursed to Count Staempfli the expenses incurred by him as member of the Geneva Court of Arbitration, the Count declining an honorarium in the form of a testimonial.

DEATH OF THE ASHANTEE KING.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 17—5 a. m.

It is reported that the King of the Ashantees is dead.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

THE EMPRESS OF JAPAN THROWN FROM HER CARRIAGE—CELEBRATION OF THE MIKADO'S BIRTHDAY—THE SUPERCARGO OF ONE OF THE VESSELS CA