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WASHINGTON.

WHAT IS DOING TO AID BUSINESS?

THE FINANCIAL BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS—VIEWS OF A PROMINENT EASTERN DEMOCRAT—LITTLE TO BE HOPED FOR FROM THIS SESSION.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The waste of another week by the House in fruitless discussion of dead issues has caused many leading Democratic Representatives to realize more forcibly than before the dissatisfaction which is beginning to manifest itself throughout the country at the failure of Congress to take practical steps looking to the relief of business from its present depression. It is true that within the past few days some of the committees have begun work and are preparing to report some of the necessary business of Congress. But the Financial Committees, those on Ways and Means, and Banking and Currency, to which the country looks for some practical measures for the restoration of confidence, have as yet given the most important subjects referred to them little or no attention. The discussion on Andersonville and Jefferson Davis, subjects which it is believed the country has no desire to revive, which has been sustained by three or four of the most prominent members of the Ways and Means Committee, has prevented any important work from being done by it during the past week.

The financial measures already introduced meet with little favor from those hard-money advocates on both sides of the House who hold the soundest views on these important questions. A prominent Eastern Democrat, remarking yesterday on some of these, expressed surprise at the crudeness of thought which most of them have exhibited. THE TRIBUNE'S criticism on Mr. Payne's bill, characterizing it as a surrender, was, he said, perfectly just. The bill introduced by Mr. Chittenden of New-York surprised him. Mr. Chittenden's object in preparing it was doubtless to obtain an opportunity to make a speech on the subject, but it seems strange that a man of his standing and business experience should be willing to allow his name to be connected with the introduction even of a measure so imperfect. Mr. Wood's bill he had not examined carefully, but from a casual reading of it he did not believe it practicable.

Mr. Schleicher, in his bill introduced last week, the gentleman said, ignores the fact that foreign countries will not and cannot allow any rapid accumulation of gold in this country. As the legal tender issue is withdrawn and destroyed, as proposed in Mr. Schleicher's bill, its place must be filled either with National bank notes or with gold and silver. But as the National bank notes would, when the United States reached specie payments, have to be redeemed in gold and silver, since that would be the only medium of redemption left, gold and silver would in any event be required in large measure to fill the place of the greenbacks. This would require an accumulation of coin in this country which would disturb the gold market of Europe. The Bank of France, although its paper issues are at par with gold, and it has been accumulating coin for three years in order to obtain a stock of gold on which to resume, has not thus far dared to begin the redemption of its paper lest that very act should so raise the price of coin in other countries as to make the attempt a failure.

Mr. Schleicher defends his bill on the ground that it will actually cause less disturbance in the gold markets of the world even than the plan proposed by Secretary Bristow. He calls attention to the fact that should his bill be passed there would be no hoarding of gold and no accumulation of a large quantity of coin either in the Treasury of the United States or elsewhere in this country. He believes that the amount of gold which now passes through the Custom-house would be amply sufficient, if applied in the manner which he recommends, to bring us back to specie payments. The amount of coin now in the possession of the United States, and what would accumulate before the 1st of November, 1876, would, he thinks, be sufficient to carry out his plan of redemption for at least ten months after it was begun. The simple passage of his bill, and its signature by the President, would, he believes, cause an immediate appreciation in value of the entire volume of outstanding legal tenders, and this appreciation would continue, bringing gold and legal-tender notes nearer and nearer to the same value. In this way, within a few months after the purchase of greenbacks at the rate of ten millions a month had been begun, they would become worth par with gold. When the purchase of greenbacks is first begun, the gold paid out for them would, Mr. Schleicher admits, be locked up, and would not go into the circulation. This would of course cause a temporary contraction. But he thinks it would not in the least affect the volume of currency actually in circulation. The first legal tenders purchased, he believes, would be drawn from the banks, where they have accumulated in great quantities. But as soon as the legal tenders reach par with gold, he expects the coin to make its appearance in the circulation, while the amount of legal tenders that would be presented every month for redemption would be far less than ten millions. His reason for supposing this is that the motive of self-interest, which would prompt the exchange as long as the paper money was depreciated, would be removed as soon as it became equally valuable with gold; and thereafter the trouble, expense, and risk attending the exchange, and the greater convenience of handling paper money, would check the redemption very effectually. From these facts it will be seen that Mr. Schleicher, should his bill pass, would not expect that the entire volume of the legal-tender notes would be withdrawn in three years and a half, but believes that the process might be extended over a period of five years, or even a longer one.

"No scheme," said the gentleman first quoted, "will succeed that appears to involve a speedy contraction. Of course we cannot resume specie payments without contraction, but it must be so gentle and gradual as not to alarm business men. A strong belief," he said, "seems to have got possession of the people that contraction simply means that debtors will be obliged to meet their obligations in a currency more valuable than that in which they were made, and for this reason any scheme which proposes rapid contraction of the volume of the currency will cause great disturbance in business. What is most needed now," he continued, "is confidence—something to stimulate business. Inflationists think that additional issues of paper money would do this, but in this they are greatly mistaken. If inflation ever would have acted as a stimulant, the time has now passed." The gentleman closed the conversation by saying that, with such diversity of opinion as he found even among the advocates of hard money in Congress, he was very fearful that little in the way of legislative relief for business men would be accomplished during the present session.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

A RULE TO BE ALTERED THAT PERMITS A SALARY GRAB, BUT NOT RETRENCHMENT—THE DIPLOMATIC BILL CUT DOWN AND NEARLY READY—THE AMNESTY MEASURE NO LONGER IN THE WAY OF THE CENTENNIAL BILL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The House Committee on Rules has agreed to report an important amendment to the 120th rule of the House, which limits the subjects of legislation which may be included in the appropriation bills. This rule is as follows:

No appropriation bill shall be reported in such general appropriation bills, or be in order as an amendment thereto, for any expenditure not previously authorized by law, unless in continuation of appropriations for such public works and objects as are already in progress, and for the contingencies for carrying on the several departments of the Government.

By an old construction, the last clause of this rule, viz., "and for the contingencies for carrying on the several departments of the Government, legislation for any increase of salaries of public officers has been held to be in order, while any amendment or provision reducing salaries has invariably been ruled out of order. A notable instance of the operation of this rule occurred at the time the Salary Grab was passed, in 1873, that most unpopular measure having been ingrafted upon the Legislative Appropriation bill. The Committee now proposes to strike out of the rule the clause which has been thus construed, and substitute for it another making any legislation in order, the effect of which is to retrench the expenses of the Government. This amendment was voted for in Committee by Messrs. Kerr, Randall, and Cox. Mr. Blaine did not vote for it, and Gen. Banks was not present. The Committee will, if an opportunity presents itself, report this amendment to-morrow.

The Committee on Appropriations will probably report the Diplomatic and Consular bill to the House on Wednesday next. The reductions made in this bill, when compared with the estimates, will be in the neighborhood of $300,000. The salaries of four first-class European missions will be reduced from $17,500 to $14,000 each, and corresponding reductions will be made in the salaries of ministers to several other countries. The missions to the five Pacific Coast States of South America—Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chili—will be consolidated into two, and the Minister to the Argentine Republic will also be accredited to Uruguay and Paraguay, to which we now send one representative jointly. The Committee on Appropriations is rapidly collecting material for the more important bills, and hopes to report some of them at an early date. The first great appropriation bill to be finished will probably be the Legislative bill, by which about $18,900,000 were appropriated last year. Following close upon this, if, indeed, it does not precede it, will be the Fortifications bill. The remaining ones will probably be reported as rapidly as the House can act upon them. Should the 120th rule be amended to-morrow, the House Committee on Appropriations will, after the morning hour, move to go into Committee of the Whole on the Military Academy Appropriation bill. When this is disposed of, as it probably can be to-morrow, no other bills will remain upon the calendar except the Centennial bill, which can then be reached on Tuesday.

The friends of the Centennial bill have made a very careful canvass of the House, and assert that they are sure of 155 votes in its favor. If they have made no mistakes in their canvass the bill can probably be passed before the hour of adjournment on Tuesday. It is not believed that the Amnesty bill will any longer stand in the way of this measure. The Democrats who were most interested in it say that the Republicans, having killed the bill twice, and the latter time by means of a trick, they see no reason why the subject should be revived at present. The responsibility for its failure lies wholly with the Administration party. The Democrats explain that had it not been for the deception of certain members, the bill would have passed Friday. Mr. Lynch, a colored member from Mississippi, Mr. Stowell of Virginia, and Mr. White of Kentucky, voted against the bill on the understanding, if not with the promise on Mr. Blaine's part, that he would bring the bill up again on a motion to reconsider. He did this, but withdrew it a few minutes later, thus taking the bill from the House altogether.

CURRENCY REDEMPTION.

GOOD EFFECT OF THE NEW ORDER—GREAT SAVING OF EXPENSE—A FALLING OFF IN THE RECEIPTS FOR REDEMPTION.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The receipts of greenbacks and fractional currency at the Treasury have fallen off the past week, on account of the Department order imposing a charge of one-quarter of one per cent for assorting packages which contain currency fit for circulation or currency put up in bad order. Though the regulations from the first have prohibited the sending of greenbacks not defaced for exchange at the expense of the Government, heretofore no distinction has been made, but all United States currency presented has been redeemed and destroyed, whether fit for circulation or not. Banks and individuals have taken advantage of this, and save the expense of assorting, by packing up their daily or weekly receipts, whatever the condition of the notes may be, and forwarding them at Government expense to the Treasury, and receiving new notes without expense by return express. The annual expense of maintaining the circulation has thus run up to at least five per cent a year, which fact detracts a little from the popular conceit that it is a loan without interest.

Though by law fractional currency notes, when presented in sums not less than $3, are exchangeable for United States notes, yet, if not defaced, they must be presented at the expense of the holder. The Government contract with the Express Company was made to transport at the expense of the Department only such United States notes as by reason of their condition have become unfit for circulation. The meaning of the recent Department order is simply that the Treasurer cannot undertake to exchange greenbacks for other greenbacks, unless by previous special agreement, and at the expense of the sender, unless the notes are unfit for circulation, in which case the expenses will be borne by the Department if the notes are sent under the rules. Fractional currency may be sent in any condition for exchange, in any amount not less than $3, to the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer or Depository, at the expense of the sender; and when only such as is unfit for circulation is inclosed, the Department pays the express charges if the remittance is made to the Treasurer.

The main difficulty is that no definition has been given of the condition of notes fit for circulation, it being left to the judgment of the assorters. Treasurer New, however, rules very liberally on that point. He will suspend the order imposing charges as soon as the condition of the currency received shall warrant. Meanwhile, the public being cut off from the receipt of greenbacks, in exchange for United States currency, are making large remittances of national bank notes for redemption, upon which the Department is by law bound to pay all charges for transportation and assorting.

Treasurer New has written a letter to a New-York member of Congress on the subject of the new redemption regulations, explaining the reasons therefor. He says that under the practice of redeeming all notes sent in for that purpose, fully 50 per cent of those received were really fit for circulation. Much of the currency was as clean and perfect as when first issued, and some was still in the original packages in which it had been sent out from the Treasury. To illustrate the labor of counting all this currency, the Treasurer states that of all issues and denominations of legal-tender notes and fractional currency there are now 53 kinds, composed of 15 denominations in 10 series, each of which must be separated, put up, and accurately accounted for. It is unreasonable to expect he department to pay express charges both upon money received and returned, when that which is returned is in but little if any better condition than that received.

THE SULTAN'S IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The text of the firman by which the Sultan grants civil rights to the Christians and orders important reforms has been received here. The Sultan directs that justice shall be impartially administered, and that all persons shall have the right to hold landed property. He orders the system of forced labor to be reformed, so that no injustice shall be committed. The Sultan also orders reforms in regard to the agricultural industry and commerce of the Empire. The firman proceeds: "Every class of our subjects, who live under our imperial protection, are in our eyes and in our sentiments of justice on a level of perfect equality. Therefore, we confirm the powers vested in the Patriarchs and other spiritual leaders for the affairs belonging to their respective communities, as well as for the free exercise of their religious faith in accordance with the privileges and immunities acquired by said communities. All matters relating to the authority of said spiritual leaders, as well as to their requirements and the competence of their special councils, shall continue to be the object of imperial protection, within the limits of the rights and authority granted to them, and they will be furnished with every facility for the establishment and construction of their churches, schools, and other national buildings. Every class of subjects having always had free access to all grades and public offices, according to their merit and fitness, the Sultan confirms the admission to those places to non-Musselman subjects whose integrity and capacity shall have been recognized.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1876.

MR. LAMAR WRONGLY REPORTED.

Mr. Lamar will probably call the attention of the House to-morrow to the report just published in regard to a speech he made in Jackson, Miss., on the day after his nomination for the United States Senatorship by the Democratic caucus. In that speech he is reported to have said that Southern men could not command any respect in the North, on account of the hatred of those who had been engaged in the late rebellion; that the death of the great Sumner offered a chance for him, holding as Mr. Sumner did a high place in the nation's heart, to lay upon his coffin the olive branch of peace; that while the friends of the North were burdened with grief and their passions were sleeping in sorrow, it occurred to him that he might deliver a message of sympathy from the South, and at the same time establish her in the affections of the North; and that, when upbraided by his fellow-members, he said: "Yes, he touched it, but it was like a lightning-rod touching the black cloud to shield those within." Mr. Lamar will deny that he gave utterance to any such sentiments. What he did say was, that the great Sumner had dealt many blows upon the South in what many Southern people had considered a narrow spirit; but when he joined in the Liberal movement in 1872, and stretched forth his hand across the bloody chasm to clasp the people of the South to his heart, they went out toward him; and Mr. Lamar believed he expressed the sentiment of the Southern people in his eulogy on the occasion of Mr. Sumner's death. Mr. Lamar says that the audience to which he spoke applauded at the mention of Mr. Sumner's name, and applauded the sentiments to which he gave utterance.

THE SUIT OF THE SHIP OWNERS.

James J. Ferris of New-York, representing the ship owners of that city, had a hearing before the sub-committee on Saturday evening for the purpose of advocating the adoption of the Ward amendment. He complained of the special law, because it imposes an onerous tax upon the master and owners of ships and seamen, because it is destructive of the business of shipping and steamship companies, and because of the varied and onerous constructions that are given to the Lynch amendment. He called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Commissioners are responsible to no department of the Government, and that they absorb the entire amount of the fees, which are paid to them, making no returns therefor. He said that by an improper administration of the law in New-York, fees are extorted, for which no provision is made by law. Indignities are heaped upon masters and seamen by the Commissioners. The great distance between the office of the Commissioner and the Custom-house in New-York makes it very inconvenient for masters and owners of vessels to transact their business. The law, he said, was modelled after the British law, but the fees collected under it are far in excess of those collected by Great Britain. Mr. Ferris advocated transferring the appointment of Commissioners from the Judicial to the Executive Department of the Government, in order that redress for grievances may be much more accessible. The ship owners of New-York desire a considerable reduction in the fees collected of ship masters and seamen, but there seems to be some doubt whether the Committee will agree to this, although the impression prevails that it will report favorably on other reforms.

CURIOSITIES OF PAPER MONEY PRINTING.

A portion of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department, including Mr. Ely, the Chairman, visited the Department yesterday, and made a short call on Mr. McCartee, Chief of the Printing Bureau. The books and the manner of keeping the accounts were particularly looked into, and they were found to be very carefully and accurately kept. One thing, however, astonished the Committee, and that was the statement that there would be a deficiency in that bureau of over a quarter of a million of dollars. When asked for an explanation the Committee were told that the last coupon compelled the carmine seal, which is printed on every note, bond, or piece of fractional currency in circulation, to be stamped by hand, instead of by the machines owned by the Government, which do the work better than it is done by hand, and that only $20,000 or $25,000 was appropriated for that purpose, whereas it cost nearly a quarter million dollars. Treasurer New says that every $1, $5, or other note issued by the Government, costs the department 10 cents, and that every $5 in fractional currency costs 25 cents. At the same rate, the bills now in circulation would cost their face value to make them ready for reissue, if all work was required to be done by hand. The Committee will continue their inquiries in the Printing Bureau.

A CALL FOR THE CUBAN CIRCULAR.

Mr. Randall will offer a resolution to-morrow calling upon the President for the correspondence between the United States and Spain and other foreign Governments regarding affairs in Cuba. Of course the President will exercise his discretion as to what is proper to be made public at this time, but it is understood that both he and Mr. Fish are willing to send to Congress most of the correspondence on the subject, and that it is with their knowledge that the resolution will be offered. It is not improbable that the President will send with the correspondence a special message, a hint of which was in the regular message. Why this resolution comes from Mr. Randall instead of the Foreign Affairs Committee is not stated.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15, 1876.

The bill of Mr. Cate, introduced several days ago, in regard to naturalization and rights of citizenship, provides that whenever any person desiring to become a citizen of the United States has heretofore, in good faith, and with an honest intention to comply with the naturalization laws, made and filed with any deputy clerk of a court of record the statement and oath required by law, whether such statement shall be made and oath taken at the office of such clerk or elsewhere, the person so making the same shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of citizens of the United States from the time of making such statement, to the same extent as if the statement and oath had been made before the clerk of a court of record in person at the office of such clerk, and all the acts of such deputy clerks in the premises and of the persons so in good faith made in the premises are ratified and confirmed. The making of such statement and oath by any person, and filing the same with any such deputy clerk, shall be taken and considered in all courts and proceedings as *prima facie* evidence that the same was made in good faith.

The Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department has been for some time engaged in an inquiry regarding the payment of a fraudulent cotton claim by the Treasury about three years ago. The claim was about $60,000, and the circumstances of the payment are of a very suspicious nature. The persons involved are said to be a man named Parkman, Gen. Rody, and Frank Brooks of seal-lock fame; and there is cause for fearing that the names of ex-Assistant Secretary Sawyer and ex-Commissioner of Customs Hahnes are improperly mixed up in the case. These two gentlemen were both in office when the alleged fraudulent payment was made, and the investigation already made seems to compromise them. The facts in the case will probably be laid before the Grand Jury this week, and if they are as bad as reported there will be some very important indictments.

So much has been said about the antecedents of those recently appointed to subordinate positions under the officers of the House of Representatives, that a statement prepared by Doorkeeper Fitzhugh, and published to-day, may be of interest. Of the new appointees, he says 30 served in the Union army and 11 in the Confederate army; 16 have taken the modified oath, and 94 the iron-clad oath; 9 colored men and 1 colored woman have been appointed by him. There is no doubt that, as far as Col. Fitzhugh's appointments are concerned, as much consideration at least has been shown for Union veterans as to the same class by the Doorkeeper of the last House. The Postmaster of the House, who has comparatively few appointments to make, has probably given preference to his Virginia friends, a large percentage of whom were Confederate soldiers.

It is said to-night in Congressional circles, that when the State of Missouri shall be called in the House of Representatives to-morrow, Representative Lynch of that State will introduce an amnesty bill, when an opportunity will be offered to vote directly on the question whether Jefferson Davis shall be excluded from its provisions. It was the intention of Representative Cox to introduce an amnesty bill affording a similar vote. He has not yet proposed it, however, as the State of New-York may not be called for bills and resolutions.

The Secretary of the Treasury will send to the House to-morrow, in obedience to the resolution of Mr. Payne of Ohio, the reports of several officers on Alaska and the fur seal trade. Among the papers will be a report from Gen. Howard, who visited a small portion of the mainland; one from Elliot, a Treasury Agent, and one from Moore, an agent sent last Summer to San Francisco, by Secretary Bristow, to examine the books of the company who have the contract with the Government for taking the seals.

Representations having been made to the President that the laws of the United States are obstructed in several of the parishes in Louisiana, District-Attorney Beckwith will be instructed to bring offenders to trial under the Enforcement act. The President expressed his determination to preserve public order to the extent of his Constitutional power. There are three companies of cavalry and one company of infantry in Louisiana.

The Committee on Ways and Means, at their meeting on Tuesday, will hear R. D. Jackson of New-York in reference to revenue matters affecting that city.

It is reported that Speaker Kerr has received 150 telegrams from Northern Democrats urging him to stop the Amnesty debate.

William E. Austin, the newly appointed Third Auditor, took the oath of office yesterday, and entered upon his duties.

THE EMMA MINE SCANDAL.

THE NEW DIRECTORS' REPORT.

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS GONE—MORE DAMAGING STATEMENTS MADE—LEGAL JOBBERY SUSPECTED—MR. MACDOUGALL LIKELY TO ACQUIRE FULL CONTROL—MINISTER SCHENCK CHARGED WITH BRIBERY—MR. IRVING, THE TRAGEDIAN, AND HIS ASSAILANTS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Jan. 6.—Emma Mine matters are once more looming up in a menacing way. The report of the new directors, to be presented to the meeting of the Company to-morrow, has been issued. It is by no means pleasant reading—for anybody. Not for the shareholders, who are told that of the £1,000,000 they have paid, there remains to them the sum of £2,478—just over $12,000—plus a claim on some Chicago real estate. Not for the last two boards of directors, whose accounts and general doings are challenged, and whose good faith is impugned. Not for the venders, who are alleged to have obtained that £1,000,000 by fraud, and who are warned that they will be called on to disgorge their plunder. Not for the original directors, who are held responsible for the false statements of the prospectus. And since one of these original directors, Gen. Schenck, was at the time United States Minister to Great Britain, the report of intended proceedings against him cannot be called pleasant reading for the American people, whom he still (mis)represents at this court.

More or less of this was known before, but the present Board now commit themselves to a fresh and startling statement. They have been endeavoring to ascertain whether the American lawsuits now pending, nominally in behalf of the Company, have been conducted—I quote the words of the report—"for the *bona fide* purpose of recovering the money obtained from the Company for the mine, or whether they have been conducted for the purpose of exhausting the funds of the Company; thus making any proceedings for recovering such money impracticable." They go on to say that they are not by any means clear that these proceedings are not the result of some arrangement between Park, Albert Grant, Messrs. Barlow, McFarland & Co., and Mr. Albert Turner. They allege that they have discovered evidence of the existence of confidential relations between these persons, although they represent opposite and conflicting interests. Mr. Albert Turner was the English solicitor for the Emma Company under the last Board, but has been charged with being connected with Grant, Messrs. Barlow, McFarland & Co. were employed by that Board as the Company's solicitors in America, but have hitherto acted, says this report, as Park's private solicitors. On this state of facts counsel's opinion has been taken, and the opinion sent to Messrs. Barlow & Co. with a request that they will furnish fuller particulars as to the object and nature of the proceedings before the American law courts. It appears further that Messrs. Barlow & Co. have written to say that the American courts require the Company to deposit an additional sum of $2,000 as security for costs. They demand at the same time that their own account to date should be adjusted; that provision be made for the future expenses of the litigation, and that the books, papers, and testimony which they require be sent to them.

The directors do not communicate the nature of the testimony on which they base their suspicions that Messrs. Barlow & Co., while representing the Company, are also acting for Park, with whom the Company is carrying on war. I presume the publication of this statement will be sufficient to call out an explanation or denial from Messrs. Barlow & Co., whose reputation as an honorable firm entitles us to expect that their share in the matter will be satisfactorily cleared up. But the present charge involves others also—involves the directors who employed Barlow & Co.; involves Mr. Albert Turner, and perhaps others. I need hardly point out that if there be any truth in it, Mr. Trenor W. Park's gleeful yells of triumph over the expected abandonment by the Company of the suits against him are sufficiently accounted for.

As to the mine itself the directors tell us that it has not been worked since 1st of December, 1874, and it is now in the hands of the Marshal, under attachment of Mr. Park, who has obtained a judgment for his claim, and who, under that judgment, by giving 21 days' notice, can sell the mine, and who has already under that judgment actually sold all the plant, tools, and ore on the dump—that is, all the excavated ore—and there remains, therefore, no mine, no tools, and no ore.

What then is the Company to do? Its stockholders' only hopes rest on getting their money back from Park, Albert Grant, Schenck, and the rest of the gang who, as venders, agents, promoters, directors, or otherwise, contributed to the original fraud. To prosecute such claims, funds must be had, and ordinarily they could only be had by assessments or subscriptions from the stockholders themselves; many of whom would probably think they were merely invited to throw good money after bad. But here Mr. Alexander MacDougall, the newly-elected Chairman of the Company, and its largest stockholder, steps in. In accordance with an intimation before given, he now offers to undertake at his own personal risk all the expense of the legal remedies he advises. He can only proceed, of course, in the name and in behalf of the Company itself. To obtain authority for this, a special meeting of the shareholders has been called under advice of counsel for Friday, Jan. 20, when a legally sufficient resolution will be proposed and recommended by the directors. From the date of its passage may be reckoned the commencement of hostilities in earnest. Mr. MacDougall is known in London for one of the most resolute of men. He has carried on a struggle for years for the control of this company. He has got it, and with it he has got the power for which he wanted control; the power to proceed in his own way against those whom he holds responsible for the swindle. He has money and courage, and it is not likely he will stop, even though his progress should lead him over the prostrate body of an American Minister. He has not hesitated to say publicly in the newspaper he owns that the American Minister was bribed. He will not be likely to hesitate when called on to prove his charge. Indeed, it is not so much a question of proof as of construction. Gen. Schenck has confessed to receiving $50,000, under the form of a loan, from Park himself, a stranger to him; a man with a mine to sell to the English public. He takes the $50,000 from Park, with a secret guarantee of 18 per cent on the stock it is to purchase; becomes a trustee and director, guardian of the shareholders' interests while his pocket is hot with the money paid him by the man whose interests are hostile to theirs. There may be men innocent enough to see no harm in such a transaction between such persons. There may be men subtle enough to explain the difference between this transaction and a bribe. There may be facts yet to come out. I believe there are, but unhappily such as one hears of are facts tending to blacken, not to clear, the character of Gen. Schenck.

The prosecutions against Sampson, the editor of *Fun*, and Sims, a writer in it, for the libel on Mr. Irving, have been withdrawn. Defense was impossible; the only hope for Sampson and Sims was to apologize and retract. Having done that twice over, by their counsel and from their own mouths, they were released from the certain penalty which awaited them. Mr. Beard, in behalf of Sims, declared that he withdrew unconditionally the statements he had made; that he regretted deeply the pain and annoyance they had caused Mr. Irving, and that to contend that such words as he used were defensible would be to add insult to injury. Mr. Moir, for Mr. Sampson, spoke in similar terms, but added that his client considered the article a burlesque which could not be taken seriously. On these declarations, it was asked that the prosecution should be abandoned. But Mr. Lewis, Mr. Irving's very able and judicious counsel, said no. He explained that these proceedings had only been commenced after a series of offensive articles had been endured in silence; that finally Mr. Irving had placed himself in the hands of his friends; and that now, having felt it to be his duty to bring the defendants into court, he could not at this stage interpose between them and the law. It was necessary that it be settled whether a gross and malicious libel could be printed and published for the purpose which Sampson must evidently have had in view, namely, to destroy the reputation of Mr. Irving. He proposed, therefore, notwithstanding the expressions of regret offered—which he had supposed would be offered—to complete the case. The defendant's solicitor expressing some surprise at this, the magistrate remarked, with point, that he hardly ever had a criminal brought before him who did not express regret; and he always told him: "You regret it because you are found out." So the case went on, and Mr. Dion Boucicault was called, but his testimony, like Mr. Toole's, went only to the point of his belief that it was Mr. Irving and not somebody else whom the article struck at. Then the defendants were asked whether they wished to say anything before being committed for trial. Sims and Sampson both seized the opportunity to repeat the apologies their counsel had previously offered. Mr. Lewis then stated that Mr. Irving—having heard from the lips of the defendants themselves an assurance of their regret for the conduct of which they had been guilty, and thinking that, as they were on the point of being committed, he had sufficiently performed his duty to society—asked that they be discharged. To this request, the magistrate, Sir Robert Carden, acceded, with the remark that he thought the public deeply indebted to Mr. Irving for bringing the charge forward. There was more credit, he added, due to Mr. Irving for withdrawing from the prosecution than to the defendants for their apologies, and he believed Mr. Irving would stand higher than ever with the public. So ended one of those rare cases of libel, in which the accused journal was wholly in the wrong and the object of its attack wholly in the right. Mr. Lewis made it a still rarer case by refusing to take his fees; desiring thus, I suppose, to express his sense of the singularly wanton character of the libel, and of his client's magnanimity. The comments made on the case are all in one tone. No paper attempts a defense of the libel or the libelers. It might have been possible for Mr. Irving to leave them unnoticed, but the resolve he took brought him much credit in the end, and many hearty expressions of sympathy and regard. G. W. S.

THE PHILADELPHIA REVIVAL.

END OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS—TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS—THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETINGS EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 15.—To-morrow the Moody and Sankey revival in this city ends, as far as regular preaching is concerned. There will, however, be two special meetings for clergymen and Christian lay men held on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 19 and 20, for the purpose of rejoicing over the work accomplished and of providing for its continuance in the churches after the evangelists leave. All the ministers in the city and vicinity who have given their countenance and aid to the meetings in the depot are expected to participate. The following are the topics suggested for consideration:

Wednesday—10 a. m. to 11 a. m.—"Evangelistic Services: How Conduct Them." 11 a. m. to 12 m.—"How to Conduct Prayer-meetings." 12 m. to 1 p. m.—The usual noonday prayer-meeting. 3 p. m. to 4 p. m.—"Inquiry Meetings: Their Importance and Conduct." 4 p. m. to 5 p. m.—"Training of Young Converts and Lay Workers," to be followed by questions and answers on practical work. 8 p. m. to 9 p. m.—The usual preaching service by Mr. Moody.

Thursday—10 a. m. to 11 a. m.—"How shall the Music be Conducted in the Lord's Work?" 11 a. m. to 12 m.—"How to Expound and Illustrate Scripture." 12 m. to 1 p. m.—The usual noonday prayer-meeting. 3 p. m. to 4 p. m.—"How to Get Hold of the Non Church Goers." 4 p. m. to 5 p. m.—"Our Young Men: What more can we do for them?" To be followed by questions and answers on practical work. 8 p. m. to 9 p. m.—The usual preaching service.

During the past fortnight the interest in the revival has been constantly increasing. The crowds at the evening services are if anything greater than those at the first meetings, when public curiosity was at its height. On Thursday and Friday evenings almost as many people were turned away as were able to gain admittance. Mr. Moody says that in all his experience he has never seen such meetings. He considers the revival here the most successful he has yet been instrumental in effecting. It has now lasted eight weeks. During the third and fourth weeks there was a falling off in the attendance. Curiosity was measurably sated, and if the work had taken no real hold upon the religious feelings of the people the audiences would have continued to diminish. On the contrary they soon began to increase in numbers and fervor, until the great building was again inadequate to hold the throng of worshipers. In this way the genuineness of the revival, often questioned by Christians as well as unbelievers was, it is claimed, completely demonstrated.

Mr. Thomas McCree, Secretary of the Revival Committee, furnishes the following estimate of the grand total of the attendance upon the services since the work in the depot church began:

18 Sunday meetings	225,000
40 Weekly evening meetings	320,000
56 Noonday meetings	200,000
14 Bible readings	70,000
48 Young men's meetings	24,000
36 Young women's meetings	10,000
36 Men's and women's afternoon meetings	20,000
Total	869,000

There have been besides a number of meetings for boys, for parents, and for reformed men, bringing the total up to about 875,000; and if to this we add the attendance on the closing services of next Wednesday and Thursday, we shall have an aggregate of 900,000 people. It is believed that no orator, religious or secular, ever addressed so many persons in an equal length of time. Of course, this great aggregate has been made up by the repeated attendance of thousands of pious men and women who have been drawn to the meetings by the same religious zeal that takes them to their churches every Sunday, and of thousands of others who have found the services so interesting that they have gone many times. How many different persons have heard the evangelists during these eight weeks can only be conjectured—300,000 would perhaps be a reasonable estimate. Not the city alone, but the whole populous country for 50 miles around has furnished recruits to this great army of worshipers. One night last week there were 5,000 people present who came in as excursionists on the railroads. The total expenses of the revival are about $30,000, of which up to Friday about $21,000 had been received in the form of voluntary subscriptions. The evangelists intend to remain in Philadelphia to take the rest they so much need until the time fixed for beginning the meetings in the Hippodrome in New-York.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

BELFAST, Me., Jan. 16.—Henry McGilvey launched from his yard yesterday the bark Emma L. Partridge, of 468 tons burden.

DELAWARE BREAKWATER, Del., Jan. 16.—A telegraph cable was laid Friday afternoon from the point of Cape Henlopen to Delaware Breakwater.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Jan. 16.—On the second ballot yesterday the vote for Senator stood: For Mr. Beck, 50; Mr. Williams, 42; Mr. Leslie, 29; Mr. Wadsworth, 14. Adjourned.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 16.—The vote by which E. S. Foote (Anti-Mormon) was admitted to a seat in the Territorial Legislature has been reconsidered and he is excluded.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16.—The Indiana delegation of editors, with their wives, arrived here last evening, and are quartered at the Colonnade and La Pierre houses. The party numbers over 200.

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 15.—The police here received orders to arrest A. Foster Dewey, Wm. M. Tweed's private secretary, who was expected to sail on the steamer Peruvian, but he was not found.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 16.—A meeting of ex-Confederates arranged last evening to celebrate the birthday of Gen. R. E. Lee on the 19th inst. Gen. Kemper will preside, and Capt. J. Hampden Chamberlain, editor of *The Norfolk Virginian*, will deliver an oration.

QUEBEC, Jan. 15.—The Hon. P. Fortin has addressed a voluminous letter to the Board of Trade on the subject of the extension of telegraphic communication to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He gives the particulars of the loss of many valuable ships and cargoes in consequence of the absence of means for telegraphic communication.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Jan. 16.—George H. Decker, a Middletown attorney, has been appointed as Commissioner to go to Rio Janeiro to get the testimony of Charles H. Horton, the absconding cashier of the defunct Wallkill National Bank, to be used in sixteen suits brought by the depositors to recover for bonds left in the bank, amounting to $40,000.

OTTAWA, Jan. 15.—It is understood that the National Board of Trade of the United States will be represented at the meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade by a deputation of 10 members, the following members constituting the delegation: John F. Henry, Franklin Edson, and O. W. C. Clark, New-York; J. C. Hersey, Portland; George W. Bond, Boston; George L. Rigby, Philadelphia; R. B. Bayard, Baltimore; S. F. Carrington, Cincinnati; J. D. Hayes, Detroit; and L. H. McCrea, Chicago.

PLYMOUTH AND THE COUNCIL

THE CAUSE OF THE RUPTURE.

MR. SHEARMAN DECLARES THAT MRS. MOULTON CONSTANTLY TRIED TO MAKE THE COUNCIL IMPOSSIBLE—THE NATURE OF HER LETTERS—AN EX PARTE COUNCIL IMPRACTICABLE—PLYMOUTH SATISFACTION WITH MR. BEECHER'S FRIDAY NIGHT UTTERANCES.

The very earnest and outspoken address made by Mr. Beecher on Friday night in regard to the proposed Mutual Council, the relations of Drs. Storrs and Budington to Plymouth Church, to the Council, and to himself, and in regard to his innocence of the charges made by Mrs. Moulton, was much commented on in Brooklyn and this city Saturday and yesterday. Drs. Storrs and Budington and Mr. Van Cott, when called upon by TRIBUNE reporters, declined to say anything concerning the breaking up of the negotiations for a Mutual Council, or concerning the statements made by Mr. Beecher.

Thomas G. Shearman expressed great satisfaction with the Friday night speech. He said it was the most powerful address the Plymouth pastor had made before the church on the subject of the scandal since his speech of December, 1873, before the last Congregational Council assembled. The society was delighted with the frank and forcible manner in which Mr. Beecher had finally asserted himself upon the relations of Plymouth Church to Drs. Storrs and Budington, and without a dissenting voice approved of the course he had taken. The demonstrations of applause and sympathy were indicative of the unfaltering love and confidence of the church for the pastor. Mr. Shearman then said:

Every right-minded man ought to see how farcical Mrs. Moulton's pretended exertions for a mutual council have been from beginning to end. She did not want a mutual council, but an *ex parte* council, and to get one which would carry the necessary weight before the public for her aims she very clearly saw that it would be necessary first to get Plymouth Church to refuse to accept a mutual council. She miscalculated the temper of Plymouth Church, which is well satisfied at her discomfiture. With a view to stirring up the anger of the church, Mrs. Moulton couched all of her letters in the most offensive terms, and many parts of them were positively insulting and unfit to be read before a society in which there are as many young girls as there are in Plymouth Church. The church has borne itself with worthy self-control in this matter. Mr. Van Cott never outraged the decency of the committee meetings with any such stuff as is thrown in the face of Plymouth Church by each of the letters, which were framed for the double purpose of driving Plymouth Church into refusing a Mutual Council, and for keeping the public ear and the scandal newspapers alive to the moral filth that has deluged the country for the past two years. The Plymouth